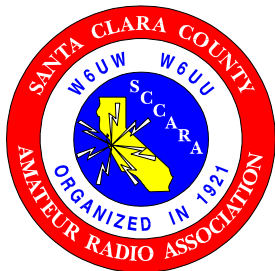


# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 26, Number 4

January 2010



### *Trish WA6UBE SK*

Patricia Elaine Gibbons WA6UBE, well known for her interest in Military and Tactical Communications equipment and techniques, has passed away.

Bonnie Crystal KQ6XA writes:

11 Mar 2010. With great sadness, I regret to inform that Patricia (Trish) Elaine Gibbons WA6UBE (SK) died in the arms of her spouse last night, of an apparent cardiac problem, while she was out at a coffeehouse get-together with friends.

Elaine is very well-known for her "army radios" group and her activities in the field of radio communications. She was an avid enthusiast of mil radios, encryption, rifles, spy books, and 3d virtual worlds. Elaine had retired from a 30+ year career in Public Safety Communications in Silicon Valley, California.

Elaine is survived by her wife, Ms. Carla Satra, and her brother. Memorial plans are not announced yet.

I will always remember the twinkle in her eyes whenever Elaine was around radios, her life's passion. Her kind gentle spirit and outgoing personality touched all those around her. We will miss her deeply.

WA6UBE, your signal will go on forever.

Bonnie Crystal KQ6XA

From Elaine's own website:

Patricia (Elaine) Gibbons - Communications Services Manager, City of San Jose, GSD Fleet & Communications Division (now retired). Have been in the land-mobile radio field for 30 years, and most of this time with public safety agencies. Collects non-fiction books on Espionage, covert ops, cryptography, ELINT, SIGINT, The Intelligence Community and related subjects, and amassed a library of 600+ volumes on this subject since 1973. Enjoy HF portable radio operation with mil-spec comms equipment via Pactor/G-Tor/RTTY modes on 80/40 meters.

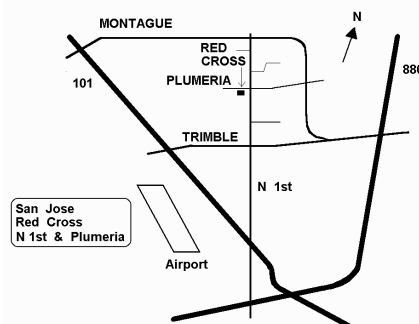
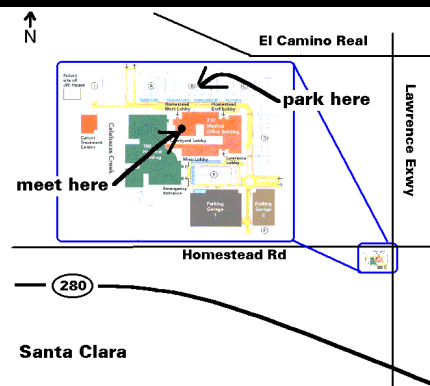
Enjoy operating Military tactical ground radio equipment and military antenna systems..

## Calendar

- 4/10 **Electronic Flea Market**, De Anza, WE HOST!  
4/12 **SCCARA General Meeting**  
4/19 **SCCARA Board Meeting**--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

## General Meeting

Day: Monday, April 12, 2010  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Rm 196, 1  
Featuring: Thomas Schiller, N6BT, Antenna Design and Construction.



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 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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(all officers are also directors)

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**SCCARA REPEATERS**

SCCARA owns and operates two repeaters under the call W6UU:

2 meter: 146.985 - PL 114.8  
70 cm: 442.425 + PL 107.2

Phone auto-dial and auto-patch is available. The two meter repeater is located at Eagle Rock near Alum Rock Park in the foothills of east San Jose. The 70 cm repeater 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 Village, K6PBQ. On ten meters, 28.385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00 PM. Net control: Wally Britten, KA6YMD. Visitors welcome.

**N0ARY PACKET BBS**

SCCARA hosts the packet BBS N0ARY (Mt Umunhum). User ports: 144.93 (1200 baud), 433.37 (9600 baud), telnet sun.n0ary.org (login "bbs"). Sysop: Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU (packet info: [www.n0ary.org/ncpa](http://www.n0ary.org/ncpa))

**TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

SCCARA contact Clark KE6KXO:	408 262-9334
ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group,	
Morris Jones, AD6ZH:	408 507-4698

For those who collect and restore Military Communications Equipment, please visit the army radios site at Yahoogroups dot com: [groups.yahoo.com/group/armyradios](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/armyradios)

Other places where you can find Elaine's thoughts:  
<[wa6ube.blogspot.com/](http://wa6ube.blogspot.com/)>  
<[www.tactical-link.com/](http://www.tactical-link.com/)>

Enjoy long-range target shooting, am a member of the U.S. Army's Civilian Marksmanship Program, and a life member of the NRA

About Me:

What I Like To Do: Interests & Hobbies: Avid bookworm, and movie fanatic, Collects non-fiction books on, Covert ops, The Intelligence Community, and Espionage. I currently have a library of over 550 volumes that I've been collecting, reading, studying, and adding since the early 1970's. Other interests & hobbies: Amateur radio, Shortwave listening, ARMY MARS, Minox cameras, SIGINT, COMINT, Episcopal Church, AMORC, lez relationships, Tilda Swinton, Enya, Dead Can Dance, Sade, Max Von Sydow, What spells can you cast with magic markers? and How does gravity work?

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*Addendum (March 19, 2010):*

Many people have asked for updated information on Elaine (Trish) Gibbons, WA6UBE, who died on 10 March 2010. There will be an brief article on Elaine in the April SCCARA-GRAM. Here are a few additions to that article.

Elaine died at age 62. She was taken ill while preparing to dine in San Francisco. She was pronounced by the EMTs. Upon hearing of his daughter's death, Elaine's father had a sudden heart attack and died within three days.

Because of this double tragedy, her family has been slow to react. Elaine will be cremated. A memorial service is planned. Members will be notified when that service is scheduled.

de Fred, AE6QL





## President's Prose

There is plenty of ham radio activity this month. SCCARA hosts the De Anza electronics flea market on April 10. We will have a table set up for donations or private sales. If you have items that you no longer use, SCCARA will be happy to accept them as donations. There is also an MS Walk, the SVECS quarterly breakfast, and the SCC ARES/RACES quarterly drill. There are also several state QSO parties: Missouri, Montana, Georgia, Michigan, Florida and Nebraska. If none of that interests you, there is income tax and property tax for your enjoyment.

Here's another reminder that the new Technician Class question pool will become effective on July 1, 2010. If you know someone who has been studying the 2006 pool, you might want to remind them to take the exam before the end of June. The new pool has approximately 400 questions and includes some graphics and diagrams. FARS is still offering a General Class license course starting April 15.

Hundreds of articles have been written about vertical antennas and their associated radials. The late Jerry Sevic, W2FMI, published several articles and a book ("The Short Vertical Antenna and Ground Radial") on the subject. Most recently, Rudy Severns, N6LF, published a series of seven articles entitled "Experimental Determination of Ground System Performance" in QEX magazine from Jan/Feb 2009 to Jan/Feb 2010. His articles are full of real data documenting an unbelievable amount of work. He has published a summary of his findings in the March 2010 QST. If you're not a QEX subscriber, and are interested in vertical antennas, you'll find the March QST article informative.

Don't forget the 2-meter FM net on Monday nights, and the 10-meter SSB net (28.385 MHz USB) on Thursday nights. Anyone who has a license can participate in these nets.

73,  
Don - AE6PM



## April meeting

The April 12th meeting of the SCCARA General Interest Group (GIG) will feature Thomas Schiller, N6BT speaking on Antenna Design and Construction.

Tom, N6BT, the founder of Force 12, Inc. with more than 24,000 antennas and 140,000 elements in the field now offers you the opportunity to enjoy the excellence of his antenna expertise of designing and building more than 200 production designs. Tom's new firm, N6BT makes the best antennas while others make comparisons.

Tom will also be bringing autographed copies his Third Edition of Array of Light for sale. This is 290 full size pages of great information, specs, photos and more.

As usual, meeting starts at 7:30pm. See [sccara.com](http://sccara.com) for location details.

Fred AE6QL

## Treasurer's Treatise

Our financial status as of February 24, 2010, is:

Account	Balances
Checking	3,715.17
Savings	3,845.45
Cash on Hand	169.53
OVERALL TOTAL	7,730.15

73  
Ned, AC6YY

## ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, February 25, 2010

### FCC NEWS: FCC ALLOWS ROBOTIC DEVICE IN AMATEUR BAND

In January 2008, a company called Recon Robotics filed a request with the FCC for a waiver of Part 90 of the Commission's Rules with respect to the Recon Scout -- a remote-controlled, maneuverable surveillance robot designed for use in areas that may be too hazardous for human entry. A waiver is required to permit licensing of the Recon Scout because the device operates in the 430-448 MHz band, which is allocated to the Federal Government Radiolocation service on a primary basis, as well as the Amateur Radio Service and certain non-federal radiolocation systems on a secondary basis. More than two years later, the FCC granted the waiver request in the form of an Order (WP Docket No 08-63), subject to certain conditions.

In its comments filed in May 2008, the ARRL called on the FCC to deny Recon Robotics waiver request, "either permanently or even temporarily." The FCC noted in the waiver that they had received more than 70 comments "generally consist[ing] of public safety and law enforcement entities supporting the waiver request, and amateur radio operators opposing it." In their initial waiver request, Recon Robotics asserted that even though the device operates in an area allocated to other services, including Amateur Radio, the Recon Scout operates with only 1 W peak power and it is "unlikely to cause interference to these services." Read more at [www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/02/25/11361/?c=1](http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/02/25/11361/?c=1).

### W1AW ANNOUNCES NEW SCHEDULE FOR DIGITAL BULLETIN TRANSMISSIONS



Beginning Monday, March 15, W1AW <[www.arrl.org/wlaw.html](http://www.arrl.org/wlaw.html)>, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, will alternate the digital modes used for its digital bulletin transmissions. While Baudot, PSK31 and MFSK16 still make up the digital mode complement, W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, says that the schedule will be altered to give more exposure to PSK31 and MFSK16. "Because of time constraints and the varying lengths of digital bulletins, there were many instances where only Baudot was used," he said. "With the new schedule, amateurs preferring either PSK31 or MFSK16 will no longer find these modes secondary." Read more here [www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/02/16/11343/?c=1](http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/02/16/11343/?c=1).

## ARRL SEEKS INPUT FOR NEW IARU REGION 2 BAND PLAN

The International Amateur Radio Region 2 (IARU R2, [www.iaru-r2.org](http://www.iaru-r2.org)) conference -- held later this year in El Salvador -- brings together delegations from the national Amateur Radio Societies in the Western Hemisphere. One of the topics on the agenda will be the Region 2 HF band plan ([www.iaru-r2.org/wp-content/uploads/region-2-mf-hf-bandplan-e.pdf](http://www.iaru-r2.org/wp-content/uploads/region-2-mf-hf-bandplan-e.pdf)). This band plan is "harmonized with" -- spectrum management-speak for "very similar to" -- the IARU Region 1 and Region 3 band plans.

According to ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, many hams in the USA probably did not know there was such a thing as a Region 2 band plan until recently. Now, however, many more American hams have heard of it, but may not know how -- if at all -- this band plan affects them. Here are important facts for American hams to keep in mind:

- \* IARU band plans are voluntary guidelines. They do not have the force of FCC regulations.
- \* It would be inappropriate to incorporate Region 2 band plans into the FCC rules, and the ARRL has no plan to petition the FCC to do so.
- \* Most other countries do not have the detailed sub-band regulations that are in Part 97 of the FCC Rules ([www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx\\_02/47cfr97\\_02.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_02/47cfr97_02.html)); for amateurs in those countries, IARU band plans offer the only guidance on frequency use.
- \* The recognition of a calling frequency or band segment for a particular purpose or mode in the IARU band plan does not convey any special rights or exclusivity of use.

A new, more transparent procedure will be followed this year for considering possible changes to the Region 2 band plan. The ARRL is cooperating with this procedure by inviting input to be sent to the ARRL Board of Directors' Band Planning Committee. The committee will review the existing Region 2 band plan, consider input from the amateur community and make recommendations to the ARRL Board for submission to IARU Region 2.

The inadvertent omission of the AM center of activity frequency (calling frequency) -- 3.885 MHz on 80 meters -- has already been noted, and this will be one of the recommended revisions.

The deadline line set by Region 2 for gathering input and formulating recommendations is rather short. Amateurs who would like to submit input should take the following steps:

- \* First, study the existing IARU Region 2 band plan posted on the Region 2 Web site ([www.iaru-r2.org/band-plan/](http://www.iaru-r2.org/band-plan/)). The Region 1 and Region 3 band plans are also posted there, so be sure you are looking at the band plan for Region 2.
- \* Next, formulate a clear statement of any change you propose. Include a brief explanation of why you think the change would be beneficial. Please include your name and call sign in your input.

\* Finally, send your input via e-mail ([bandplan2010@arrl.org](mailto:bandplan2010@arrl.org)) no later than April 5, 2010. Messages will be automatically acknowledged.

## FCC NEWS: FCC SEEKS COMMENTS FOR BLANKET WAIVER TO ALLOW AMATEUR RADIO IN HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DRILLS

In February 2010, the American Hospital Association (AHA) filed a request with the FCC for a blanket waiver of Section 97.113(a)(3) of the Commission's Rules "to permit hospitals seeking accreditation to use Amateur Radio operators who are hospital employees to transmit communications on behalf of the hospital as part of emergency preparedness drills." On March 3, the FCC issued a Public Notice -- WP Docket 10-54 -- seeking comments if the Commission "should grant AHA's request for a blanket waiver of Section 97.113(a)(3) to permit amateur operators who are hospital employees to participate in emergency drills that are conducted by hospitals for accreditation purposes and that are not government-sponsored." Section 97.113(a)(3) specifically prohibits amateur stations from transmitting communications "in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer." Instructions on how to paper file or file electronically are listed in the Public Notice. Read more here <[www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/03/04/11375/?c=1](http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/03/04/11375/?c=1)>.

## FCC NEWS : FCC DENIES ARRL'S REQUEST FOR DECLARATORY RULING

In 2005, after the State of Florida adopted statutes aimed at pirate broadcasters and making it a felony to make a radio transmission without Commission authorization or to interfere with a licensed public or commercial radio station, the ARRL -- through General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD -- filed a Request for Declaratory Ruling (Request) with the FCC, seeking a declaratory ruling on portions of that statute. The ARRL argued that the statute was written so broadly that one could infer that Commission-licensed Amateur Radio stations in Florida would be subject to felony prosecution if their transmissions interfered with broadcast or other radio receivers. In 2006, New Jersey adopted a similar statute and the ARRL's Request was modified to include that state. Five years and one day after the original Request was filed with the Commission, the FCC denied the Request.

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From *The ARRL Letter*, March 18, 2010

## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS: ARRL REQUESTS SUPPORT FOR S.1755

Senate Bill 1755 -- The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 introduced in October 2009 by Senators Joe Lieberman (ID-CT) and Susan Collins (R-ME) -- has unanimously passed the US Senate and has been sent to the US House of Representatives for consideration and now sits in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. The ARRL is asking its membership to contact the leadership of the Energy and Commerce committee, requesting support and action on moving S 1755 through the committee. S 1755 accomplishes the same things as HR 2160; HR 2160 was introduced in April 2009 by Rep Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-18). Since S 1755 has already been approved by the Senate, moving it forward in the House will simplify the process. See [www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/03/10/11385/?c=1](http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/03/10/11385/?c=1) for more information, including instructions on how to encourage the committee's leadership to support S 1755.

## **FCC NEWS: FCC PROPOSES TO ELIMINATE SPREAD SPECTRUM APC REQUIREMENT, REDUCE SPREAD SPECTRUM POWER LIMIT; CLEANS UP PORTIONS OF PART 97**

In response to a 2006 ARRL Petition regarding spread spectrum issues, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) on March 16 (WT Docket No 10-62), proposing to amend Part 97 to facilitate the use of spread spectrum communications technologies by eliminating the requirement that amateur stations use automatic power control (APC) to reduce transmitter power when the station transmits a spread spectrum (SS) emission and reducing the maximum transmitter power output when transmitting a SS emission. Through an Order attached to the NPRM, the Commission also made "certain non-substantive revisions" to the Amateur Service rules.

### **Notice of Proposed Rule Making**

Spread spectrum techniques are methods by which the information signal of a particular bandwidth is intentionally spread in the frequency domain. At any point of bandwidth the SS emission occupies, either the power spectral density of the transmitted signal is reduced to a comparatively low level or the duration of a transmission on any frequency in the frequency segment is very brief. Consequently, stations in the same area can transmit SS signals without causing harmful interference to or experiencing harmful interference from each other or a station transmitting a non-SS signal over the same spectrum segment.

Back in 1985, the FCC authorized Amateur Radio stations to transmit SS emissions with a maximum transmitter power limit of 100 W PEP. To emphasize the experimental nature of spread spectrum as well as some of the potential benefits associated with it, the Commission authorized such transmissions on a secondary basis to other amateur service communications. At that time, the Commission noted that "to reduce the likelihood that SS transmissions from an amateur station could be made for the purpose of obscuring the meaning of a message, the Commission permitted only frequency hopping and direct sequence spreading techniques." Fourteen years later, the FCC eliminated restrictions on spreading techniques "to allow amateur stations greater flexibility and permit them to use the SS techniques used in other communications services." The Commission also required stations transmitting SS communications with a transmitter power greater than 1 W to utilize APC to limit the transmitter power in accordance with a specific formula (permissible power is determined by the use of the ratio, measured at the receiver, of the received energy per user data bit [Eb] to the sum of the received power spectral densities of noise [No] and co-channel interference [Io]; average transmitter power over 1 W shall be automatically adjusted to maintain an  $E_b/[N_o + I_o]$  ratio of no more than 23 dB at the intended receiver).

In 2006, the ARRL petitioned the FCC, requesting that the APC requirement be eliminated, asserting that the APC provision has proven to be "virtually impossible" as it requires the operators of the transmitting stations to determine the transmitter power received at distant receivers and that this requirement has proven to be "something of a barrier to SS experimentation." The League further contended that the APC requirement could be eliminated without increasing the risk of harmful interference because:

\* The station licensee or control operator of the station transmitting the SS emission would still be obligated under Section 97.313(a) of the Commission's Rules to use the minimum power necessary to conduct communications, and

\* Under Section 97.311(b) of the Commission's Rules, SS communications are already secondary to other Amateur Service

communications.

In the NPRM, the FCC agreed with the ARRL that the APC requirement "may be unnecessarily impeding Amateur Radio operators in advancing the radio art," but the Commission does not propose to simply eliminate the APC requirement. Noting that the purpose of the APC requirement is to limit interference to other stations, the FCC pointed out that commercial broadband Internet service providers operating in the 900 MHz and 2.4 GHz ISM bands argue that the APC requirement should be maintained in order to prevent interference to other users. They also referred to suggestions maintaining that if the APC requirement is eliminated, the FCC should lower the maximum power limit on amateur stations transmitting SS emissions so that interference is minimized.

Given these concerns, the FCC proposes to eliminate the APC requirement and reduce the maximum transmitter power output amateur stations may use when transmitting SS communications from 100 W to a peak of 10 W.

"We believe that this approach is consistent with both the ARRL's request that we eliminate a requirement that may be impossible to implement and the intent of the APC requirement to limit interference to other stations," the FCC stated in the NPRM. "We also believe that the proposed rule change would (1) encourage individuals who can contribute to the advancement of the radio art to more fully utilize SS technologies in experimentation, (2) balance the interests of all users in mixed-mode and mixed-service frequency bands until sharing protocols are sufficiently developed to avoid interference and (3) promote more efficient use of the radio spectrum currently allocated to the Amateur Service." The Commission is seeking comments on this proposal.

### **Order**

In the Order, the FCC made amendments "to correct the Amateur Service rules or conform them to prior Commission decisions." These revisions will take effect once they are published in the Federal Register.

The FCC noted that when they authorized Novice class and Technician Plus class operators to transmit in certain portions of the 80, 40, 15 and 10 meter bands in 2006, they intended to limit those stations' power in those bands to 200 W PEP, "but the implementing amendment to Section 97.313(c) inadvertently applied that power limitation to all frequencies authorized to Novice and Technician Class licensees. We therefore correct Section 97.313(c) to clarify that the limitation applies only in those bands."

The Commission also revised Sections 97.301 and 97.303 related to the 40 and 60 meter and the 70 cm and 9 cm bands to conform to the Table of Frequency Allocations (Table), and to references within the relevant sections of the rules. They also revised the frequency sharing requirements in Section 97.303 "to limit the summary to those frequency bands that are allocated to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis, and to present the requirements more clearly."

In addition, the FCC moved transmitter power limit information from Section 97.303(s) to Section 97.313, the section concerning transmitter power standards. Section 97.103(c) was amended to delete the cross-reference to Section 0.314(x) that was removed in 1999. They also removed the entry "1260-1270 MHz" from Section 97.207(c) that lists the frequency bands authorized to amateur space stations "because footnote 5.282 to the Table limits the use of that segment to Earth station transmissions."

How to Make Comments on the NPRM

Pursuant to Sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's Rules, interested parties may file comments on the NPRM on or before 30 days after date of publication in the Federal Register and reply comments on or before 45 days after date of publication in the Federal Register. Based on previous experience, the ARRL expects publication of the NPRM and Order in the Federal Register sometime in early spring. Instructions on how to file comments on the NPRM only are listed on pages 6-7 in the NPRM <[hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-38A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-38A1.pdf)>.

## FCC NEWS: FCC RELEASES NATIONAL BROADBAND PLAN

On Tuesday, March 16, the FCC held an Open Meeting to introduce its report Connecting America: The National Broadband Plan (NBP) that was delivered to Congress that afternoon. Calling it "an ambitious agenda for connecting all corners of the nation while transforming the economy and society with the communications network of the future -- robust, affordable Internet," the Commission found that nearly 100 million Americans lack broadband at home today and 14 million Americans do not have access to broadband. Read more at [www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/03/16/11393/?c=1](http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/03/16/11393/?c=1).

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## Is BPL Dead?

by Fred Townsend, AE6QL

### Is Broadband over Power Line Dead?

There were many technical experts, the League, and myself that said BPL is technically flawed and therefore not economically viable. Therefore BPL will die from its flaws. Furthermore, we (the amateur community) have the law on our side. We are licensed users and under FCC regulations we are protected from unlicensed, BPL, interference.

Then the FCC came out with absurd, unscientific findings. The community asked for the scientific basis of these findings and we got historic, redacted, science. It now seems obvious there was political intervention. Somebody was telling the FCC engineers to shut up. Sound engineering practice and the law had been trumped by shadowy politicians.

So the ARRL, on behalf of the American Amateur, sued and won. The suit returned us to the rule of law and sound engineering practice.

If the hams won and our radio spectrum was successfully defended, who lost? Was it the Federal Communications Commission, the utilities, the BPL equipment manufacturers, or the politicians pulling the commissioner's strings? The FCC had a little egg on its face but was otherwise unscathed, BPL and its supporters continued to die of self inflicted wounds because the concept is flawed, and the politicians pulling the strings remained hidden. Our government picked up the costs for the errant FCC but the pockets of the Amateur Radio community has been picked for million dollars in legal costs while the FCC whined about reimbursing minor filing fees? *Did you think the backers of BPL tyranny would go silently into the night?* Victory is bittersweet!

Do we need to go out on some EME free night and drive a silver stake into the heart of this tyranny? It would seem so. In a March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 article entitled *Broadband Plan has worthy aims, but implementing it won't be easy*, by Mike Zapler of the *San Jose Mercury News*, Mr. Zapler states our government 'would spend

\$6.5 billion on a new public safety broadband network dedicated to emergency first responders. And at least one building in every community, such as a school or a government building, would have a super fast Internet connection with speeds of at least 1 gigabit per second.'

Elsewhere Mr. Zapler states: 'One of the key flash points is likely to be over highly sought-after wireless radio waves. To feed the explosion of smart phones, net books and other wireless devices, over the next decade the FCC wants to reallocate 500 megahertz of spectrum now used by TV stations, government, and *others* [italics added]. This is alarming in so many ways.

Where is this half gigahertz of spectrum coming from? They have defined a 120 MHz of TV spectrum arguing that with cable, the broadcasters don't need the over air spectrum. They argue that the very people that can't afford the \$90 cable service should have their free, over the air TV, replaced with free Internet access supplanting \$30 Internet access. Now these same people will be able to download a 4 GB movie in 5 minutes instead of the 36 minutes it now takes over cable. However, apparently in an effort to make this option more palatable, it is labeled, 'emergency first responders access'. This is, again apparently, so the firemen and police can watch videos in their vehicles and of course the kiddies can watch videos at school instead of at home. By the way, that odor in the room is not from the local dairy.

Doing the math, a 120 MHz from 500 MHz leaves 380 MHz of additional spectrum to steal; 380 MHz of spectrum that is to come from the government and *other*.

If you look carefully at the allocation charts you can't find anywhere near 380 MHz of government spectrum unless you count the military spectrum which is not under direct FCC control. This is the same military spectrum which in some cases is shared with the amateur community. The same shared spectrum the military is now saying the hams must reduce their activities in because of national security issues. Boy that smell is getting bad!

Finally we come to the third target for spectrum confiscation... the '*other*'. Surely I don't have to tell you who the *other* is!

The terms *ham* and *amateur* are such difficult words. Now we can just refer to ourselves as *others*. It is clear that the defense of Amateur spectrum, aka as other spectrum, is an ongoing process. It is also clear the politicians have to be reminded of the right thing to do. You might want to ask the congressional people seeking your vote how they feel about the new Public Safety Broadband Network. You might ask them why it is necessary for the schools to have video on demand when they can use ordinary DVDs for teaching videos. While you are at it, ask when the *first responders* will have time to watch videos. Finally, we need to clean out the chicken coup whatever is producing the awful smell that seems to be permeating the air around here.

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## Trivia

Lifted from the Amador County ARC newsletter:

This month we have a few questions that I came across while doing some research on railroad telegraphy.

What is the origin of the term "shack" for the location of a radio station?

2) What is the origin of the term "silent key" for a deceased radio operator?

3) Who was the person who received the first messages from the Titanic disaster and worked 72 hours keeping contact with the Carpathia that rescued 700 lifeboat survivors?

4) What was the future use of the last position report of the Titanic?

Bonus Question: What is the origin of the salutation "73"?

## Answers

1. Soon after Marconi refined the "wire-less," his spark gap transmitters were placed onboard ships. This allowed them to communicate with land and revolutionized the maritime industry. To add the newfangled device to a ship, a small wooden room was built behind the bridge, from which the term "radio shack" originated.

2. The Titanic had two wireless operators onboard when disaster struck. Both sent emergency messages until water started to enter the radio room. Jack Phillips ordered his co-operator Harold Bride to leave for the lifeboats and he said he would follow after a few more distress signals. Harold Bride survived the disaster and worked the radio room from the rescue ship Carpathia. Jack Phillips remained at his post and went down with the ship while numerous ships listened to him until his station went silent. From this came the term "silent key."

3. David Sarnoff, who formed RCA and is often given the title of "father of television," was the New York telegraph operator on duty at the time of the disaster.

4. Dr. Robert Ballard, in 1985, used Jack Phillips last position report to help locate the final resting place of the Titanic.

Bonus Question – It was a symbol of fraternity among railroad telegraphers.

(Original source: Paul Harden, NA5N in an article for *El Defensor Cheiftain*)

73, John Stettler, ACARC Newsletter Editor (www.k6arc.org)  
Send comments to: [ki6dwp@yahoo.com](mailto:ki6dwp@yahoo.com)

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# Meeting Minutes

## General Meeting, March 8, 2010



KAISER SANTA CLARA

Don Steinbach, AE6PM called the meeting to order @ 7:37 pm.

Introductions of members and guests

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Lou Steirer announced the Electronic Flea Market is on March 13 and is sponsored by S.P.A.R.K. It is SCCARA's turn on April 10 - A sign up sheet for shifts was passed around the room and is still available.

Lou Steirer announced @ Stanford is the Great American POW

WOW on Mother's Day Weekend and a special event station will be set up.

Don Village announced on April 17 is the annual M.S. Walk and further assistance is still needed.

Don Steinbach announced Technician class provided by the Saratoga Amateur Radio Assn. It is a 1 day class on March 20, General Class provided by F.A.R.S. - See website for further details, [www.fars.k6ya.org](http://www.fars.k6ya.org)

Club Presentation - Brandon Hanson, KG6YRI "How to access your radio remotely"

Meeting Adjourned @ 9:10 pm

Jeannie Felix, kg6yor - Secretary

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## Board Meeting, March 15, 2010



RED CROSS 2731 N. 1ST ST., SAN JOSE, CA.

The Sccara board meeting was called to order @ 7:46 pm by AE6PM, Don Steinbach

Attendance: AE6PM, Don Steinbach - President AE6QL, Fred Townsend - V. President KG6YOR, Jeannie Felix - Secretary AC6YY, Ned Tufekcic - Treasurer K6PBQ, Don Village - Station Trustee WA6QYS, Lou Steirer - Director KA6YMD, Wally Britten - Director W6JPP, John Parks - Director  
Excused Absence: NU6P, John Glass - Director WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell - Director

Visitors: KF6OTD, Gwen Steirer

### Announcements:

Don Steinbach, AE6PM asked the board to review agenda. 1 addition to new business. Don announced the deadline for the sccara-gram is 03/29/10.

Don Steinbach asked the board to do a special write-up for Patricia Elaine Gibbons, WA6UBE (Silent Key) who passed away on March 10, 2010.

The April Meeting Program T.B.D

### Old Business

Treasurer's Report: \$3,769.08 (Checking) \$3,845.91 (Savings) \$169.53 (C.O.H) Total \$7,784.52. Ending Balances for 2008, 2009 to be supplied @ next board meeting.

Expected arrival of new 440 repeater in about 2 weeks.

### New Business

John Parks, W6JPP announced a motion to accept the board meeting minutes for Feb. 15, 2010 that they have been reviewed & accepted w/corrections. Lou Steirer, WA6QYS Seconded the motion. Motion Passed

### Calendar Items:

April 10: Sccara Flea Market at De Anza College April 17: M.S. Walk 0730-1200 - Don Village, K6PBQ April 24: SVECS Breakfast - Show & Tell Presentation of CISCO Response Vehicle Let Lou, WA6QYS Know if you are attending

May 8: Stanford POW-WOW w/ SCCARA HF Demo Station June 25-27: Field Day @ Mt. Madonna State Park - Manzenita Camp Ground July 10: SVECS Flea Market at De Anza College July 24: SVECS Breakfast August 21: SCCARA Picnic Oct. 15-17: Pacificon at San Ramon Marriott Hotel Oct. 23: SVECS Breakfast Dec 18: SCCARA Holiday Party

Field Day Planning - Seeking Field Day Chairperson.

KG6YOR, Jeannie Felix reports Membership continues to increase.

AE6QL, Fred Townsend is still looking for a video projector

The board did a brief review of property list & further review @ next board meeting.

AE6QL, Fred Townsend is going to get w/ AC6YY, Ned Tufekcic to renew our domain name on go daddy.com for SCCARA.

Suggested Topics for next Meeting:

- \* BBS Utilization

- \* sccara-gram costs

- \*440 connection to IRLP

Meeting Adjourned at 9 pm

Jeannie Felix, KG6YOR - Secretary

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## Packet Pieces

### Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

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Date: 28 Jan 2007 14:21  
From: ZL3AI@ZL2BAU  
To: HUMOR@WW  
Subject: Manners/Chicken

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#### Needle Manners

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While I was working as a pediatric nurse, I had the difficult assignment of giving immunization shots to children. One day I entered the examining room to give four-year-old Lizzie her shot.

"NO! NO! NO!" she screamed.

"Lizzie," her mother scolded. "That's not polite behavior."

At that, the girl yelled even louder, "NO, THANK YOU! NO, THANK YOU! NO, THANK YOU!"

Why Did The Chicken Cross The Road? (the Scientists' Versions)

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Andre Ampere: To keep up with current events.

Alexander Graham Bell: To get to the nearest phone.

Jacques Ives Cousteau: Zee cheecken, unaware of zee dangare beehind heem, crosses zee street. Weezout warning, zee Porsche strikes, and zee balance of zee nature ees maintained.

Marie Curie: She was radiating with enthusiasm as she crossed the road.

Charles Darwin: It was the logical next step after coming down from the trees.

Albert Einstein: Did the chicken really cross the road or did the road move beneath the chicken?

Galileo: To get a better look at the stars.

Gustav Hertz: Lately, its been crossing with greater frequency.

Hippocrates: Because of an excess of light pink gooey stuff in its pancreas.

Samuel Morse: She had an appointment. She wanted to be there on the dot so she had to dash.

Isaac Newton: Chickens at rest tend to stay at rest. Chickens in motion tend to cross the road.

Georg Ohm: There was less resistance on the other side.

James Watt: It thought it would be a good way to let off steam.

73, David ZL3AI.

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Date: 27 Jan 2007 22:20  
From: ZL3AI@ZL2BAU  
To: HUMOR@WW  
Subject: Buchwald/Thoughts/Newlyweds

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#### The Wit And Wisdom Of Art Buchwald

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"Every time you think television has hit its lowest ebb, a new program comes along to make you wonder where you thought the ebb was."

"Tax reform is taking the taxes off things that have been taxed in the past and putting taxes on things that haven't been taxed before."

"The best things in life aren't things."

"You can't make up anything anymore. The world itself is a satire. All you're doing is recording it."

"An economist is a man who knows a hundred ways of making love but doesn't know any women."

At a commencement address at Tulane University School of Law: "It is an honorable calling that you have chosen. Some of you will soon be defending poor, helpless insurance companies who are constantly being sued by greedy, vicious widows and orphans trying to collect on their policies. Others will work tirelessly to protect frightened, beleaguered oil companies from being attacked by depraved consumer groups."

"I worship the quicksand he walks in."

"Whether it's the best of times or the worst of times, it's the only time we've got."



Newlyweds

"If you'll make the toast and pour the juice, sweetheart," said the newlywed bride, "breakfast will be ready in a moment."

"Great, what are we having for breakfast?" asked the new husband.

"Toast and juice."

73, David ZL3AI.

=====  
Date: 19 Jan 2007 19:20  
From: ZL3AI@ZL2BAU  
To: HUMOR@WW  
Subject: Jobs/Government  
=====

#### What The Job Ad Says And What It Means

Word processing skills essential -- There's a crippling case of carpal tunnel syndrome in your future.

Professional appearance required -- \$20K a year job that requires a \$100K a year wardrobe.

Salary range \$24,000- \$32,000 -- The salary is \$24,000.

Will train -- Prior conviction of a felony or two no problem.

Civil service: -- This job was filled from the inside six months ago.

Women & minorities encouraged -- White males need not waste the stamp to apply.

Outstanding benefits package -- Health insurance.

Top-notch communications skills -- Telemarketing.

Salary negotiable -- We'll take the lowest bidder.

Advancement opportunity -- Crappy job.

Entry level -- Really a crappy job.

No experience necessary -- The ultimate of all crappy jobs.

#### Government Workers

One day a boy and his father were at the dining room table working on the boy's Social Studies homework, the chapter about government. The boy turns to his father and asks, "Dad, how many people work in the U.S. government?"

The father replies without hesitating, "Oh, about half of them."

73, David ZL3AI.

## 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 fill out an Elmer form from the club secretary.

Antennas, feed-lines, tuners: WB6EMR, W6JPP, K6PBQ, WB6YRU  
Lightning protection, grounding: WB6YRU  
Station set-up, equipment: K6PBQ, W6JPP  
TVI/RFI: WB6YRU  
Homebrew projects, construction: KD6FJI, WB6YRU  
Computers: older IBM PC: WB6YRU  
Packet Network (BBS, forwarding): WB6YRU  
Code operating and installations: WB6EMR, K6PBQ  
DX (long distance/propagation): WB6EMR  
Emergency operating/preparedness: WA6QYS  
HF operating techniques (SSB, CW): WB6EMR, K6PBQ  
Legal/FCC rules: WB6YRU  
SCCARA (club inner workings): K6PBQ, WB6YRU, WA6QYS  
EchoLink: KK6MX

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

KD6FJI, Lloyd DeVaughns,  
(408) 225-6769 e-mail: kd6fji@arrl.net

KK6MX, Don Apte, (408) 629-0725  
e-mail: kk6mx@aol.com

W6JPP, John Parks, (408) 309-8709  
e-mail: w6jpp@arrl.net

K6PBQ, Don Village, (408) 263-2789  
e-mail: donvillage7@yahoo.com

WA6QYS, Lou Steirer, (408) 241-7999  
e-mail: wa6qys@arrl.net

WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, (408) 269-2924  
packet: home BBS NOARY  
e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com

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## Newsletter Notes

As you've probably noticed, we're getting more articles from members lately. That's great, but I'd like to remind everyone that articles should be submitted in plain text. The *SCCARA-GRAM* has it's own formatting and layout. So, any formatting you do has to be removed anyway. If there's some special formatting that you want your article to have, just let me know.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

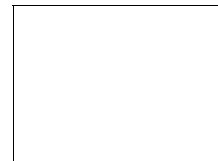
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# SCCARA

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association  
PO Box 6  
SAN JOSE CA 95103-0006

Affiliate of the ARRL,  
American Radio Relay League



**FIRST CLASS**

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## SCCARA Membership Form for 2010

If none of your info has changed, fill in name and call only

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Licence Expiration  
Date (mo/yr): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal  
☐ I'm also a member of the ARRL

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

Memberships begin January 1 and expire December 31.

**If renewing:** annual membership dues (base rate) are: \$20 Individual, \$25 Family, \$10 Student (under 18)

**For new members:**

If joining in January: base rate

If joining in February through October: base rate x (11 - month) x 10% (e.g. for June, that would be: base rate x 50%)

If joining in November or December: free for November and December if paying the base rate for the following year

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Dues payment for:** ☐ individual ☐ family ☐ student

For family memberships (at the same address), please include a separate form for each family member.

**I want the newsletter by:** ☐ U.S. Mail ☐ internet (make sure your e-mail address is legible and correct)

Give this completed form (or copy) with payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or mail to the club address.