

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 17, Number 11

November 2001



President's Prose

I will try to keep things short for this month. The picnic was fun! I think all that came claim to have had a good time. I was tired because I worked Friday night before the picnic, unexpectedly. I managed to stay awake this year without a nap during the picnic. Thank you to Clark Murphy and Mike Hastings for going to the park so early in the morning to stake out our territory. Everyone contributed, including the weatherman. The weather was beautiful. There were several contacts on the radio. The antenna was a dipole strung in the trees and the 2 meter antenna was a j-pole that was put into the fence post of the tennis court. From the reports I got, the reception was adequate for the bands that were working. The operators for the day were Don Village, K6PBQ; Lou Stierer, WA6QYS; and Wally Britten, KA6YMD. One of the contacts was to Argentina.

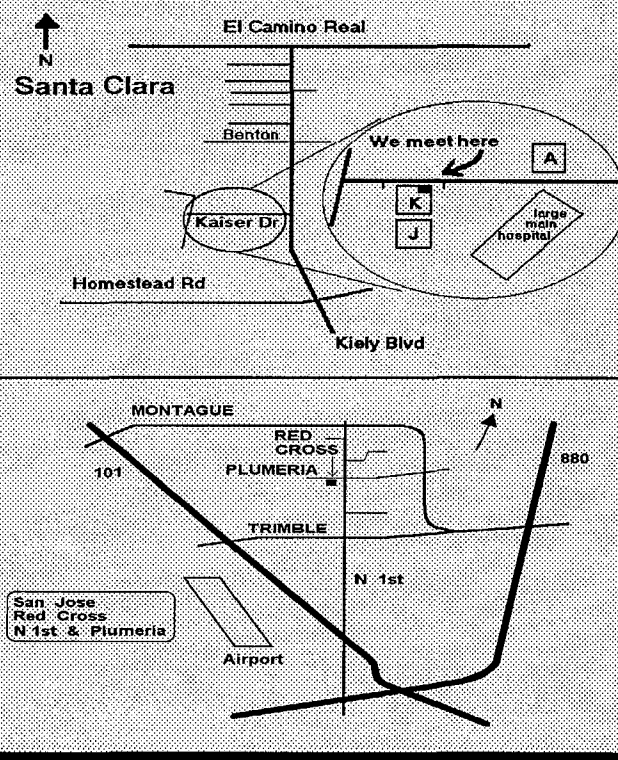
Speaking of picnics, we will be having a picnic as part of Field Day 2002. We are hoping to have this year's event elsewhere besides Mt. Madonna. The option that seems most likely is at Lake Cunningham Park. This is a City of San Jose park. The park is working with us to give us Special Event Status, which will change the rules that governs the use of the park. We are being given an undeveloped area near the maintenance area. This area is about 50 yards by 20-30 yards. There is a hill along one side with trees on the top that will be good for wire antennas. The other side has many trees that lie along the edge of the property next to the road. These may not be so good for holding or creating antennas. Don Village took some pictures of the area. They are printed in the newsletter. There is also a map of the area where SCCARA can locate for the weekend for Field Day. The park is giving us this area for \$50.00/day. We plan to go in on Friday night and leave by Sunday at 1:00PM. Technically it's only two complete days. Don Village began the contact with the park, and I did some follow up work when Don was on vacation. There is group picnic area almost next to the "campsite" where SCCARA will be able to "camp" overnight. The picnic area is about the same distance from the "campsite" as is at Mt. Madonna's distance from the

Calendar

- 11/12 SCCARA General Meeting
- 11/19 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 12/15 SCCARA Annual Meeting--Luncheon (see sign-up sheet)

General Meeting:

Day: Monday, Nov. 12, 2001
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Bld K, Rm 1
Featuring: Bob WA6WHT will speak on Digital Broadcast TV. Club elections.



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

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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	e-mail: ka6ymd@juno.com	
N0ARY BBS	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	265-2336
	e-mail: wb6yru@aenet.net	

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 at the Santa Teresa Hospital, south-west San Jose (near IBM). The 70 cm repeater and N0ARY BBS is located at the Regional Medical Center (formerly Alexian), east of downtown San Jose (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 K6PBO. On ten meters, 28.385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00 PM. Net control: Wally KA6YMD. Visitors welcome.

N0ARY PACKET BBS

SCCARA hosts the packet BBS N0ARY (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

SCCARA contact Clark KE6KXO:	408 262-9334
ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group:	408 243-8349
me-ae6z@worldnet.att.net	

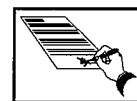
BBQ to where we set up.

At the picnic area, there are 8-10 covered/sheltered tables. If we decide to rent the picnic area for the weekend, these tables could be used as individual stations for the contest. The only water available is a water fountain, or in the bathrooms. We would have to bring in water the same as we did at Mt. Madonna. There is no electricity. The city parks only allow diesel generators. Clark Murphy knows whom to contact to rent one from for the weekend. Our power sources would be from diesel generators and batteries.

The benefits of being at Lake Cunningham Park: 1) More people may be able to visit the in town location. Mt. Madonna is a nice location, but it is too far for some people to drive to make the event. 2) The overall cost will be lower than Mt. Madonna. We are not through making arrangements with the park officials for the site. There is a chance that the price fees may be lowered for this event. There is plenty of time for negotiations before Field Day occurs next year. The park officer said that if we intend to rent the picnic area, the sooner we do it the better. We can make our reservations anytime, as there is no time limit for a special event station. The park considers Field Day to be a special event.

There are two projects that I want to see completed as soon as possible: the completion of the radio station at Regional Medical Center, and improvement of the repeater at Santa Teresa Hospital. I am aware that the reception at this site has been poor. I talked with Tom Trich on Monday, 10/8. He has not done anything about mounting the rack for the repeater duplexers. Right now, his attention is taken up with preparation for the annual hospital review. I have no idea when he will return his attention to our repeater. (He insists their maintenance department must mount the back braces to the wall.) Our new member Willie Marquez, told me that the site at Adobe downtown San Jose is not a possibility after all. So, it looks like we are stuck where we are for now. I am aware that in a real emergency our repeater may not be reachable from all locations in San Jose. It could challenge our ability to communicate effectively.

73, Barbara Britten, KD6QEI



[Editor's note: The following President's Prose was submitted too late for the October issue.]

The attack on America on 9-11, will change our lives in one way or another. It has touched all of our hearts because of the sudden swiftness of the attack, the amount of destruction, and the number of lives lost. The terrorists sought to destroy us. Instead, it has united us. Our resolve and spirit are even stronger than ever. Now, as the country prepares for the war that President Bush says is coming, there is much to do to prepare.

The disaster has brought to the forefront the need

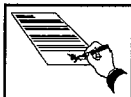
for all amateur radio operators to dust off their equipment and prepare to use it. Mayor Willie Brown has already made use of the amateur radio operators in the San Francisco area. He activated them on the day of the attack, as San Francisco was suspected to be another target for the terrorists. San Jose's ARES/RACES unit was alerted and was ready to respond if needed. Many of our SCCARA members are also ARES/RACES members. We all know from previous disasters that the only reliable communications will be that of amateur radio. Make sure your radio licenses are current, so you will be ready if needed.

Next month is nominations and election of officers. Please have your nominations ready. Please come to the next meeting to show your support to the officers. They do work hard all year for you. We still need a secretary. The duty of the secretary is to take notes at the regular Board meetings and to maintain the database. It has been two years since we had a secretary. The Laws of Incorporation require that there are four officers: president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. We have been batting two out of four. It is not good enough. We are the oldest amateur radio club in this valley. The club has dwindled in size. Is there no one who is interested in coming forward to maintain its presence? I know there are other means of communication that are taking a lot of people's interests. I feel these other interests are drawing members attention and interest away from amateur radio. I hope this is not the case. Please start coming to meetings and show your support.

After the meeting ended, I drew three names out of a coffee can. I will call these three names to ask one of them to write a technical article for the SCCARA-GRAM for next month. They were: Bob Wharton, Robert Forster, and *****. Next month, I will draw three more names before the end of the meeting. Those names will become part of the minutes. The names that are drawn go into a separate jar and are not drawn again until all the names of the roster have been drawn. I will phone each one of the names, and ask them to write an article for the newsletter. The one who agrees to write an article for the newsletter will have their name put in a separate jar. At the November meeting, 2002, one name will be drawn from those that wrote articles for the newsletter and will be given a special surprise. This special gift will be given at the annual Christmas party. I hope this prize gives all of you the incentive to say "yes" when I call you to that you have been chosen to write an article.

Next month is Pacificon in Concord. It is the last full weekend of the month. It is held Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Hope to see you.

73, Barbara Britten, KD6QEI



November Talk

Bob WA6WHT will speak at the November 12th

meeting on Digital Broadcast TV. Bob is in the commercial broadcast field and has tamed many transmitters. He might give you insight on how to get the most out of yours. Mark your calendars for November 12th and get a dose of RF (virtual that is).

73...Lou WA6QYS

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Oct. 8, 2001



Called to order at 7:50 PM by president Barbara KD6QEI.

Nominations for next year:

President Barbara KD6QEI

Vice President --

Secretary Willy KG6HJE

Treasurer Lloyd KD6FJI

Trustee Stan WA6VJY (tentative, we wasn't present)

El K6ZYY

Director Clark KE6KXO

Director Lou WA6QYS

KD6QEI:

Field Day chairman for next year is Mike KB6LCJ. We're planning on going to Lake Cunningham park next year. The cost is \$20 reg. fee, plus \$50 per day. If we want to reserve the picnic area, it's an extra \$150 per day. They won't allow a gasoline generator, but diesel is OK. Clark knows where we can rent one for \$75 for the weekend. Discussion followed about operating at this site.

We will sponsor a no-code tech class in January, 2002. There will be seven classes, held Thursday evenings. Don KO6HH is the chairman.

Treas. report Lloyd KD6FJI:

Savings is about \$7839.61 (less the latest interest) Checking is zero.

Repeater report, Wally KA6YMD:

Nothing new. They still haven't got the brackets installed.

SCCARA-GRAM report, Gary WB6YRU:

Nothing new to report.

BBS report, Gary WB6YRU:

Bob N0ARY has the computer and disk drives. He will work on it when he has time. The original drive won't boot properly, this prevented me from simply copying it over to a new drive.

Old Business:

WB6FYH contacted us saying he had a tower and Kenwood radio for sale. Clark KE6KXO suggested he put an ad on the bulletin board at HRO.

The picnic was good. We made about a dozen contacts all over the world on the HF rig we set up. (It was the one we just had repaired). Some of our left-over soda was sold by the American Indian Scholarship Fund group. Clark KE6KXO: motion to donate the money made back to them. Seconded and approved unanimously. Since the remaining soda would go out of date before we have a chance to use it, the four remaining 12-packs were distributed to the members at the meeting.

The christmas luncheon meeting is all set. It will be Saturday, Dec. 15 at noon at the Hungry Hunter in Milpitas.

New Business:

WB6YRU: James Lee is making up time-of-arrival antenna kits (radio direction finding) and expects them to cost about \$20 each. If anyone is interested, I have his e-mail and other information. This is the same design that was demonstrated at a club meeting a while back.

Lou WA6QYS: The last Foothill flea market of the season is this Saturday. Also, SVECS will have its quarterly breakfast on October 27. Please let me know if you plan to go.

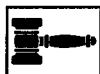
Roy K6VIP: FCC form 605 is being overhauled, we no longer can use the old one to renew our licenses. They will once again start collecting date of birth info, but it won't be published.

Lou WA6QYS: Pacificon is the weekend after next.

9:20 PM, Adjourned.

Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, recording for the secretary

General Meeting, Sept. 10, 2001



Introductions: # Present at meeting: 16 with 2 visitors

Speaker:

Dick Kors, KM6EP; Roxana, his assistant, age 14, KG6BKN (General), began studying for her license in the seventh grade. Topic: Rocketry and Telemetry using amateur radios. The speaker talked about how Stanford University and a local school started a science club. All members became radio amateur operators. They built rockets and used radios in the payload, then fired them. Each radio was supposed to

emit a signal that was later tracked to locate and retrieve the radio. To do this, 12 club members and their parents went out to the middle of the desert where the rockets could be fired safely. The radios were put in a Coke can, called a "can sat.", which was the contents of the payload in the rocket to be fired. There is a tiny video camera inside the payload and can transmit as far out as 600 miles to a camera on the ground.

Dick also taught Lloyd how to program a computer chip in 3 1/2 minutes.

Dick also said that Morse code can be learned quicker if you hear the sound before you know what the letter is. Dick claims to have taught the code to people in about one hour.

Break: 10 minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasures Report:

Savings: \$7,389.61. Checking: \$1,049.98

President: Wally and I have cell phones. Barbara's #: 393-0379; Wally's #: 393-0374.

Don Hayden has decided on the Ham classes to be held around mid January. The classes will be on Thursday's, 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM, for 7 weeks. The class will be for the no code technician level. The classroom will accept 30 to 40 people. Classes will be held at Kaiser Santa Clara, in a room to be announced. For more information, contact Don Hayden at 408-867-4643.

Repeater Chairman: No word from Tom Trich at Kaiser Santa Teresa about when he is going to have the repeater cabinet mounted on the wall at the top of the medical building. No transfer of our equipment can be done until the cabinet is mounted permanently. The installation of cable for the radio station at Regional Medical Center has been postponed until after October 1. The hospital is in the middle of preparing for the annual review of the hospital by the JCAH. Until then, the Engineering Department has no time to get the cable installed.

SCCARA-GRAM: There has been a change in the color of the paper used for the newsletter. There were no objections to the change.

BBS: It is still down. The problem is more complicated than they thought. Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, and Bob Arasmith may have to get together to get things working again.

OLD BUSINESS: Used Radio Equipment: Fred, WB6FTH, wants to get rid of his rotor, tower, and 940 Kenwood radio. Contact him at 408-378-5263. If you or someone you know are interested, please call him and make an offer.

SCCARA Picnic: To be held Saturday, 9/29, 10:00 AM to 3 PM, at Mary Gomez Park. The talk-in frequency will be

Simplex on the repeater output. Everyone is to bring a "white elephant" prize for the bingo game, and a dish to share, plus your own entre. The club will provide charcoal for cooking, plates, utensils, napkins, soda, cups, and ice. Bring your family. There will be a radio for transmitting. Lou Steirer will bring an antenna and Gary Mitchell will bring a battery.

440 Rig is ready for pick up from HRO. The final price is \$332.08. Lloyd will write a check to HRO tonight and Mike Hastings will pickup the radio. Clark Murphy agreed to pick up the radio from Mike Hastings and test it to make sure it is working properly, and give a report at the November meeting. Also need to know the number of components that were replaced. Mike will bring the radio to the next meeting for "show and tell".

NEW BUSINESS: Election of officers is in November. It was suggested to Barbara that she should take the position of secretary and leave the office of president open. There was no agreement with the suggestion from the members at the meeting. Barbara, KD6QEI, current president, reiterated her promise to be the club secretary if someone else would be president. There didn't seem to be any takers.

At the end of the meeting, some members went to the room across the hall to see the communications cabinet with the help of Paul N. Leonard, KE6PIJ. Paul is District Emergency Coordinator for City of Santa Clara.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.
Barbara K. Britten

Board Meeting, Oct. 15, 2001



Barbara K. Britten, KD6QEI, President, presiding.

Meeting began at 8:00 PM. Members present at meeting: Lloyd DeVaughns, KE6FJI, treasurer; Clark Murphy, Director; Wally Britten, KA6YMD, Director; Don Village, K6PBQ, Director; Don Apte, Director; Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, Newsletter Editor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PRESIDENT: Barbara reported that she had talked with Tom Trich, Asst. Engineer at Kaiser Santa Teresa, on Monday, 10/8 about when the radio classes would be starting at Kaiser Santa Clara. The classes will begin the last week of January, or the first week of February, 2002. The class of 30-40 will have about 10 of his engineers as students. Barbara will contact the engineering departments of San Jose Medical Hospital and Regional Medical Centers to let them know of the upcoming class. These hospitals may also have

some department employees that need to get their ham licenses as a requirement of their employment. An advertisement will be placed on the bulletin board at HRO.

Clark Murphy reported that we can rent a 3.5 KW diesel generator from Dahl' Rental equipment, for \$75.00. Rent time: Saturday AM to Monday AM. It could be transported in a pick-up truck and would need two people to lift. There will be table for stations from Gwen Steirer and Don Apte. Don Village brought pictures of the Lake Cunningham site, drew a map on the whiteboard, and then correlated the pictures to the map for a better understanding of how things will look for Field Day.

TREASURER: Savings: \$6,863.61. Checking: \$1,641.32. \$1,000.00 was transferred from savings to checking this past week.

REPEATER: No new information to report. We do need to work on changing the location of the Santa Teresa repeater as the reception is very poor. Clark Murphy mentioned that he had talked with Trish Gibbons, WA6UBE, about the possibility of moving it back Alum Rock Park. To do this, we need a good controller. Wally Britten reported that he found the instruction book for the controller we have now. All that is needed are the phone numbers to be programmed into the controller. Roy Metzger said he would do the programming once he had the telephone numbers. There is a new list available from the ADZ repeater. Trish is open to redoing the test to check for interference from Sacramento, once the programming is done and the reflector panel is in place. Clark Murphy offered to help Wally get that done, as Wally's time is taken up with work projects now.

SCCARA-GRAM: No new info. The newest renewal form and the Christmas party sign-ups are in the next issue.

BBS: No word from Bob Arasmith. He has the bulletin board system and is working on it.

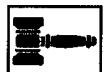
NEW BUSINESS:

NEW SECRETARY: We will have to help the new secretary to learn our names and call signs for the notes. There are several ways we can do this: wear our name tags, say our name and call sign when speaking, and the president can say the name of the member when the member is acknowledged to speak.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:45 PM.

Barbara Britten

Board Meeting, Sept. 17, 2001



Meeting began at 8:00 PM. Members present: Gary Mitchell WB6YRU; Don Village K6PBQ; Wally Britten KA6YMD; Barbara Britten, Pres, KD6QEI, Lloyd DeV Vaughns KD6FJI; Shane Nelson KE6WQI; Clark Murphy KE6KXO; Don Apte KK6MX.

Shane Nelson reported that he was not getting the newsletter. Wall Britten will add him to the roster when he gets home.

Treasurer's Report: Checking account balance: \$1,049.48; Savings account balance: \$7,389.61.

Tom Trich, assistant engineer at Kaiser Santa Teresa, has agreed to hold the classes at Kaiser Santa Clara in January. He will schedule the classroom after Barbara notifies him this week.

There was a discussion about the current repeater at Kaiser Santa Teresa. The repeater is useless at this site. It doesn't cover downtown San Jose. The ideal place would be on "County Com" Hill. Clark Murphy and Gary Mitchell agreed to do a feasibility study on putting the repeater at Regional Medical Center, then report their findings at the next regular meeting. Gary Mitchell suggested that the 440 repeater should be replaced with something else. He suggested that we contact Trish Gibbons to see if the City repeater is available for SCCARA. That way we would have two repeaters, both of which would fit in our present cabinet at Regional Medical Center, and then link them using a controller. There are grants available to purchase the repeater. SCCARA could try to get one of the grants. The radios must be sensitive to each other and not interfere with each other.

SCCARA-GRAM: No changes. No new news. Gary requests ALL members fill out a membership renewal sheet. It is important to do this to make sure the database is accurate. The newsletters are sent out to members based on the database.

BBS: It is still down. The last try didn't work. Gary Mitchell and Bob Arasmith need to interface to solve problem.

Picnic: Clark Murphy will go to the park and stake out our picnic area. Shane Nelson will join him if possible. Clark will bring the 440 radio. Don Village will bring the charcoal and lighter fluid, and his own rig for backup, as well as power cables and an antenna. Wally and Barbara will bring the ice. Talk-in will be on repeater output on simplex. The TS 440 rig (Kenwood) from HRO is at Bill Parent's house. He will bring it to the November meeting. There is a conflict of interests for this event. RACES is having their awards dinner the same day and time as our picnic.

Christmas: The Hungry Hunter in Milpitas has been reserved for the Christmas party, and has given the

information to Gary for publication in the newsletter.

Wally will contact Trish Gibbons to get our bow-tie antenna from her.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Barbara Britten

Ride & Tie

On Friday, September 14, SCCARA members John Kerner (KB6RSB) and myself (K6ZYY) plus three other local radio hams, drove to Truckee to help with communications at what had been described to us as the 2001 - 31st Annual Ride & Tie Championship and Invitational. What we discovered when we got there was that there were 4 events on Saturday and one on Sunday morning. We were put up at a nice Holiday Inn where we stayed Friday and Saturday nights. Both mornings the Inn supplied coffee and soft drinks plus donuts and sweet rolls and oranges and apples for breakfast.

On Saturday, the events were (1) Ride & Tie Championship, (2) 15 mile Ride & Tie, (3) 35 mile run, (4) 25 mile ride. Sunday morning was a "Biathlon" which consisted of a 20 Mile ride followed by a 10K run. All events involved horses except the 3rd one on Saturday. The "runs" were people running without a horse.

I was stationed at a point that all races passed, so they set up a table with water, pretzels, and M & M's for the participants and two water troughs for the horses. They were supposed to bring us sandwiches for lunch, but they never came so I had pretzels, M & M's, and water for lunch.

When the race was over they had a big barbecue for all participants and volunteers. Usually at Ride & Ties, at the dinners they have all the beer you can drink. At this one they had "marguerites," but I had two and never felt a thing, so I believe they were without tequila. Anyway the food was great.

On Sunday morning we stayed and helped with the biathlon and then took off for home. If you've never helped with communications at a Ride & Tie, you have no idea how much fun they can be.

El Wirt, K6ZYY

Aboard Flight 564

Peter Hannaford

As it was at most U.S. airports, last Saturday was the first near-normal day at Denver International since the terrorist attacks. On United's Flight 564 the door had just been locked and the plane was about to pull out of the gate when the captain came on the public address system.

"I want to thank you brave folks for coming out today. We don't have any new instructions from the federal government, so from now on we're on our own."

The passengers listened in total silence.

He explained that airport security measures had pretty much solved the problem of firearms being carried aboard, but not weapons of the type the terrorists apparently used, plastic knives or those fashioned from wood or ceramics.

"Sometimes a potential hijacker will announce that he has a bomb. There are no bombs on this aircraft and if someone were to get up and make that claim, don't believe him.

"If someone were to stand up, brandish something such as a plastic knife and say 'This is a hijacking' or words to that effect here is what you should do: Every one of you should stand up and immediately throw things at that person, pillows, books, magazines, eyeglasses, shoes anything that will throw him off balance and distract his attention. If he has a confederate or two, do the same with them. Most important: get a blanket over him, then wrestle him to floor and keep him there. We'll land the plane at the nearest airport and the authorities will take it from there."

"Remember, there will be one of him and maybe a few confederates, but there are 200 of you. You can overwhelm them.

"The Declaration of Independence says 'We, the people' and that's just what it is when we're up in the air: we, the people, vs would-be terrorists. I don't think we are going to have any such problem today or tomorrow or for a while, but some time down the road, it is going to happen again and I want you to know what to do.

"Now, since we're a family for the new few hours, I'll ask you to turn to the person next to you, introduce yourself, tell them a little about yourself and ask them to do the same."

The end of this remarkable speech brought sustained clapping from the passengers. He had put the matter in perspective. If only the passengers on those ill-fated flights last Tuesday had been given the same talk, I thought, they might be alive today. One group on United Flight 93, which crashed in a Pennsylvania field, apparently rushed the hijackers in an attempt to wrest control from them. While

they perished, they succeeded in preventing the terrorist from attacking his intended goal, possibly the White House or the Capitol.

Procedures for dealing with hijackers were conceived in a time when the hijackers were usually seeking the release of jailed comrades or a large amount of money. Mass murder was not their goal. That short talk last Saturday by the pilot of Flight 564 should set a new standard of realism.

Every passenger should learn the simple - but potentially life-saving - procedure he outlined. He showed his passengers that a hijacking does not have to result in hopelessness and terror, but victory over the perpetrators.

The Airline Pilots Association, the pilots' union, last week dropped its opposition to stronger cockpit doors and is now calling for retrofits. (It's opposition was based on pilot concerns about getting out easily in emergency situations.) The scandal of easily penetrated airport security will result in congressional calls for a federal takeover of the security system.

Previous efforts to reform security procedures and raise standards have been talked to death. This time, however, no lobbying efforts must be allowed to prevent airport security from getting the reforms that are needed: federal operation, rigorous training, decent pay and no foreign nationals eligible for employment.

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Picnic 2001

Our annual picnic was held on Sept. 29 at Mary Gomez park in Santa Clara. We had about 20 of our members participate this year. Weather was just perfect. We had a great BBQ and pot luck lunch. Thanks to Barbara KD6QEI and Wally KA6YMD for bringing all the supplies.

We set up a H.F. station again this year. It was a team effort. Clark KE6KXO brought our newly repaired Kenwood TS-440S. Our thanks to Mike KB6LCJ for suggesting we get it repaired. Don K6PBQ for bringing his 40+10 meter dipoles with 15 foot tripod and Lou WA6QYS for our long wire antenna. Gary WB6YRU brought the battery just as we finished putting up the antennas. We made 10 QSO's with 3 DX stations in Mexico, Chile, and Argentina with our 15 foot high dipoles.

Our thanks to Gwen KE6OTD and Lou WA6QYS for providing our Bingo game run by Barbara KD6QEI.

A great time was had by everyone at our annual picnic.

73, Don K6PBQ



SCCARA's 2001 picnic

Hey, that's Wally KA6YMD taking a picture of someone taking his picture... Or did he set up a mirror for a trick shot to get himself in?



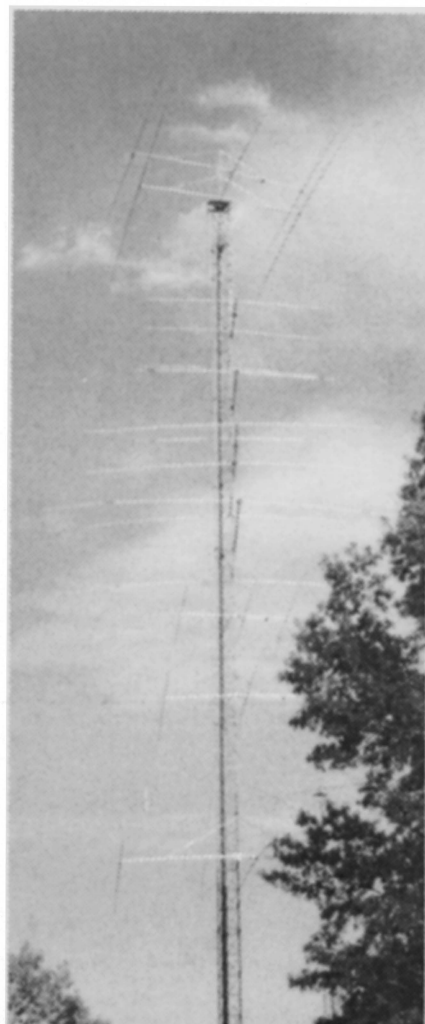
Don K6PBQ makes some contacts (including DX) on our newly repaired Kenwood TS-440 HF rig.



ARRL Radio Shack and HQ

Below is the ARRL radio shack (that's some "shack") with better shots of its two antenna towers on either side. Looks like there are almost a dozen HF beams on the right hand tower! (I wonder what the wind-load is.)

Photos by Don Apte, KK6MX





ARRL Headquarters building

December Meeting

Our annual Christmas meeting this year will be a luncheon again instead of a dinner. It will be held on Saturday December 15 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. 7 (see sign-up sheet). Talk-in will be on our repeater, W6UU, 146.385+ (simplex if you can't hit the repeater). Why not renew your membership at the same time?

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

73, Don K6PBQ

Newsletter Notes

When it rains, it pours...between *long* droughts. I can't remember the last time enough locally submitted material came in to fill up the newsletter. I even had to worry about extra postage because of the high page count. Wow, what a rush! ☺

Granted, some of it is "left over" from last month's late submissions. But still, it's nice to have lots of SCCARA-related articles or things from members. I hope you all agree.

The article *Aboard Flight 564* technically isn't local (it isn't even amateur) and it required me to get permission, but it was originally suggested by SCCARA member Marilyn Ankney KD6CXS. So, in my view, that sort of counts.

Now, that wasn't so bad was it folks? Let's keep the momentum going!

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

News from the ARRL

From *The ARRL Letter*, October 12, 2001

FCC SAYS BAND PLANS DO MATTER

The FCC recently asked three amateurs to respond to complaints alleging that they deliberately transmitted SSB on top of CW stations operating in the vicinity of 1820 to 1825 kHz. The FCC has never designated mode-specific sub-bands in the 160-meter amateur band. Instead, operators are asked to voluntarily adhere to the ARRL band plan, revised this past summer, which recommends a lower limit of 1843 kHz for SSB operation.

In the wake of the complaints, FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth wrote George Wehrung, W5TZ, and Dennis Clauder, KT5S--both of Texas--and Derrick Vogt, WA4TWM, of Kansas in mid-September. Hollingsworth asked each to respond to allegations from several other operators that their SSB transmissions deliberately interfered with attempts by others to operate on CW between 1820 and 1830 kHz. Copies of

the complaints were sent to all three operators.

"Band plans are voluntary in nature," Hollingsworth acknowledged in each of the similarly worded letters. He said the FCC depends upon voluntary compliance because it minimizes the necessity for the Commission to be called in to resolve amateur problems. "Where interference results from band plans not being followed," Hollingsworth continued, "the Commission expects substantial justification to be shown by the operators ignoring the band plans."

Hollingsworth requested that Wehrung, Clauder and Vogt each reply to the complaints within 20 days.

IARU REGION 2 CONFERENCE CONCLUDES

The International Amateur Radio Union, Region 2, held its 14th General Assembly in Guatemala City, October 1-5. Twenty-one IARU member-societies from throughout the Americas were represented.

Heading the ARRL delegation was President Jim Haynie, W5JBP. He was assisted by First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, and staff members David Sumner, K1ZZ, Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, and Jon Siverling, WB3ERA.

Among other actions, the conference:

- * Endorsed the objective of a worldwide allocation of at least 300 kHz for the amateur service at 7 MHz, while maintaining a 300-kHz allocation for Region 2 amateurs as "an essential and non-negotiable requirement." The conference emphasized that other objectives being sought by international broadcasters "should not be permitted to detract from reaching" these goals.

- * Asked the IARU Administrative Council to study other ways to reduce interference from the users of CB radio equipment, particularly in the 10 and 12 meter bands.

- * Urged Region 2 member-societies to support a coordinated approach to secondary allocations to the amateur service in the low-frequency bands 135.7-137.8 kHz and 160-190 kHz.

- * Requested the Region 2 Executive Committee to study the possibility of an amateur allocation near 5 MHz, similar to the domestic allocation recently requested by the ARRL in the United States.

- * Expressed appreciation for actions by the administration of Guatemala to preserve and improve the amateur allocation at 430-440 MHz.

- * Expressed concern about unauthorized operation in the amateur VHF and UHF bands and encouraged member-societies to take appropriate action, particularly against continuing commercial interference to amateur satellite up-links in the 2-meter band.

- * Supported the revision of Article S25 of the international

Radio Regulations, as proposed by the IARU Administrative Council, including the incorporation by reference of Recommendation ITU-R M.1544. This would permit the Recommendation concerning operator qualifications in the Amateur Service to be updated in the appropriate ITU-R Study Group rather than being drafted in a World Radiocommunication Conference.

Elected as president of Region 2 for a three-year term was past president Pedro Seidemann, YV5BPG. Outgoing president Tom Atkins, VE3CDM, declined to seek re-election after two terms. Elected as vice president was Dario Jurado, HP1DJ. He replaces Reinaldo Leandro, YV5AMH, who declined to seek re-election. ARRL International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, was elected secretary. Noel Donawa, 9Y4NED, was re-elected treasurer and Ron Szama, LU2AH, was re-elected to the Executive Committee. Newly elected to the Executive Committee were Tim Ellam, VE6SH, Pedro Rodriguez, CO2RP, Marco Tulio Gudiel, TG9AGD, and Gustavo de Faria Franco, PT2ADM.

IARU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL CALLS FOR END TO MORSE REQUIREMENT

Saying that it was "setting aside any previous relevant decisions," the International Amateur Radio Union Administrative Council this week resolved that IARU policy supports "the removal of Morse code testing as an ITU requirement for an amateur license to operate on frequencies below 30 MHz." The Council further resolved to urge member societies--as an interim measure--to seek Morse code testing speeds "not exceeding five words per minute."

The resolution was adopted during the IARU Administrative Council meeting October 6-8 in Guatemala City, Guatemala, which followed the 14th General Assembly of IARU Region 2.

The Council's Morse resolution took into consideration the approval--without opposition--of ITU-R Recommendation M.1544. That document sets out the minimum qualifications of radio amateurs. The Council also said it recognizes that Morse code "continues to be an effective and efficient mode of communication used by many thousands of radio amateurs" but that Morse code proficiency as requirement for an HF amateur license "is no longer relevant to the healthy future of Amateur Radio."

The principal business at the Administrative Council session was to review the status of IARU preparations for WRC-2003. Agenda items of concern to amateurs include, among others, the harmonization of amateur and broadcasting allocations near 7 MHz, the adequacy of HF broadcasting allocations below 10 MHz, and possible revisions to Article S25 of the international Radio Regulations.

Among other things, Article S25 spells out Amateur Radio operator qualifications. It now provides that Amateur Radio

license applicants demonstrate the ability "to send correctly by hand and to receive correctly by ear, texts in Morse code signals" for operation below 30 MHz. The IARU Administrative Council supports the revision of Article S25 and the incorporation by reference of Recommendation M.1544.

The IARU Council selected the theme of the next World Amateur Radio Day, April 18, 2002, as "Amateur Radio: Continuing Innovation in Communication Technology."

From *The ARRL Letter*, October 19, 2001

BATTLE LOOMS OVER PART 15 ACCESS TO 425-435 MHz

The FCC has proposed changes to its Part 15 rules governing unlicensed devices that would allow operation of advanced RF identification devices between 425 and 435 MHz. By going along with a request made earlier this year by SAVI Technology Inc and fiercely opposed by ARRL, the FCC has set the stage for another battle between amateur and commercial interests.

"The FCC hasn't thought this through," said ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. He contends that the Part 15 RFID proposal--included this week as part of a larger Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order--is "contrary to the whole philosophy of the Part 15 rules." Sumner said the RFID devices SAVI proposes more properly belong on frequencies that are also authorized for use by devices regulated by FCC's Part 18 Industrial, Scientific and Medical (ISM) rules.

The FCC said this week's NPRM&O would modify the rules for RFID systems "to harmonize our rules with those in other parts of the world and to allow for improved operation." Sumner said that 433.9 MHz is allocated for ISM devices in 10 European countries but not in the rest of the world, including ITU Region 2 (North and South America).

Last March, the ARRL urged the FCC to deny or dismiss SAVI Technology's petition. The League argued that the field strengths and duty cycles SAVI proposed for its RFID tags were unreasonable "and would undoubtedly seriously disrupt amateur communications in one of the most popular of the Amateur Service allocations."

SAVI, which markets radiolocation and wireless inventory control products, told the FCC it needed the rules changes to satisfy customer demand for increased RFID system capabilities. The FCC this week said it agreed with SAVI that changes to its Part 15 rules to allow more advanced RFID systems in the 433 MHz band "would serve the public interest." It proposed to create a new section to Part 15 that would allow operation of RFIDs in the 425-435 MHz band and transmissions of up to two minutes at maximum field strengths now only permitted for extremely short-duration,

intermittent control signals.

In an apparent about face, the FCC said it believes the proposed levels would offer only minimal interference potential for licensed users. The FCC in the past has acknowledged serious interference potential and has prohibited data transmission, among other things, at the proposed field strengths for that very reason.

As proposed, transmissions of 120 seconds would be permitted with just a 10-second silent period between transmissions. Under Section 15.231(e) periodic radiators are permitted field strengths of less than 5000 uV/m at 433 MHz measured at three meters, with duty cycles of less than one second and a silent period between transmissions that's at least 30 times the duration of the transmission.

The League pointed out in its earlier comments that the Communications Act of 1934 lacks authority to allow unlicensed devices with substantial interference potential. "Such devices must be licensed," the ARRL concluded. Unlicensed Part 15 devices must not interfere with licensed services and must tolerate interference received from licensed radio services in the same band.

Another portion of the proceeding involves the 13.56 MHz ISM frequency. Sumner said that proposal "at first glance" might permit increased emissions in the bottom 10 kHz of the 20-meter amateur band. Sumner said the ARRL would take a closer look at this section of the overall proposal before assessing its interference potential.

Sumner said the League plans to file a strong opposition to the FCC's NPRM&O. The entire Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order in ET Docket 01-278 (which incorporates RM-9375 and RM-10051) is available on the ARRL Web site.

From *The ARRL Letter*, October 26, 2001

ARRL TO FCC: NO COMMERCIAL USERS AT 2390-2400 MHz!

The ARRL this week urged the FCC "in the strongest possible terms" to make no commercial allocations in the Amateur Service 2390 to 2400 MHz primary allocation. The League tentatively suggested, however, that hams might be willing to share the band with compatible government services that are displaced to make room for advanced wireless systems.

The ARRL told the FCC that advanced wireless services "are fundamentally incompatible with continued amateur access to the band."

The federal government, on the other hand, "has historically been a compatible sharing partner," the League said, adding that government uses would offer "the least disruptive

opportunities for sharing" in the band. The ARRL made clear that such sharing should happen only "if it is absolutely necessary to re-accommodate some displaced users" and would be "subject to compatibility studies."

The ARRL commented this week in four separate proceedings dealing with allocations for advanced and third-generation wireless systems, the mobile satellite service and the Unlicensed Personal Communications Service (U-PCS). The ARRL focused its remarks on ET Docket 00-258, which included 2390-2400 MHz as a candidate band for advanced wireless services.

Commenting on the WINForum Petition for Rule Making (RM-9498) that seeks to modify technical rules for Part 15 U-PCS operation at 2390 to 2400 MHz, the ARRL reiterated its position of two years ago. The ARRL said it still opposed a power increase for asynchronous U-PCS devices in the band and said there can be no change in maximum power spectral density. The ARRL called those two provisions "critical to the compatible sharing plan that resulted in ARRL support of the U-PCS authorization" in the band.

The ARRL also asked the FCC to retain the non-government primary Amateur Service allocation at 2390-2400 MHz. The ARRL also noted that amateur allocations in the vicinity of 2 GHz "have been steadily eroded" through encroachment by other services.

KENWOOD "SKY COMMAND" PETITION

The FCC has put on public notice a rulemaking petition from Kenwood Communications Corporation requesting that the FCC relax restrictions on Amateur Radio auxiliary station operation. The FCC assigned the rulemaking number RM-10313 to the petition and invited public comment. The petition marks Kenwood's latest attempt to legalize its "Sky Command" remote station control system.

Kenwood seeks a change in Part 97 rules that would expand permission to operate an auxiliary station on all 2-meter frequencies above 144.5 MHz, except on 145.8 to 146.0 MHz. While not mentioning Sky Command by name, Kenwood said the proposed rule change "would allow the development and use by amateurs of new technology devices and increase the utility of the limited amateur allocations." Current FCC rules limit auxiliary operation to certain frequencies above 222.15 MHz.

In July 2000, the FCC declared that use of the Sky Command did not comply with Amateur Service rules--specifically Section 97.201(b)--and declined to grant a waiver make it legal. The ARRL commented in opposition to Kenwood's earlier efforts to have the system declared to be in compliance, and it refused to permit Sky Command
a d v e r t i s e m e n t s i n Q S T
<<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2000/07/28/3/>>.

Sky Command lets a user control a fixed HF station via a

pair of dual-band transceivers. It operates in full duplex, using frequencies on 70-cm and 2 meters.

In its latest Petition for Rule Making filed May 1, Kenwood asserted that auxiliary operation is "poorly defined" in the FCC rules and "significantly overregulated." Kenwood argued that present limitations on auxiliary operation no longer are appropriate in today's amateur environment and should be withdrawn.

Amateurs may view and comment on the Kenwood proposal via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), <<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>>.

SENATE BILL'S PROVISION NOT VIEWED AS THREAT TO SURPLUS RADIO FANS

Amateurs who also collect military surplus radio "boat anchors" apparently have nothing to fear about a provision contained in the Senate version of the huge Department of Defense appropriations bill, S.1438. The provision, Sec 1062, would create governmental authority to "ensure demilitarization of significant military equipment."

That provision, now a topic for discussion on news groups and Web sites, would require anybody possessing "significant military equipment formerly owned by the Department of Defense" either to have it "demilitarized" or to return it to the government for demilitarization. The provision also has the National Rifle Association and a large number of firearms enthusiasts up in arms and wondering whether it would affect their hobby if it's included in the final legislation.

ARRL Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Steve Mansfield, N1MZA, looked into the issue and determined that those with surplus radio gear have nothing to worry about. "While we cannot speak reliably for the issue of firearms, we did contact one of the top lawyers for the Senate Committee on Armed Forces, where the provision was added to the bill," Mansfield said, "and he assured us that it would not be an issue unless a ham somehow had custody of some kind of top-secret and highly sophisticated military radio gear."

Mansfield said his Capitol Hill contact explained that the definition of "significant" derives specifically from the Arms Export Control Act (22 USC 2778), and that, in turn, was intended to provide "control of arms exports and imports" and not the typical ARC-5 transmitter or BC-348 receiver.

"In other words, it does not refer to radios, but rather to large shipments of large military ordinance like missile guidance systems and rocket launchers," Mansfield said.

The text of federal legislation may be found on the Thomas Legislative Information Web site, <<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.html>>. Mansfield said the ARRL will continue to monitor the issue.

December Luncheon Meeting Sign-up

Our annual December christmas meeting will be a luncheon this time; on Saturday December 15, 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 \$16.50 each, children's choices are indicated below. Reservations need to be in by Friday, December 7. Talk-in on our repeater W6UU, 146.385+ (simplex if you can't hit the repeater). 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, \$16.50 each:

_____ Prime Ribs of Beef	_____ Forest Mushroom Chicken
_____ Salmon	

From the Children's menu:

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

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

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

Need Help?

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

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

Antennas, feed-lines, tuners: WB6EMR, K6PBQ, WB6YRU
Lightning protection, grounding: WB6YRU
Station set-up, equipment: K6PBQ
TVI/RFI: WB6YRU
Homebrew projects, construction: KD6FJI, WB6YRU
Computers: KB6NP; IBM PC: WB6YRU
Packet Network (BBS, forwarding): WB6YRU
Code operating and installations: WB6EMR, K6PBQ
DX (long distance/propagation): WB6EMR
Emergency operating/preparedness: WA6QYS
FM (VHF/UHF, repeaters): WA6VJY
HF operating techniques (SSB, CW): WB6EMR, K6PBQ
Classes/license upgrading: W6ACW
Legal/FCC rules: WB6YRU
SCCARA (club inner workings):
K06HH, K6PBQ, WA6VJY, WB6YRU, WA6QYS
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

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

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 2002

(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: _____ - _____ Licence Expiration
Date (mo/yr): _____

Telephone: () _____ ☐ New Member ☐ I'm also an
☐ Renewal ARRL member _____

E-mail: _____ Packet: _____

For family memberships (at the same address), please fill out a separate form for each. Indicate the "primary member" (for mailing purposes) name and call: _____

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 RADIO LICENSE
BEFORE ANY REPEATER CODES WILL BE SENT TOTAL: _____

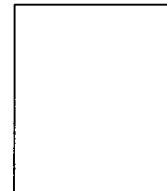
Give this completed form (or copy) with payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or mail to the return address below:

===== PLEASE DO NOT TEAR OR CUT FORM =====

SANTA CLARA COUNTY
AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 6
San Jose CA 95103-0006

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS