

## **President's Prose**

There has been some movement on trying to relocate our club radio station. I finally got in contact with Patricia Daniel. It seems that messages were not getting to her secretary, therefore they were not getting to her. Ms Daniel told me to contact the principal at the Hammer Montessori Elementary School. I talked with Joanne Pittman by telephone on Tuesday, 9/8, about what SCCARA needs as far as space and accessibility for the club radio station. She told me that there were some janitor's closets that might suit our needs. I scheduled an appointment to see the spots she had in mind for Friday, 9/10, in the morning. I called Clark Murphy and asked him to meet me there, as I knew he had the expertise I lacked to properly size up the prospects. We met with her at 9:30AM. Clark explained to her in greater detail what we needed. We then took a walk to see the three sites she had to offer.

The first sight is in an unused janitor's closet that is about 12 feet long by 6-8 ft wide. We are protected by a covered exterior hallway and a locked gate that we would have a key to access. The second site was a bathroom that is being used as a storeroom, but we could have use of it if we desire. The third site was a storeroom that is currently being used for gym and field equipment. It has a locked door that has no other protection than the lock on the door. It has shelves in it that we can remove for our use. The size is somewhat smaller than the first closet.

The school is not placing any antenna restrictions on us. The third site would be easier to accommodate for antenna adaptability than the other two. Clark seems to feel there is potential with these sites.

The school is located at 1325 Bouret Dr, San Jose. It is just off Cherry and Almaden, near Hwy 85. It was easy to get to. <u>The site is free to SCCARA</u>.

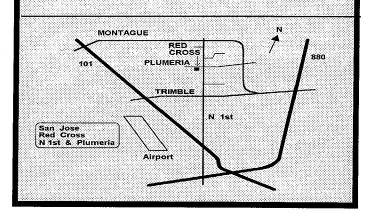
In exchange for the use of the school, the members of SCCARA would like to help the students by meeting with them and their science teachers to talk about what our group does, encourage the students to visit the station, and help the teachers by teaching the students about science and 10/9 Foothill Flea Market
10/11 SCCARA General Meeting--Dinner!
10/18 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

Calendar

# Next General Meeting:Day:Monday, October 11, 1999Time:6:30 PMPlace:Harry's Hofbrau Restaurant390 Saragtoga Ave.Featuring:Dinner meeting

Our October meeting will be a dinner at <u>Harry's Hofbrau</u> 390 Saratoga Ave, located south of Stevens Creek Road next to the Garden City entertainment center. No reservations, just come!

Order as you arrive; pay for your own and sit with our group. This way you can eat what you like rather than be given a few unwanted choices. Anyone not satisfied with these arrangements can blame it on the arranger: Mike Marneris, K8ERL Hope to see you there...bring a friend.



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SCCARA was formed 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. Web page: http://www.qsl.net/sccara.

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Editor		
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#### **COMMITTEES**

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#### 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 auto-dial and auto-patch is available). The two meter repeater is located in the Mt Hamilton foothills, Alum Rock area. The 70 cm repeater and N0ARY BBS 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-our meeting night). Coordinator: Don K6PBQ. On ten meters, 28:385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00 PM. Net control: Wally KA6YMD. Visitors welcome.

#### NOARY PACKET BBS

SCCARA hosts the packet BBS NOARY (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 WB6YRU

#### **TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

408 262-9334

408 243-8349

SCCARA contact Clark KE6KXO: ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group: me-ae6z@worldnet.att.net technology from our members.

This is the only contact I have made with the San Jose Unified School District. There are other sites I want to investigate, including, San Jose State's ham radio club and see their site and find out how much space they have available, and if they would be interested in helping us with our project. I am looking all the time. We will discuss this at the next club meeting.

Barbara, KD6QEI



## **Meeting Minutes**

## General Meeting, Sept. 13, 1999



7:35 p.m. Meeting Called to order by Club president Barbara, KD6QEI. Self introductions followed as is our custom.

The first order of business was a talk by John Ronan,K3ZJJ, a candidate for Vice Director Pacific Division ARRL.

Tonight's speaker is Dan Dietz, WM6M, and his topic is batteries.

Business Meeting:

Speaker for November will be Gary, WB6YRU, and his topic will be packet.

Treasurers report: Lloyd, KD6FJI, Reports that \$4,000.00 has been transferred from the checking account to the savings account. The total in checking is now \$2,418.46, and the total in savings is \$5,502.51 We have a grand total of \$7,910.97 in our accounts.

Repeater report: Wally, KA6YMD, reported on the repeater test conducted in Sacramento and Merced. The results of the test were that the SCCARA repeater could be heard very well in both places. Wally also discussed something that can be done to eliminate interference with the repeaters in the valley.

Gary, WB6YRU, the BBS is not working. Bob N0ARY is the only one that can fix it and he is out of town. It maybe a while before it is fixed.

Don, K6PBQ, the christmas dinner is all set for Dec. 11, 1999 at noon at the Hungry Hunter in Milpitas.

Barbara, KD6QEI, discussed getting a club radio station in a San Jose Unified School District school near Almaden Expressway and Cherry in San Jose.

Motion by Don, K6PBQ, to accept the possible radio site. Second and Passed.

Lou, WA6QYS, reported on the September Foothill Flea market. 129 and one third spaces were sold for a net of \$1,940. The sale of hot dogs and sodas netted \$873.30. The total income was \$2,213.30.

Barbara, KD6EQI, next year's club officers: We need a VP, Secretary, and 3 directors. We may also need a station trustee.

Picnic review: The picnic was rated as a great success.

9:58 p.m. meeting adjourned.

Lloyd, KD6FJI

## Board Meeting, Sept 20, 1999



Present: Lloyd, KD6FJI; Wally, KA6YMD; Robert, N6PCQ; Hugh, KD6EFL; Gary, WB6YRU; Clark, KE6KX; Chris, N6WCP; Don, KK6MX.

7:46 p.m. Meeting called to order by VP Robert, N6PCQ. There is not a quorum as of the beginning of the meeting. He began the meeting by discussing the possibility of us getting a radio shack.

There was a discussion about the repeater test and the interference with the repeaters in the valley.

Chris, N6WCP, of the Mercury Amateur Radio Association, will put on an emergency preparedness fair on the 16th of October at the Cropley and Morill Church building in NE San Jose. He is seeking volunteers to man the HF radio for JOTA and to borrow the SCCARA antenna trailer.

8:30 p.m. Don, KK6MX, arrived and there is now a quorum.

Motion by Don, KK6MX, that we approve the loan of the SCCARA antenna tower trailer to Mercury Amateur Radio Association to be used at the Emergency Preparedness Fair to be held October 16, 1999 at the Cropley and Morill Church in NE San Jose. Proof of liability insurance must be provided prior at the time of pickup of the trailer. Second and Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Lloyd, KD6FJI, reports that all the money from the flea market has been deposited. A total of \$2,813.30 was made by SCCARA at the Foothill Flea Market. Gary, WB6YRU, the BBS is still not working and Bob N0ARY is still out of town and he is the only one who can fix the problem.

Motion to adjourn by Clark, KE6KXO, second and passed. 9:17 p.m. meeting adjourned.

Lloyd, KD6FJI

## Board Meeting, Aug. 16, 1999



Present: Lloyd, KD6FJI; Barbara, KD6QEI; Wally, KD6YMD; Don, K6PBQ; Bob, N6PCQ; Clark, KD6KXO; Gary, WB6YRU; Don, KK6MX.

8:00 p.m. Meeting called to order by Barbara, KD6QEI.

Wally, KA6YMD, speculated about getting a club station at the new San Jose City Corporation Yard located at Senter and Phelan.

Robert, N6PBQ, may talked about the fractal antenna at an upcoming SCCARA meeting. MQRP (milliwatt QRP), it is also known as QRPp, is another potential for a SCCARA meeting. There was a discussion of having a ham radio class and starting it in January. Robert talked about the 2 meter technical net that will be held on Thursdays after the 10 meter net. Gary, WB6YRU, will talk on packet and how the BBS works at an upcoming meeting.

Treasurers Report: Checking ; Savings: \$1,502.51; Checking: \$6,427.73; Total \$8,365.24.

Barbara, KD6QEI, request that \$4000.00 be transferred to saving.

Repeater: Wally, KA6YMD, Trish, WA6UBE, will be conducting a repeater test to determine if there any interference with repeaters in Sacramento and Manteca on August 21, 1999 at 12:00 noon.

Repeater Report: Gary, WB6YRU, discussed the interference we are having with our repeater from what he believes is from a pager system. He discussed possible solutions to the problem. Don, KK6MX, discussed a high speed data transfer system he saw at the Foothill Flea Market. Don also said that he may have a bandpass filter that we could test to see if it will get rid of the interference.

SCCARA-GRAM: Gary, WB6YRU, said that he received some articles from SCCARA members. There was a discussion of whether we should continue to use bulk mail or use first class mail. There was also a discussion of how to get the names of new hams and sending a SCCARA-GRAM to them.

Barbara, KD6EQI, the picnic will be on Sunday August 29, 1999 at Mary Gomez Park in Santa Clara. Don, K6PBQ, will bring his rig and someone else will an antenna and tuner. There are some supplies in the storage locker

Wally, KA6YMD, wanted to know where the material from the Field Day table went.

Clark, KE6KXO, reports that the tarp has been put on the antenna tower trailer.

Barbara, KD6EQI, wants to know if the board would approve the purchase of the Nonprofit Corporation Handbook form Robert. Motion by Don, K6PBQ, to have SCCARA purchase the book. Second and passed.

Don, K6PBQ, discussed the Christmas Party and a gift exchange to be held at the party.

Barbara, KD6EQI, wants to know if we are going to have a dinner meeting. There was a discussion and it was suggested that February is a good month for it.

Gary, WB6YRU, someone is needed to help in maintaining the roster. Barbara suggested that the secretary's job be divided.

Barbara, KD6EQI, we need to know what officers are needed for next year.

Motion to adjourn by Clark 10:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Lloyd KD6FJI

## **Flea Market Report**

SCCARA hosted the Sept. Foothill Flea Market

The Saturday September 11th Foothill Flea Market was a huge success!

Although the weather of the previous Wednesday and Thursday with its lightning and thunder had me worried, Saturday turned out to be a perfect day for the event.

Thanks to Scott KB6UOO for his invaluable help with the equipment to make our operation go smoothly. There was a good turn out of the membership and friends to help with the effort. The crew which made the day a success was: Wally KA6YMD, Barbara KD6QEI, Ernie N6HN, Don

KO6HH, Gary WB6YRU, Henry WD6CGI, Clark KE6KXO, Roy K6VIP, Skylar and Tri (young friends of KE6KXO), Mike KB6LCJ, Joan KB6LFZ, Don K6PBQ, Lloyd KD6FJI, Hugh KD6EFL, Ron (friend of WA6QYS), Chris KF6APP, Gwen KF6OTD, Andrew (KD6EFL's harmonic), Don KK6MX, Bob N6PCQ, Barbara (KK6MX's XYL), Dan WM6M and his XYL Jo Beth, and Doug (KK6MX's harmonic). Each and every one of you can be proud of a job well done.

The only problem that beset the smooth operation was the late arrival of the Port-A-Potties. I think it impinged on our coffee sales, but since the Perham Foundation contracts for the facilities, all we could do was go with the flow.

Thanks.....Lou WA6QYS

## News from the ARRL

From The ARRL Letter, August 27, 1999

## A new record?

Paul Lieb, KH6HME, in BK29go (Mauna Loa volcano) reports working Clint Walker, W1LP/mm in DL51ce on 144 MHz SSB to claim a new world distance record of 4754 km (2954 miles). Signals reportedly peaked at S1. An unsuccessful attempt was made on 432 MHz. W1LP had been hearing beacons for several hours prior to the contact. QST World Above 50 MHz Editor Emil Pocock, W3EP, explains that there is nothing official about DX records. "The recent contact between W1LP/mm and KH6HME is probably the longest two-way 144-MHz contact via tropospheric ducting anywhere in the world," he said. "This is a notable accomplishment." --Chip Angle, N6CA

## Sweden cuts top code speed, license classes

Sweden has cut its Morse code speed requirement from 12 to 5 WPM and reduced the number of license classes from four to two. The Class 1 license offers all Swedish amateur privileges and requires a 5 WPM CW test, while the Class 2 ticket is a no-code license for VHF/UHF operation only. In addition, Sweden reportedly has a new three-year nonrenewable "study license" that offers full--and unsupervised--VHF/UHF privileges. --W5YI Report; Newsline

## UK moves to 12.5 kHz spacing on 2-meter FM

The United Kingdom will move from 25 kHz to 12.5 kHz channel spacing on 2 meters starting January 1, 2000, much in the same manner that the US went from 30-kHz to 15-kHz spacing years ago. Systems will have until mid-year

to get into compliance. New technical and operational specifications for amateur repeater stations are being worked out between the RSGB Repeater Management Committee and the Radiocommunications Agency. The RSGB says the change will allow planning for new repeaters with improved coverage and eliminate some of the co-channel interference occasionally suffered in parts of the country. Eventually all 2-meter repeaters in ITU Region I will conform to the 12.5-kHz standard. The same change is under consideration for 70-cm repeaters as well. --RSGB; Newsline

## From The ARRL Letter, September 10, 1999

#### FCC RELAXES RULES FOR SPREAD SPECTRUM

The FCC has relaxed rules governing the use of spread spectrum techniques by radio amateurs and opened the door to the possibility of international spread spectrum communication. The Report and Order in WT Docket 97-12 adopted August 31 concludes a proceeding that originated with an ARRL petition in December 1995 and has been pending since 1997.

The FCC adopted rules that will allow Amateur Radio stations to transmit additional spread spectrum emission types. Once the new rules become effective November 1, hams will be able to use techniques other than frequency hopping and direct sequence spreading. In addition, the new FCC rules will permit US hams to use spread spectrum techniques to communicate with amateurs in other countries that permit SS. Spread spectrum communication has been limited to stations within FCC jurisdiction.

The new rules require that spread spectrum stations running more than 1 W incorporate automatic transmitter power control. Amateur stations using SS are restricted to a maximum power of 100 W.

The Commission also amended the rules to eliminate what it called "now-unnecessary record keeping and station identification requirements" that apply only to stations using spread spectrum. The FCC agreed to let SS stations identify themselves using conventions developed by the Amateur Radio community.

Roanoke Division Vice Director Dennis Bodson, W4PWF, who has followed the League's Spread Spectrum initiative through from start to finish was pleased with the outcome of the proceeding. "I'm very happy," he said. "The League got everything it wanted and more--all of which, I believe, will help to promote this mode on the amateur bands." Bodson served as the ARRL Board liaison with the Future Systems Committee and chaired the Ad Hoc Committee on Spread Spectrum, which was instrumental in developing the League's stance on Spread Spectrum.

Stations employing spread spectrum techniques will remain

secondary to--and must accept all interference from--stations employing other authorized modes. The FCC declined to authorize the use of spread spectrum techniques on additional bands or frequencies.

A copy of the FCC's complete Report and Order is available at http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt97-12.

#### **Free logger**

At a price all hams will love, Bob Furzer, K4CY, has made his logging software--appropriately dubbed Logger--available free to the general amateur population. It's a Windows 95/98-based program, and it supports full ADIF imports and exports. It also includes PSK-31 software. Version 6.07 now is available. To obtain a copy, visit

http://www.guam.net/pub/midxa and click on "Logger" on the main page. Jim Kehler, KH2D, has offered to assist Logger users in converting their old logs into ADIF format. Contact him at kh2d@kuentos.guam.net.

## From The ARRL Letter, September 17, 1999

#### Bookmark this site!

The ARRL Technical Information Service has completely revamped its Web site, http://www.arrl.org/tis/. The older text-only screens have been brought into the 21st Century with a complete facelift. Among other things, users will find help in answering that age-old question: "What radio should I buy?" The new TIS Pages offer technical information on a variety of subjects that you can read or download. These include references, downloadable QST articles, Web links and more, on dozens of topics of interest to hams. New topics will be added on an ongoing basis. The TIS Find search engine accesses a database of more than 2000 companies that offer ham radio-related products and services. Α bibliographies database provides lists of articles from many Amateur Radio and related publications, and plans call for this to be improved with the addition of an interactive keyword search engine. The QST Product Review List offers a list of product reviews going back to 1970. ARRL members may read or download product review columns going back to 1980.

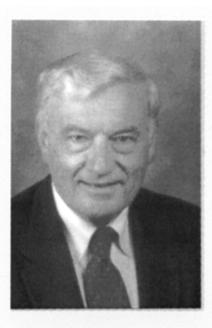
## **Congratulations!**

Congratulations to Carl Winchester, KE6ZXU for passing the 20 WPM code test!

#### Don K6PBQ

## Pac. Div. Elections

John T Ronan III, K3ZJJ, candidate for Vice Director ARRL Pacific Division



The year 2000 will bring great challenges to Amateur Radio. Challenges to our spectrum by the government auction block, malicious interference, the need to attract the younger generation, anti-ham antenna zoning ordinances, the continuing challenge to build the stature of Amateur Radio as a national resource.

I can do much to help our ARRL membership meet these challenges at a national level by representing you on the Board of Directors. My highest priorities will be:

• To aggressively support our Official Observers to help solve interference and enforcement problems, building upon existing relationships with the FCC.

• To support license restructuring -- to make it more relevant to modern times, but still maintaining traditional values.

• To recruit new members through education programs in the public schools.

- To support State PRB-1 legislation.
- To work to pass the Amateur Spectrum Protection Act.
- To promote fair and effective band planning.

• To reach out to the Field Organization and our Radio Clubs, becoming visible and accessible.

I am excellent organizer, delegator and motivator. I make things work. As ARRL Section Manager for Connecticut, I organized emergency communications during the 1987 Hurricane, and for "The World Torch Run for Peace," featured in QST. As President I improved the efficiency and responsiveness of NARCC, our Northern California coordination council.

As Connecticut Director for the Tri-State Amateur Repeater Council (NY, NJ, CT) I arbitrated interstate coordination disputes. As President, I established the Fairfield (Conn.) Amateur Radio Association as a tax-exempt charitable organization, installed a Two Meter FM repeater, and produced a PBS television program on Amateur Radio.

My 35 years in active Amateur Radio leadership positions, as an Attorney, and in legislative activities qualifies me to represent you as Vice-Director.

Effective representation requires active amateurs who understand - because they have been involved in all facets of our Service. Active on all bands, DXing, as well as public service, I have spent the last 35 years working to make our hobby better for all. With your support I can take that experience to your Board of Directors.

Thank you! John K3ZJJ

## **December** Meeting

Our annual christmas meeting this year will be a luncheon again instead of a dinner. It will be held on Saturday December 11 at the hungary Hunter in Milpitas, (Calaveras Blvd just off 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.

This year we will not be having the raffle prize drawings. Instead we will have a gift exchange. The way it works is that everyone brings a wrapped gift suitable for a man or woman costing about \$8-\$10. This type of gift exchange is always a lot of fun to participate in.

Reservations need to be in by Friday Dec. 3 (see sign-up sheet). Talk-in will be on our repeater, W6UU, 146.385+. Why not renew your membership at the same time?

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

73, Don K6PBQ

## **Packet Pieces**

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Downloaded from the packet BBS network ....

Date: 8 Dec 97 08:27 From: AB7RG@KB7FRV To: FARCE@USA

## Subject: The 10 Greatest Tools!!!

The ten greatest tools of all time:

"Forget the Snap-On Tools truck; it's never been there when you need it. Besides, there are only 10 things in this world that you need to fix any car, any place, any time."

1: DUCT TAPE: Not just a tool, a veritable Swiss Army knife in stickum and plastic. It's safety wire, body material, radiator hose, upholstery, insulation, tow rope, and more -- in an easy to carry package. Sure, there's prejudice surrounding duct tape in concourse competitions, but in the real world, everything from LeMans-winning Porsches to Atlas rockets use it by the yard. The only thing that can get you out of more scrapes is a quarter and a phone booth.

2: VICE GRIPS: Equally adept as a wrench, hammer, pliers, baling wire twister, breaker-off of frozen bolts and wiggle-it-til-it-falls-off tool. The heavy artillery of your toolbox, vise grips are the only tool designed expressly to fix things screwed up beyond repair.

3: SPRAY LUBRICANTS: A considerably cheaper alternative to new doors, alternator, and other squeaky items. Slicker than pig phlegm, repeated soakings will allow the main hull bolts of the Andrea Doria to be removed by hand. Strangely enough, an integral part of these sprays is the infamous Little Red Tube that flies out of the nozzle if you look at it cross eyed. (One of the 10 worst tools of all time...)

4: MARGARINE TUBS WITH CLEAR LIDS: If you spend all your time under the hood looking for a frendle pin that caromed off the pertal valve when you knocked both off the air cleaner, it's because you eat butter. Real mechanics consume pounds of tasteless vegetable oil replicas just so they can use the empty tubs for parts containers afterward. (Some of course chuck the butter-colored goo altogether or use it to repack wheel bearings.) Unlike air cleaners and radiator lips, margarine tubs aren't connected by a time/space wormhole to the Parallel Universe of Lost Frendle Pins.

5: BIG ROCK AT THE SIDE OF THE ROAD: Block up a tire. Smack corroded battery terminals. Pound out a dent. Bop noisy know-it-all types on the noodle. Scientists have yet to develop a hammer that packs the raw banging power of granite or limestone. This is the only tool with which a "Made in Malaysia" emblem is not synonymous with the user's maiming.

6: PLASTIC ZIP TIES: After 20 years of lashing down stray hose and wiring with old bread ties, some genius brought a slightly slicked-up version to the auto parts market. Fifteen zip ties can transform a hulking mass of amateur-quality wiring from a working model of the Brazilian Rain Forest into something remotely resembling a wiring harness. Of course it works both ways. When buying a used car, subtract \$100 for each zip tie under the hood.

7: RIDICULOUSLY LARGE CRAFTSMAN SCREWDRIVER: Let's admit it. There's nothing better for prying, chiseling, lifting, breaking, splitting, or mutilating than a huge flatblade screwdriver, particularly when wielded with gusto and a big hammer. This is also the tool of choice for all filters so insanely located that they can only be removed by driving a stake in one side and out the other. If you break the screwdriver -- and you will just like Dad and your shop teacher said -- who cares, it has a lifetime guarantee.

8: BALING WIRE: Commonly know as MG muffler brackets, baling wire holds anything that's too hot for tape or ties. Like duct tape, it's not recommended for concourse contenders, since it works so well you'll never need to replace it with the right thing again. Baling wire is a sentimental favorite in some circles, particularly with MG, Triumph, and flathead Ford set.

9: BONKING STICK: This monstrous tuning fork with devilish pointy ends in technically known as a tie-rod separator, but how often do you separate tie-rods ends? Once every decade if you're lucky. Other than medieval combat, its real use is the all-purpose application of undue force, not unlike that of the huge flat-blade screwdriver. Nature doesn't know the bent metal panel or frozen exhaust pipe that can stand up to a good bonking stick. (Can also be used to separate tie-rod ends in a pinch, of course, but does a lousy job of it.)

10: A QUARTER AND A PHONE BOOTH: See tip # 1 above...

73, & May the FARCE be with you! Clinton, AB7RG.

## **Newsletter Notes**

We've had a significant increase in member submissions of photos and articles in recent months, there's another batch of photos in this issue. Don't you agree the *SCCARA-GRAM* is better with more club participation? It looks more like the newsletter of SCCARA. Let's keep it up guys!

Remember, almost anything related to amateur radio is OK...technical articles, ideas for the club, photos, product reviews, even opinions.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

## SCCARA Picnic

Nice weather, good food and good company, fun & games, HF rig with a long wire, etc...made for a great SCCARA picnic (Aug. 29, 1999).



The club HF rig with a battery and long wire strung through the trees add an amateur feel to our picnic.

Yeah, that's Don "CW" Village, K6PBQ with a microphone...and no, he wasn't just holding it for the photo. Note, a straight key wasn't far out of reach.

Some of the gang enjoying the food and the company.



More than enough food for everyone.





Sitting back, shooting the breeze after a fine meal.

Photos courtesy of Don Village, K6PBQ

## ARRL Pacific Division Update

## October 1999

## Hams Eat Smoke, Help Save Life

Hams in Northern California continue to assist US Forest Service and state fire-fighters battling forest fires resulting from dry conditions. Plumas County RACES has been with three fires and is going on three weeks of continuous duty with just one day off. "We are still working with the Forest Service at the Fire Information Center at the Plumas County Fairgrounds in Quincy," said Bonnie van Bergen, KE6POO, who is among a group of RACES members on the scene. Among them is her husband, Chief RACES Officer Van Bergen, WD6FGB. Quincy is located in Northern California west of Reno, Nevada, near the Plumas National Forest.

Earlier this week, the US Forest Service was mopping up the Bucks, Pidgeon, and Lookout fires. The Bucks fire alone burned more than 35,000 acres and was reported not yet totally contained as of Friday, September 17.

Besides praising the hams for their help in keeping open the lines of communication in difficult terrain, the Forest Service also credited hams with helping to save the life of a fire-fighter. During the Bucks Fire on September 4, the fire-fighter received multiple bee stings and went into anaphylactic shock. Fire-fighter Jim Monty, N6DVR, who was with the injured fire-fighter at the time, administered epinephrine and unsuccessfully tried to call for help on a hand-held radio and a cellular telephone. Monty, the Fire Marshal for the Manteca-Lathrop Rural Fire Protection District, then switched to the amateur repeater frequency -145.47 MHz - that he'd thought to program into his fire radio. Back at the Fire Information Center, the van Bergens heard the transmission and relayed the message. A rescue helicopter was dispatched promptly to transport the victim to the hospital.

"It is quite possible that the radio operators helped save this fire-fighter's life," the US Forest Service report said. "Special thanks to Jim and the eight RACES hams who have volunteered so many hours and helped fill the holes in our communications network."

Late last week, hams in the Shasta Dam area of Northern California wound up their support of fire fighting efforts there, according to Sacramento Valley Section Emergency Coordinator Jerry Boyd, K6BZ. "A couple more fires broke out, and we still have temperatures near 100 with no break in sight, so we could be back," he said earlier this week.

Amateurs had been assisting the California Division of Forestry/Fire Protection with communications in the affected counties. Chief fire officers were "shadowed" by hams to insure they had communications capabilities. Fire emergency command and control centers used hams as did evacuation centers in several jurisdictions.

Boyd reports that more than 200 federal, state, and local fire-fighters worked the High Fire north of Shasta Lake and the Mammoth Fire west of Shasta lake with the help of National Guard helicopters and C-130 tankers.

Boyd reports that 86 ARES members from Siskiyou, Shasta, Tehama, and Butte counties assisted the fire-fighters.

At one point, more than 400 separate fires were raging in Northern California. The latest fires were a result of thunderstorms producing what's called "dry lightning" with numerous ground strikes and no rain to stop the fires the lightning started.

Great work! Thanks to Jerry Boyd, K6BZ, Ev Gracey, WA6CBS, and Bonnie van Bergen, KE6POO

## No Word Yet on License Restructuring

An FCC staff member says the Commission staff is "diligently working" toward getting a Report and Order on Amateur Radio license restructuring out the door. But beyond that, the FCC staffer - who did not want to be identified by name - said it was impossible to predict when that would happen. Rumors aside, the FCC official said that Commission rules prevent "revealing any information about internal thinking or scheduling" on the restructuring question.

The proceeding - known formally as the 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review of Part 97 (WT Docket 98-143) - must jump through a number of hoops within the FCC bureaucracy. The FCC's move last spring into consolidated offices at The Portals also disrupted routine work flow.

A year ago, the FCC proposed phasing out the Novice and Technician Plus licenses, leaving just four amateur license classes in place - Technician, General, Advanced, and Extra. The Commission also asked the amateur community to express its opinions on Morse code requirements, but offered no specific recommendations of its own.

The previous month, the ARRL Board of Directors issued its own plan to restyle Amateur Radio. Among other details, the ARRL plan also called for four license classes and for "refarming" Novice/Tech Plus sub-bands to provide additional spectrum for higher-class operators. Under the League plan, the Technician license would remain unchanged, and the General would become the entry-level ticket for those interested in HF operation. The ARRL proposed Morse code requirements of 5 WPM for General and 12 WPM for Advanced and Extra class.

"We are simply in that period of time when no information is available," the FCC staff member said. "This is a normal part of the Commission's quasi-judicial decision-making process and a necessary part of being objective and fair to all."

The FCC staff member said that although comments and reply comments are in - some 2300 comments were filed

in the proceeding, mostly by individual amateurs more late-filed ones continue to turn up. He said the FCC staff "is working on resolving this docket" along with its other tasks.

Before the long-awaited Report and Order sees the light of day, the Wireless Bureau staff first must digest the comments, then the staff will circulate its recommendations to the Commissioners. The Commissioners and their staff will mull the WTB input and accept a plan that quite likely represents a compromise.

The ultimate FCC decision will come either at the Commission's monthly meeting or it will be handled "on circulation" - outside of an actual meeting. A Public Notice will be issued, and the actual Report and Order will follow. The bottom line is that Amateur Radio operators will have to wait a few weeks or a few months longer before the restructuring issue is resolved.

"No one wants this proceeding decided more than we do," the FCC staff member concluded. To which most hams would shout a resounding "Amen!"

Thanks, ARRL Letter.

## **ULS Slowly Smoothing Wrinkles**

Good news! The FCC has processed a backlog of several hundred applications - some dating back to early August - transmitted by those Volunteer Examiner Coordinators able to file with the new Universal Licensing System. More good news: It appears that the various ULS Public Access Transaction files - commonly called ZIP or update files - now are available. Web call sign servers use the ZIP files to post current Amateur Radio licensee data on their sites.

Many hams are relishing their new call signs or upgraded privileges granted since the processing logjam brought about by the ULS implementation in mid-August was cleared. Adam Kittle, KD5IBG, of Converse Texas, had to wait three weeks from exam session to the day his new call sign was granted on August 27. Many more new call signs were granted recently and this week as the FCC caught up with the remaining backlog. Floyd Brown of Norcross, Georgia, snagged his snazzy KG4EME call sign on September 1. Once the ULS is running smoothly, the FCC hopes to process applications nearly as soon as they are received, cutting the typical wait to just a few days.

No vanity call signs have apparently been issued since August 4, and there is still no word from the FCC as to when vanity call sign processing will resume. The ULS accepts vanity applications, however.

Although it's not nearly as convenient to use as the typical Web call sign server, applicants can obtain their new call signs or upgrades from the ULS, http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls, by clicking on "License Search" and entering their name - as it appeared on their application - or call sign. To confirm license class and reveal additional data, users must click on the pull-down menu labeled "License Options" on the bottom of the screen, click on "Amateur Administration" and click "Go." Amateurs may have to wait a bit longer before doing a Web call sign look-up on one of the Web call sign servers such as UALR, QRZ.com, WM7D.net, or the FCC Transaction Search on ARRL Web site. The FCC first attempted to post a full update ZIP file three weeks ago, but the file was corrupt. Another attempt two weeks ago to post a complete update appears to have been successful, however. The FCC has issued a revised file specification for the ZIP files, however, so call sign servers may have to modify the program routines they use to grab the data each day from the FCC's server.

The ULS Task Force says it's tackling issues like these that are being brought to its attention. "We are good at taking criticism and at making improvements," a spokesperson said. The Task Force said ULS Public Access Transaction files will be created each day.

The FCC now has requested that applicants needing to obtain an Assigned Taxpayer Identification Number or having other "administrative" questions about the ULS contact the FCC Call Center, toll-free, at 888-CALL FCC (225-5322) and press menu item 2 (those calling from outside the US should dial +1-202-418-0190). Club station trustees must continue to file on Form 610B, and hams who are trustees for more than one club station need to obtain a separate ATIN for each club.

Users with technical questions dealing with the mechanics of ULS registration or access, or having browser problems, should continue to contact ULS Tech Support at 202-414-1250; ulscomm@fcc.gov.

The FCC says the ULS dial-up access has been upgraded to support 56k modems. In the wake of comments and criticisms about the difficulty of having to configure a dial-up connection with a particular browser to file an application, the ULS Task Force says it's planning to convert to electronic filing via the Internet "sometime after the first of the year."

NOTE: September QST carried information on ULS in the Washington Mailbox column on page 85. There is an update in Happenings on pages 68 - 69 in the October QST.

Thanks, ARRL Letter.

## New Pac. Div. Director for 2000

As announced publicly several weeks ago, I am retiring as ARRL Pacific Division Director on Dec. 31, 1999, at the end of this term. Jim Maxwell, W6CF, the current ARRL Pacific Division Vice Director, was nominated for Director for the new term starting Jan. 1, 2000. As he was the only candidate nominated, he has now become the ARRL Pacific Division Director - Elect and will become the Director starting Jan. 1, 2000.

There are three nominees for the Vice Director position (in alphabetic order by last name): Jettie Hill, W6RFF, John Ronan, K3ZJJ, and Bob Vallio, W6RGG.

ARRL Pacific Division Full Members will be mailed ballots from HQ not later than Oct. 1, 1999, and, to be valid, must be received at HQ by noon Eastern Time on Friday, Nov. 19, 1999.

## **ARRL Seeks Technology Proposals**

The ARRL Technology Task Force wants to hear from hams with ideas and proposals for new technology to carry Amateur Radio into the next century. The ARRL Board of Directors created the Task Force and the companion Technology Working Group last January, and ARRL President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, has appointed a number of leading amateurs to serve on both panels. The Task Force and the Working Group will work hand-in-hand to identify, evaluate, and promote the most promising 21st Century technologies for Amateur Radio.

The Task Force consists of members of the ARRL Board family and the Headquarters staff. Chairing the Task Force is ARRL First Vice President Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML. Other TTF members are Roanoke Vice Director Dennis Bodson, W4PWF; Hudson Director Frank Fallon, N2FF; New England Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI; Southwestern Vice Director Art Goddard, W6XD; Pacific Director-elect (and current Vice Director) Jim Maxwell, W6CF; International Affairs Vice President Larry Price, W4RA; and Rocky Mountain Director Walt Stinson, W0CP.

The Technology Working Group will evaluate technical proposals and make recommendations to the Technology Task Force, which in turn will make specific policy proposals to the ARRL Board of Directors.

The Working group is an expert panel selected from among League members representing a broad spectrum of Amateur Radio interests and activities. Chairing the Working Group is CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU. Other members are AMSAT-NA President Keith Baker, KB1SF; Peter Coffee, AC6EN, a computer industry analyst; Mike Cook, AF9Y, Engineering Director of Communications Systems Engineering, ITT Aerospace/Communications Division; Gene McGahey, NR0NR, Deputy Manager of Communications Technology, NLECTC (NIJ/DOJ); ARRI. Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI; Dennis Silage, K3DS, a Temple University professor involved in digital communications; and QEX Editor Doug Smith, KF6DX.

ARRL Laboratory Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, will serve as ARRL HQ staff liaison to both committees.

The Task Force invites information and concepts on a wide range of technologies with the potential to improve Amateur Radio and to promote what the FCC calls "continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art." The Task Force invites the submission of ideas and proposals from all parts of the amateur community, and will use the input to help formulate League policy recommendations on a wide range of technical issues.

Amateurs are invited to complete the form on ARRL Web site at http://www.arrl.org/news/ttf/, send e-mail to the Task Force at ttfinput@arrl.org, or offer your ideas by mail to the ARRL Technology Task Force, c/o Ed Hare, W1RFI, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Suggestions are requested by November 30, 1999.

## FCC to Beef-up 10 Meter Enforcement

The FCC's Legal Adviser for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth says hams can expect more rigorous enforcement on 10 meter issues next year. Over the Labor Day weekend, Hollingsworth told visitors to the Shelby Hamfest in North Carolina that the next area of enforcement would be the encroachment of unlicensed individuals into the 10-meter band and a crackdown on illegal RF amplifiers. His announcement drew loud applause from the Shelby crowd.

Hollingsworth elaborated on the comments this week in an interview concerning this and other enforcement issues.

"We're coming on to ten months of rejuvenated amateur enforcement now, and two issues are clear - two areas we need to really crank up on next year," Hollingsworth said. "One is the incursion into 10 meters by unlicensed operators - CB'ers and so forth. The other is sales of illegal equipment on the Internet and at hamfests."

At Shelby, Hollingsworth told the crowd that he'd spotted more illegal equipment at Shelby that he'd seen last May at the Dayton Hamvention. At the Hamvention, FCC Field Office personnel from Detroit warned several vendors about potential violations involving RF amplifiers.

The Shelby Hamfest, held at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds, is best known for is flea market, not for its forums, but Hollingsworth still managed to draw a standing-room-only crowd for his Sunday morning presentation After addressing the overflow forum audience, Shelby Hamfest organizers hastily scheduled a second forum and rearranged the room to gain more seating. Hollingsworth was scheduled to appear at the Virginia State Convention in Virginia Beach September 18-19.

Hollingsworth says his recent enforcement initiative aimed at call sign hoarders has met with some success. "I appreciate the people who have come in on their own and either turned in or trimmed down the number of club call signs that they had," he said this week. During a two-week period in late August, Hollingsworth said 43 call signs voluntarily were turned back to the FCC without any prompting.

Hollingsworth says he's received replies from all of the letters the FCC has sent to multiple call sign holders, including members of the Tucker family in La Mirada, California. On June 30, the FCC requested that family patriarch Roy T. Tucker, N6TK, and other licensees in the Tucker family provide justification in writing for the two dozen or so club call signs held by various family members.

"I have about a half a dozen cases in the hopper," Hollingsworth said of the call sign inquiries initiative, but added that he's deferring judgment on whether the message has gotten across to the amateur community. "I would like to think so," he said, "but I won't know until I've seen these responses." His stack includes replies from the Tucker family, who have hired an attorney to handle the FCC inquiry. Hollingsworth says he's optimistic that an anticipated FCC internal reorganization that will create a new Enforcement Bureau will occur no later than the end of the year but could be as early as October 1--the start of the new federal fiscal year. Hollingsworth has assured that the change will have no effect on Amateur Radio enforcement efforts.

Thanks, ARRL Bulletin and John Kanode, N4MM, ARRL Roanoke Division Director.

## **StenSat to Launch:**

Stanford University's OPAL - Orbiting Picosatellite Automated Launcher - experiment is scheduled for launch October 4. The experiment includes the small (12 cubic inch) StenSat Amateur Radio picosatellite. The package is a crossband repeater that will operate much like the popular AO-27 satellite. StenSat will uplink on 145.840 MHz and downlink on 436.625 MHz. The spacecraft's designers are looking for volunteers to monitor and help control the picosatellite. They are especially interested in getting AX 25 telemetry. reports in the hours and days following launch. Interested hams should contact Hank Heidt, N4AFL, hheidt@erols.com to be added to the StenSat mailing list. For more information, visit http://www.erols.com/hheidt.

Thanks, Space News/ANS

## Latest News on Spectrum Protection

It's round two in Congress for the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act. At the request of the ARRL, Rep. Michael Bilirakis introduced the 1999 version of the proposed legislation, HR 783, on February 23. As of Sep. 15, the bill had received 109 co-sponsorships including Pacific Division Mink (HI), Underwood (GU), Farr (CA), Miller (CA), Campbell (CA), Abercrombie (HI), Stark (CA), and Lee (CA). Nationally, we now have more co-sponsorships than we had for the 1998 bill - but we need to obtain some 218 co-sponsorships to have a majority of the House as co-sponsors. Keep up the good work!

The bill is aimed at ensuring the availability of spectrum to Amateur Radio operators. It would protect existing Amateur Radio spectrum against reallocations to or sharing with other services unless the FCC provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" elsewhere. Bilirakis, a Florida Republican, also sponsored last year's measure, which attracted upwards of 83 cosponsors on both sides of the aisle Rep Frank Pallone Jr., a New Jersey Democrat, is the initial cosponsor of the 1999 bill.

ARRL Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Steve Mansfield, N1MZA, says the 1999 bill "is largely the same as last year's HR 3572." The major difference is that the 1999 version adds "Amateur Satellite Service" frequencies to "Amateur Radio Service" in detailing the frequencies that would be afforded protection under the act.

Specifically, HR 783 would amend the Communications Act to require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio and the

Amateur Satellite Service in the event of a reallocation of primary amateur allocations, any reduction in secondary amateur allocations, or "additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce the utility thereof" to amateurs.

Mansfield said it's too soon to predict how HR 783 will fare in the new Congress, but said the fact that it has been introduced so early in the session "bodes well for our prospects." He said that a number of the cosponsors from last year already have indicated an interest in signing on again, "so I think we'll have a lot of support."

A copy of the measure is available via the THOMAS Web site, http://thomas.loc.gov/.

Thanks, ARRL Letter, ARRL Bulletin.and THOMAS Web.site.

## New 144 GHz Record Set in Pac. Div.

On Aug. 18 Bob, KF6KVG and Will, W0EOM, set up their 144 GHz (2 mm band) stations at the same locations used to extend the record previously set on Aug 12, which erased the previous record held by WA1MBA. Receive margins were over 8 dB, so W0EOM moved to Saddle Mountain Road in Los Altos CA. Contact was established in about 10 minutes and calls exchanged. This is a record of 7.31 miles and appears to be near the limit of the present setup. Plans are to retune to 120 GHz (2.5 mm band), but trouble with one of the multipliers is causing this retuning to take longer than expected.

Thanks, Will, W0EOM

## **Coming Events**

• Livermore Swap Meet - 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Clift Kibbe, KF6EII, (209) 835-6715, e-mail: larkswap@usa.com.

• Foothill Flea Market - 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month from March through October at Foothill College, Los Altos Hills, CA.

• ARRL Pacific Division Convention (PACIFICON99), Concord, CA, Oct. 15-17. Contact Dick Brown, KT6X, (925) 676-9048, email paccon99@pacbell.net, or web site http://www.pacificon.org.

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 Pacific Division Web site http://www.pdarrl.org/

## **December Luncheon Meeting Sign-up**

Our annual December christmas meeting will be a luncheon this time; on Saturday December 11, 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 there 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 3. 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? See "December Meeting" article for information on gift exchange. -- 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	
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From the <u>Children's menu</u> : Deli Burger, \$7.50	Chicken Strips, \$7.50
Fried Shrimp, \$8.75	Total for lunches: \$
Please renew your membership (over) at the same time	ecombine 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):

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

KO6HH, 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 2000 (Fill in name and address if there is no mailing label below; make corrections if the label is incorrect)

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