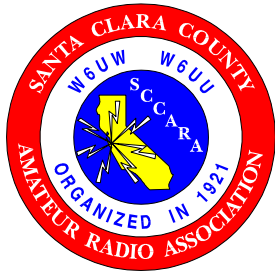


SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 29, Number 10

October 2013



Prez Sez

This is an exciting time of year with lots of things happening. First, actually the second weekend of October, is Pacificon 2013, the ARRL Pacific division convention held at the Marriott's in Santa Clara. In addition to some excellent technical talks at the Forums, you can shop for your ham needs. This is a particularly good place to inspect ARRL documents on display and for sale. A tip, ARRL gives away a number of \$50 publication certificates. Buy your books on Sunday and ARRL might help you pay for them or renew for three years and get a free Radio Amateur's Handbook. That's all part of the many, many, raffle prizes. Except for the grand prizes you must claim your prizes before the end of the convention, so keep an eye on the raffle bulletin board for your number.

If you are in need of a ham ticket or want to upgrade there is the Technician Ham Cram on Saturday and testing session on Sunday. They had over an 85% pass rate last year. The class is free with a convention ticket but you will have to pay \$15 for the testing. Here is the good part. The study materials are available now at <http://pacificon.org/2013/#onedayclass>. That gives you a chance to study up ahead of time. If anyone needs help in downloading let me know and I can print them up for you.

Then Saturday morning at 0700 there is Coffee with Gordon West. Gordon is a ham of another variety, like vaudeville. Seating for this personal gathering with famed author and speaker Gordon West (WB6NOA) is limited. Coffee will be provided free, food items will be available for purchase separately. (Nothing says you can't bring your own Danish or Egg McMuffin.) Sadly if you didn't preregister you may not be able to get into this popular event.

Every ARRL member should attend the Wouff-Hong Initiation at least once. Better yet, take a newbie with you and watch their expression. The Wouff-Hong is amateur radio's most sacred symbol and stands for the enforcement of law and order in amateur operation. Every amateur should know and tremble at the history and origins of this fearsome instrument for the punishment of amateurs who cultivate bad operating habits and who nourish and culture their meaner instincts on the air. When the clock strikes midnight on Saturday evening, the Royal Order of the Wouff-Hong begins. Admission to this ceremony is available to any ARRL licensed amateur. A Royal Order of the Wouff-Hong certificate suitable for framing is presented to each initiatee..

The popular Pacificon Amateur Electronics Swap Meet will take place again in the Santa Clara Marriott Hotel parking lot on Saturday October 12th beginning at 6:00 am until approximately 12:00 pm noon. Come check it out! Admission is free to buyers.

I hope you have already purchased your tickets online because it will be too late by the time you read this. If not, onsite

Calendar

10/11-13 Pacificon

10/14 SCCARA General Meeting

10/21 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

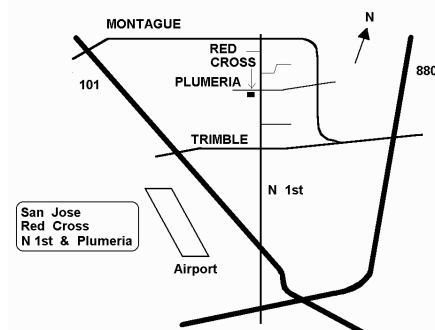
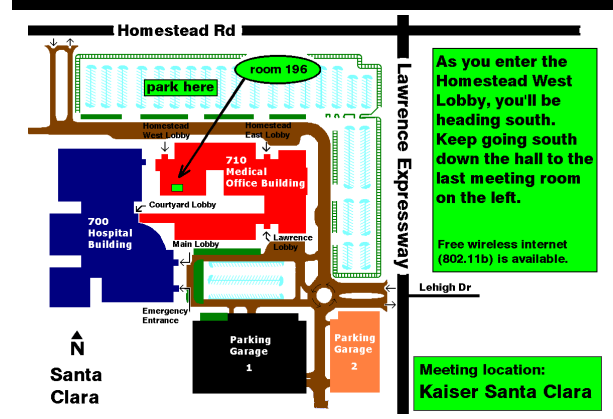
General Meeting

Day: Monday, Oct. 14, 2013

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Rm 196

Featuring: Gene Irvine from the CPUC on communications during the Rim fire.



The **SCCARA-GRAM** is published monthly by the **SANTA CLARA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**, PO Box 106, San Jose CA 95103-0106. 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>. (Webmaster: Wally Britten, KA6YMD, 408-293-3847, ka6ymd@arrl.net)

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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 (connect to n0ary-1). User ports: 145.09 MHz at 1200 baud, 433.37 MHz at 9600 baud, and telnet sun.n0ary.org (login "bbs"). Sysop: Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU. For general packet info, see the NCPA web site ncpa.n0ary.org.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

registration is fast and efficient.

Don't forget the California QSO Party this month too. It's split into two weekends, one phone and the other digital, aka CW.

Finally it's time to throw the scoundrels out of office. Seriously we have a very fine core of officers and directors that run the affairs of SCCARA and I don't mean to besmirch any of them. However there is room for more. Please think about standing for a SCCARA Office or Directorship. It's lots of fun and if we don't have fun why do it at all. We'll have open nominations from the floor in October with balloting in November. All offices and three directorships are open. It's OK to nominate yourself. If you can't run, volunteer for the nominating committee.

Have a great Halloween too.

73, Fred, AE6QL, ae6ql@arrl.net



October Meeting

The speaker for the October 14th SCCARA meeting will be Gene Irvine, Manager for Information Technology Business Applications with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. He was at the Hetch Hetchy area of the Rim fire. They were utilizing mobile phones, satellite phones and long range business band walki-talkies. They were not in contact with the Red Cross operations in Yosemite Valley, who were supported by Ham Radio operators. Gene will touch on his experiences at the fire and it's long term consequences for the SFPUC.

Lou WA6QYS

Picnic

The SCCARA club picnic was held August 17, 2013. It was originally scheduled for Mary Gomez park, but even though Don K6PBQ got there at oh-dark hundred, other people had gotten there even earlier (at 3 AM?) and nabbed the park. A sign was put up to redirect people, and announcements were made on the repeater to let people know that we were setting up at Henry Schmidt park instead.

As usual, I had a weird take on the picnic, because I was in a crunch at work. I wasn't sure I would get to attend at all, but Lou WA6QYS had mentioned that Santa Clara has city-wide Wi-Fi, so after getting a job started from home, I brought my work laptop along to the park with whatever else I could throw together quickly. Sure enough, I could connect in from the Santa Clara WiFi! So after setting up my station so people could use it, I spent much of the day with my laptop and head tucked inside the rubbermaid container in which I'd brought my station (to avoid glare), making progress "at work." I did get to share in the food, but I missed most of the set up, a lot of the visiting, and the bingo that Sheryl and Edward were calling.

The highlight for me was Gary WB6YRU surprising us by bringing along the basics for a transmitter hunt, just like we'd heard about at a recent club meeting. He showed us how to use a paperclip instead of the antenna on a handheld, and get a low-resolution sensor, and he brought along a hand-held beam which gave a much narrower indication of the direction to the transmitter. It was interesting to compare the signals from the two configurations, at a distance and at close range. Gary showed suitable sneakiness in where he hid the transmitter, and led several of us on a merry chase around the park trying to track it down. I am embarrassed to report that I had so much fun that I didn't take

pictures of the actual hunt... (Maybe someone else has some pictures? But I hope we can do something like this again soon—it was a lot of fun!

In more conventional radio modes, several stations were set up. I saw Don operating on a club radio, and I think Goetz K6GKB and John W6JPP brought theirs. For antennas, we had Lou's 10-80 m Butternut Vertical with its web of radials, and Gregg set up my G5RV Jr on a military surplus fiberglass mast that I had bought at the M2 open house swap meet. This was the first outing for the mast system, and it seemed to work well. It looked like folks made quite a few contacts with the club call early on, and a few of us operated till the sun was setting. I remember talking to W9IMS the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, but having missed all their other events this year also, again won't see what their big multi-event certificate looks like. Maybe next year.



Site overview: L-R canopy, food tables, antennas off to the right. Gregg KF6FNA, Goetz K6GKB, Sheryl, Peter KG6KWV, Gary WB6YRU



Operating and munching: L-R Wally KA6YMD, Don K6PBQ, (didn't get his name - Bob's son?, Bob N3FAW



Bingo! L-R Sheryl, Teresa, Janet KF6PUQ, Gwen KF6OTD



Gary WB6YRU gets ready to run a transmitter hunt. Here he puts a paperclip into the antenna port of a handheld to attenuate the signal (since the transmitter is so close). Note the handheld beam leaning up against the table.



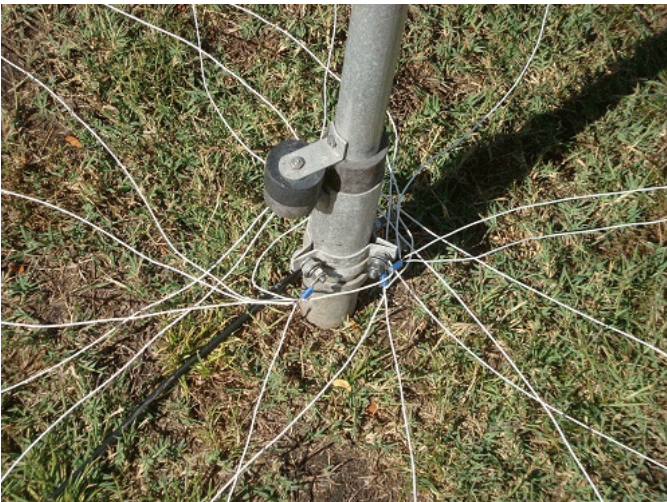
My radio and work stations (FT-857)



Lou's WA6QYS 10-80 m Butternut Vertical antenna



Detail of the mesh of radials: this is why we need a park with a somewhat sheltered area for antennas, so people don't trundle through here.



Detail of the antenna radials attached to the base of the Butternut vertical. One radial cut to length for each of the 4 bands is crimped into each lug; a lug is attached to each of the 3 bolts at the base, so it is pretty quick to deploy. (One should carefully wind up

each radial when taking down, so it takes longer to disassemble.



Gregg KF6FNA putting the G5RV Jr up on the fiberglass mast, with Lou WA6QYS's antenna in the right distance.



Base of the military surplus fiberglass mast holding up the G5RV Jr.

Viki, KI6WDS

Sweepstakes

November Sweepstakes at the club station

Our club station at the Red Cross will be open for the November Sweepstakes contests. There are two separate weekends, One for CW and one for Phone. November 2nd is the CW session starting at 2100 UTC (2 PM local). November 16th is the Phone session starting at 2100utc (1PM local). This is one of the best contests of the year. So lets show up and make this a great activity for SCCARA. This will be the last Saturday at our club station until January 2014 due to the holidays.

73 Don Village K6PBQ

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, September 19,2013

"Ambient Backscatter" Could Power Devices in the Future

University of Washington researchers believe we may be one step closer to an "Internet-of-things" reality. UW engineers have created a new wireless communication system that allows devices to interact with each other without relying on batteries or wires for power. Using something they call "ambient backscatter," (abc.cs.washington.edu/) these devices can interact with users and communicate with each other without using batteries. They exchange information by reflecting or absorbing existing radio signals. Two devices communicate by reflecting the existing signals to exchange information. The researchers built small, battery-free devices with antennas that can detect, harness and reflect a television signal, which then is picked up by other similar devices. The technology could enable a network of devices and sensors to communicate with no power source or human attention needed.

Using ambient backscatter, these devices can interact with users and communicate with each other without using batteries. They exchange information by reflecting or absorbing existing radio signals. [University of Washington photo]

"We can repurpose wireless signals that are already around us into both a source of power and a communication medium," said lead researcher Shyam Gollakota, a UW assistant professor of computer science and engineering. "It's hopefully going to have applications in a number of areas including wearable computing, smart homes and self-sustaining sensor networks."

The researchers published their results at the Association for Computing Machinery's Special Interest Group on Data Communication August 2013 conference in Hong Kong. Their research received the conference's "Best Paper" award. "Our devices form a network out of thin air," said co-author Joshua Smith, a UW associate professor of computer science and engineering and of electrical engineering. "You can reflect these signals slightly to create a Morse code of communication between battery-free devices."

The original article and video are on the UW website (dbaseserver.mistmail.nl/t/1362160/36554732/338450/0/). For more information, contact Gollakota and Smith at abc@cs.washington.edu. -- The University of Washington

From *The ARRL Letter*, September 26,2013

PSK31 Linear Transponder Wanted for Satellite Launch Opportunity

Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) developer Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, is looking for someone who will build a linear satellite transponder for PSK31.

"If someone will build a linear PSK31 transponder, I have a launch opportunity in 9 months," Bruninga said in a posting to the AMSAT Bulletin Board (www2.amsat.org/amsat/archive/amsat-bb). "All it needs to be is a PSK31 linear receiver on 28.120 MHz (3 kHz bandwidth) with AGC coupled to a downlink UHF FM transmitter of about 1 W," and the transponder should be able to fit on a 3.5 inch square card.

Bruninga points out that this is the same as devices the Brno University of Technology has built for prior missions of PCSAT2 (www.usna.edu/Users/aero/bruninga/pcsat2.html). Two are on the shelf, he says, but the university may not have the people to construct a third one for the new flight opportunity. He, PSK31 developer Peter Martinez and Mirek Kasal, OK2AQK, have posted a PSK31 Transponder Concept on his website (www.usna.edu/Users/aero/bruninga/sk31uplink.html).

-- AMSAT News Service

From *The ARRL Letter*, October 3,2013

FCC -- "We Regret the Disruption." Commission Shutdown Complete

The FCC appears to have ground to a complete halt for all intents and purposes beyond emergencies, as the Federal Government shutdown continues. This includes functions at the Commission's Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, facility, which handles all Amateur Radio licensing transactions, as well as the FCC's main website and the Amateur Radio call sign database (ULS).

"We regret the disruption, but during the Federal Government-wide shutdown, the FCC is limited to performing duties that are immediately necessary for the safety of life or the protection of property," a message on the FCC website says. "FCC online systems will not be available until further notice." The Commission refers anyone calling regarding an emergency "affecting the safety of life or the protection of property" to a Washington, DC, number, 202-418-1122, or an e-mail address.

Assistant ARRL VEC Manager Perry Green, WY1O, said October 1 that the FCC appeared to have accepted "a small number" of modification and renewal applications, apparently as the shutdown was in process, but it took "far longer than usual" for that to happen. The ARRL VEC did not attempt to file additional applications, and it will hold for filing any applications resulting from Amateur Radio Volunteer Examiner-administered examination sessions.

"We have not submitted any VE sessions, which require batch filing and are assigned an FCC filing number," Green added. "At this point, we are unable to file any applications with the FCC, because it has shut down its servers. We do not expect the FCC to resume granting applications until it reopens." Green stressed that the ARRL VEC remains open for business and continues to monitor the situation. The ARRL VEC also is still processing International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) applications.

While the FCC has stopped processing new, renewal or vanity call

sign applications for the duration, it is still possible to reserve a 1 x 1 special event call sign, since that is not an FCC function.

Green points out that ARRL VEC exam sessions will go on as scheduled, at the option of the sponsors, but the ARRL VEC will not be able to file session paperwork for processing until the shutdown ends and the FCC is back in business again.

Green notes that exam session candidates have to put an FCC Registration Number (FRN) on their applications, if they have one. FRNs for current licensees are available via the ARRL's "Call Sign/Name Search" utility on the League's home page. If the FRN is not available or has not yet been issued, applicants may use their Social Security numbers, which candidates must provide to obtain an FRN.

"So in this time of shutdown, they will need to submit their SSN on the VE session paperwork and gain their password at a later time," Green explained. "If that is not to their liking, they will have to wait for the FCC to open up again, which I'm sure at some time it will."

Radio amateurs whose licenses expire between October 1 and the day after normal FCC operations resume may continue to operate until then, even if they have not yet filed a renewal application. Pending an official FCC announcement that states otherwise, renewal applicants should apply no later than one day after the FCC reopens, if they want to continue to operate.

Amateur Radio applicants who passed an upgrade examination may still operate with their new privileges, even if their applications have not been accepted for filing by the FCC. Applicants must have a Certificate of Completion of Examination (CSCE), issued by the VE team. When using their new privileges, such applicants should continue to identify by appending the appropriate designator to their current call signs, ie, /KT for Technician, /AG for General and /AE for Amateur Extra, as noted on the back of the CSCE.

If the closing date for comments on an open proceeding falls during the shutdown, comments will be considered timely filed on the day after the Commission reopens for business.

In late September the FCC posted a "Plan for Orderly Shutdown" in the event of a federal government shutdown. Only a handful of the FCC's 1754 employees were scheduled to remain on duty, including eight employees "retained to conduct interference detection, mitigation and disaster response operations." Only one "senior management official" in the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau -- which oversees Amateur Radio -- was scheduled to be on duty for the extent of the shutdown. The Commission emphasized earlier that it would not be open for normal operations "during any government-wide shutdown."

See "The FCC Shutdown at a Glance!" for updates (www.arrl.org/news/the-fcc-shutdown-at-a-glance).

ARRL Executive Committee to Consider Numerous Regulatory Issues

The ARRL Executive Committee (EC) will face an agenda heavy on FCC and regulatory issues (www.arrl.org/files/file/News/ARRL_EC_Agenda_5Oct2013.pdf) when it meets Saturday, October 5 in the Denver, Colorado, area.

Among action items, the EC is expected to consider the filing of a Petition for Rule Making, now in draft, seeking to delete restrictions on symbol rates for data communication and to establish a 2.8 kHz maximum authorized bandwidth for HF digital

data emissions. At its July meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors directed ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, to prepare a Petition for Rule Making with the FCC seeking to modify Sec 97.307(f) to delete all references to "symbol rate." The Petition would ask the FCC "to apply to all amateur data emissions below 29.7 MHz the existing bandwidth limit, per Sec 97.303(h), of 2.8 kHz."

The Board determined that the current symbol rate restrictions in Sec 97.307(f) "no longer reflect the state of the art of digital telecommunications technology," and that the proposed rule change would "encourage both flexibility and efficiency in the employment of digital emissions by amateur stations." ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, explained the Board's action on symbol rate regulation in his September 2013 QST "It Seems to Us" editorial.

The EC also will consider authorizing comments on an FCC Public Notice on recommendations approved by the WRC-15 Advisory Committee. The Committee will consider approving the filing of comments with the FCC that express concerns about expanding proposed radiolocation use of the 77.5 to 78 GHz band beyond on-vehicle applications to, for example, fixed roadside applications. The comment deadline is October 11, although the FCC shutdown may change that date.

The EC also will continue to evaluate strategies to improve the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement program and consider filing reply comments on FCC ET Docket 13-84, regarding a reexamination of RF exposure regulations (reply comments are due November 11, subject to the FCC shutdown). While the FCC proposals do not alter existing RF exposure limits, they do call for the elimination of existing special evaluation exemptions spelled out in Sec 97.13(c) of the Commission's rules. Minor rules changes adopted in the Report and Order section of the document took effect August 5.

In addition the EC will discuss a manufacturer's proposal to delete Sec 97.317(a)(2), requiring that amplifiers operating below 144 MHz "not be capable of amplifying the input RF power (driving signal) by more than 15 dB gain." The Committee will consider whether to propose the rules change described.

The EC will hear status updates on other regulatory matters, including the ARRL's Petition for Rule Making filed last November (www.arrl.org/news/arrl-files-petition-for-rulemaking-with-fcc-to-create-new-mf-band-at-472-479-khz) to create a new MF allocation for the Amateur Service at 472-479 kHz. The FCC's ET Docket 13-101 regarding receiver performance standards also will come up for discussion, as will pending amendments of the Amateur Service rules governing qualifying exam systems, Amateur Radio use of TDMA equipment, and remote proctoring of exam sessions.

Other topics on the EC agenda for review include the FCC's proposed revision of Part 15 rules to permit unlicensed National Information Infrastructure (U-NII) devices in the 5 GHz band, the effects of communications towers on migratory birds, and amendments to the FCC's CORES system. There has been no recent FCC action on these items.

The EC also will hear a report on the status of the effort to have the "Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2013" introduced in the 113th Congress. The objective of the League's draft bill is an instruction from Congress to the FCC to extend the existing limited preemption of state and local regulation of Amateur Radio station antenna structures to private land-use regulations.

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Sept. 9, 2013



The General Meeting was called to order at 1935 hours by President Fred Townsend, AE6QL.

Announcements:

- 1) Pacificon Tickets- Friday's Antenna Forum and the Banquet are selling out fast
- 2) Pacificon is still looking for volunteers - see John Parks W6JPP
- 3) The Sept. flea market at DeAnza will be the last one for this year due to Pacificon in Oct.
- 4) Races will be handling Talk-in on the SCCARA repeater for Pacificon. Races will have a booth at Pacificon.
- 5) The SCCARA club station at the Red Cross will be open on the last Saturday of Sept.
- 6) The first Sat. of Oct. is the California QSO Party. Contact Don Village, K6PBQ if you are interested in having the SCCARA club station open on that Saturday.
- 7) The Mt. Diablo repeater is down due to fire damage. The D-STAR system at that location is also down.
- 8) The SCCARA club picnic was moved from Mary Gomez Park to Henry Schmidt Park due to lack of space. Next year we will announce a frequency to monitor for talk-in.

John Parks, W6JPP, introduce Rod Stafford, W6ROD, the Sept. guest speaker.

Rod has held many ARRL positions including SCV SM 1983-1985, Pac. Div. Dir. 1986-1990, 2nd and 1st Vice Pres. 1990-1995, Pres. 1995-2000, and Int. Affairs VP 2000-2010. Rod has also held IARU (International Amateur Radio Union) positions of Region 2 Director, Secretary, and President. Rod is currently the IARU Secretary (2009- present) Rod's presentation gave an overview of the IARU history, structure and purpose. Rod also spoke about the WRC (World Radio Conference) and predicted items that would be on the agenda and why they were important. In closing he urged hams to become members of the ARRL because it provides representation for the hams in the USA.

Recording for the Secretary, Gregg Lane, KF6FNA

Board Meeting, Sept. 16, 2013



Red Cross Building, 2731 N 1st St, San Jose CA Status: Unreviewed

The SCCARA Board Meeting was called to order by Fred Townsend AE6QL at 19:35.

Attendance: President: Fred Townsend AE6QL; Vice President: John Parks W6JPP; Secretary: Viki Moldenhauer KI6WDS; Treasurer: Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Trustee: Don Village K6PBQ; Directors: Director Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, Gregg Lane KF6FNA, Wally Britten KA6YMD, Clark Murphy KE6KXO; Absences (excused): Past President Don Steinbach AE6PM; Visitors: Gwen Steirer KF6OTD;

Announcements: Fred AE6QL announced:

- SCCARA Open Station September 28th, 12:00+
- Pacificon (Pacific Division) October 11-13 2013 Marriott Santa Clara.
- SCCARA GIG (general meeting) October 14th

- SCCARA BoD October 21st

- SVECS Quarterly Breakfast Saturday, October 26 2013, 9 am Santa Clara Senior Center

- SCCARA Christmas Party December 14th 12:00

Officers' Reports:

Secretary's Report: The minutes were approved as published in the SCCARA-GRAM. Viki KI6WDS will confirm the corrections Gary made are in the official copy. Viki will count the number of members for next time.

Treasurer's Report: Goetz K6GKB handed out the balance sheet: checking = \$5167.38, savings = \$500.07, cash = \$197.28, total = \$5864.73. Goetz got reimbursed by the bank for the charge to deposit cash.

Goetz moved to reimburse Lou WA6QYS \$458.33 for Field Day/picnic expenses. John W6JPP seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Goetz reported he had received a renewal for AMSAT. John W6JPP moved to renew the membership for 85\$, Wally KA6YMD seconded, motion passed with one abstention.

Trustee's Report: Don K6PBQ reported all radios are in good order. He will have the station open the last Saturday of the month. He will also have it open on October 5th, the 1st Saturday in Oct, for the CA QSO party, and also on 2 dates in November, for the phone and CW Sweepstakes. He can also make arrangements to open the station at other times if club members would like.

Don also reported the Christmas dinner this year will be \$24.95 without tax and tip, \$32 with. For next year, Clark KE6KXO and Bob N3FAW will investigate alternatives, and Lou and Gwen will check out the Denny's across from the Pruneyard.

Vice President's Report: John W6JPP announced Lou is looking into the October speaker.

John had an antenna party report: fun and good food was had by Gregg KF6FNA, Lou WA6QYS, Viki KI6WDS, and John W6JPP while putting up an inverted-L for Sarla WU2SWS and connecting up her tuner. Sarla's friend Navim VU2HNN helped with the roof work. Afterwards Sarla treated everyone to a fantastic meal she had prepared. The first station Lou worked on her new station was in the Azores. Clark observed this is what makes our club different, helping members like this.

John also reported that Janet is having problems with her antenna and needs help, and Rick Schoenstein's antenna in Morgan Hill is also having issues, so more antenna parties need to be organized. He also announced that he and Bill AG3EM are affiliated with the VFW Post 318, and will be leading a Founder's Day parade in Willow Glen.

President's Report: Fred AE6QL announced that we need someone who is not a member of the board nor an officer, to head up the Nominating Committee for the November Elections. Joe Castellano who has previously served as Nominations Chairman is no longer a member. Fred will look into recruiting a replacement. Three directors (Wally KA6YMD, Gregg KF6FNA, and Gary WB6YRU) are up for re-election, plus the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Standing Committee Reports:

Newsletter: Gary WB6YRU has nothing new; hopefully there will be an article on the picnic in the next newsletter.

BBS: Gary WB6YRU reported no change. The Mt. Diablo fire

does not affect us, although there was significant damage to some D-STAR and co-located equipment.

Property list: Gary WB6YRU needs information on the items at the Alum Rock repeater site (the repeater, controller, Motorola rack, cabinet, cavities, antenna, power supply, and whatever else). The computers were discussed: Windows 95 computers are not useful. A decision on whether to keep or discard the computers in the locker will be deferred till next meeting; John W6JPP will go check the computers and report back.

Repeater: Wally KA6YMD reported the 440 repeater is fine. The 2m repeater is on a temporary antenna one quarter as high as it should be. There are still intermod problems on the test repeater.

Webpage: Wally is keeping it up to date.

Special Committee Reports:

Red Cross antennas: Gregg and Lou reported no activity, as we are standing by waiting for the Red Cross building re-roofing. When this happens, we will need a work party to remove our antennas from the roof.

Old Business: (none)

New Business:

Picnic Post Mortem: The picnic location was discussed due to our getting shut out of Mary Gomez park this year. We need a larger site that we can be assured of getting, or a back up plan. Various locations were discussed (Henry Schmidt, Mary Gomez, Woodhams, Vasona, Warburton, Montague). Some parks don't have available tables, BBQs, and trees; others have restrictions on bringing tables or generators, or don't take reservations. In any event, people need to monitor the repeater on the day of, in case the location changes. Don K6PBQ will investigate parks.

CA Blood Bank Society Disaster Response Plan: Lou summarized an email from George N6NKT of the Red Cross requesting the Club's help with contacting an HF radio net from the Red Cross station. The net is on 7.245 MHz on the second Wednesday of the month at 18:30. Lou will clarify with George how he wants SCCARA to participate.

Fred AE6QL mentioned to the board, since Pacificon is before the next club meeting, that if we hear people asking for directions on our repeater, that we respond and help them out.

Fred AE6QL adjourned the meeting at 20:45.

Viki Moldenhauer, KI6WDS, Secretary

December Meeting

Our annual Christmas meeting will be a luncheon on Saturday December 14th at 12:00noon. This year our luncheon will be at Creekside Inn 544 W. Alma ave, San Jose(one block west of Hwy 87).

This year we will be having a gift exchange. The way it works is that everyone brings a wrapped gift suitable for a man or women costing about \$10.00. This type of exchange is always a lot fun to participate in.

Reservations need to be in by Monday Dec 9th.(see the sign-up sheet). Talk-in will be on our repeater. W6UU, 146.985(-). Why not renew your membership at the same time. Looking forward to seeing all of you there.

73, Don Village K6PBQ

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

Date: 15 Dec 2012 11:59
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: Jokes 15/12

A family was on its way to the hospital where the 16-year-old daughter was scheduled to undergo a tonsillectomy. During the ride, the teenager and her parents talked about how the procedure would be performed.

"Dad," the teenager asked, "how are they going to keep my mouth open during the surgery?"

Without hesitation, he said, "They're going to give you a phone."

A cab driver reaches the Pearly Gates and announces his presence to St. Peter, who looks him up in his Big Book. Upon reading the entry for the cabby, St. Peter invites him to grab a silk robe and a golden staff and to proceed into Heaven.

A preacher is next in line behind the cabby and has been watching these proceedings with interest. He announces himself to St. Peter. Upon scanning the preacher's entry in the Big Book, St. Peter furrows his brow and says, "Okay, we'll let you in, but take that cloth robe and wooden staff."

The preacher is astonished and replies, "But I am a man of the cloth. You gave that cab driver a gold staff and a silk robe. Surely, I rate higher than a cabby."

St. Peter responded matter-of-factly: "Here we are interested in results. When you preached, people slept. When the cabby drove his taxi, people prayed."

The 12-Step Program for Web Addicts

1) I will have a cup of coffee in the morning and read my newspaper like I used to, before the Web.

2) I will eat breakfast with a knife and fork and not with one hand typing.

3) I will get dressed before noon.

4) I will make an attempt to clean the house, wash clothes, and plan dinner before even thinking of the Web.

5) I will sit down and write a letter to those unfortunate few friends and family that are Web-deprived.

6) I will call someone on the phone who I cannot contact via the Web.

7) I will read a book ... I think I still remember how.

8) I will listen to those around me and their needs and stop telling them to turn the TV down so I can hear the music on the Web.

9) I will not be tempted during TV commercials to check for email.

10) I will try and get out of the house at least once a week, whether it is necessary or not.

11) I will remember that my bank is not forgiving if I forget to balance my check book because I was too busy on the Web.

12) Last, but not least, I will remember that I must go to bed sometime ... and the Web will always be there tomorrow!

----- Living Will

A man and his wife are sitting in the living room and he says to her: "Just so you know, I never want to live in a vegetative state dependent on some machine. If that ever happens, just pull the plug."

His wife got up and unplugged the TV.

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 your topic isn't listed, ask one of the Elmers under the topic that comes closest and we'll ask around.

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

License testing, new amateurs: W6JPP

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

Newsletter Notes

Thanks to Viki, KI6WDS for her article on our picnic, and adding some color to the newsletter.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

DECEMBER MEETING

Our annual December meeting will be a luncheon on December 14th at the Creekside Inn 544 W. Alma, San Jose. We will have a choice of three entree, \$32.00 each.

Talk-in will be on our repeater, W6UU 146.985(-). I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there. Why not renew your membership (back cover) at the same time.

73, Don K6PBQ

For the annual meeting in December, sign me up for the following lunch(es) at \$32.00 ea.

_____Coulett Steak _____Chicken Marsala _____Salmon

Name: _____ Call: _____ Total for lunch(es) \$ _____

Give this form(or copy) with payment to the treasurer or mail to: SCCARA P.O. Box106 San Jose, CA 95103-0006

**SCCARA**

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association
PO Box 106
SAN JOSE CA 95103-0106

Affiliate of the ARRL,
American Radio Relay League



FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SCCARA Membership Form for 2013

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

Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: E A G 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: _____

make sure your e-mail is legible and correct if you want the newsletter by internet

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
(costs the club about \$35/year)

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