

# SCCARA-GRAM

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Assn. (SCCARA)  
Volume 7 Number 5

Organized in 1921  
May 1991

## THE PREZ SEZ

I hope everyone who attended our Old Timers, Newcomers and Guests Night enjoyed it as much as I did. Gosh that video tape was good! And I enjoyed reliving our past with some of our longtime members. But, I wish time would have permitted us to hear more from some of our newer members, too.

Judging from their comments, they not only enjoyed the program, but gained an appreciation for SCCARA that they didn't have before. But it also causes me some concern.

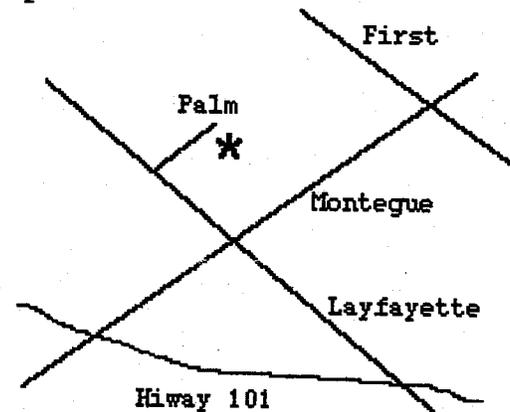
"These days", at some point in time, will become the "Good Old Days" for us. It's up to us, therefore, to make them be as good as we possibly can. It's an endeavor in which we all have a role to play.

For my part, I promise to keep the meetings moving at a livelier pace. In addition, I've asked Wally Britten, KA6YMD to run a Ten Meter Net on Thursday Evenings in the Novice Phone Band. We hope to use 28.385 as the check-in frequency, thus permitting all licensed members to take part.

Next, Stan Getsla, WA6VJY, is putting together an inventory of Members' skills and interests, which can be used as a resource by members who need help with specific problems. As Stan envisions it, it wouldn't only be an "Elmer List", but could be-

## NEXT MEETING

Date: Monday 05/13/91  
Time: 1930- 2200 approx.  
Place: Agnews Facility. Located on Palm Avenue just a bit East of the intersection of Montegue and Lafayette.  
Map:



## Packet intro

Our March speaker will be

### Doc Gmelin W6ZRJ

Want to learn about packet??  
Well this is the meeting for you. Doc will "tell all"

### Important Dates

05/11/91 Foothill Flea Market  
05/12/91 Mothers Day  
05/13/91 Sccara meeting  
05/23/91 Sccara Board meeting



come an important resource for all of our Members. It's likely to become a sub-function of the Technical Committee, which the Board directed me to appoint.

Finally, I've reserved a nice restaurant (Renzo's in Campbell) for our annual Holiday Banquet. It's an opportunity to have a festive evening with our spouses (or significant others), enjoy a nice meal and stay afterward for socializing and dancing. Since it will be on a Friday Night, we can stay late and not have to worry about getting up early the next morning. In other words, we have planned a fun time!

Now for your part. As some of you already know, we do listen and have reacted to many of your desires. Let us know if you like (or don't like) what we're doing and if there are other things we should be doing. Get involved! Participate! And if you see new faces at any of our meetings, go over and welcome them.

Finally, I think we have an opportunity to serve the Amateur Radio Community, by opening our arms and welcoming the No-Code Technician Class Licensees. Not only should we welcome them, we should recruit and inspire them as new members of our Community. Kathy, KB6ICQ spelled it out in the February SCCARA-GRAM and it couldn't have been said better.

I can only add that in so doing, perhaps we can instill a desire in them to progress further in the hobby. Please join us in welcoming them and making them feel like part of the community. They are, you know!

The speaker for our May meeting is Doc Gmelin, W6ZRJ, who will speak on packet operation. Hope to see you there.

73, de WA6O.

Did you hear about the termite that walked into the saloon and

asked "where's the bar tender"??

## REPEATER COMMITTEE REPORT

4/6/91

de WA6VJY

I've just returned from the April NARCC meeting. NARCC members have overwhelmingly approved the proposed 220 bandplan as listed below. All repeaters and other users have less than 120 days to comply with the bandplan. Those who do not comply will be 'unprotected' when it comes to interference resolution or complaints to the FCC by the new 220-222 MegaHertz users.

The NARCC bandplan is as follows:

225.000 -Band Edge  
224.980 -Repeater outputs  
(62 repeater outputs)  
223.760 -Repeater outputs  
223.750 -Packet  
(NCPA coordinated channels)  
223.550 -Packet  
223.540 -Simplex  
(20kHz simplex channels, 8 total)  
223.400 -Simplex  
223.380 -Repeater inputs  
(62 repeater inputs)  
222.160 -Repeater inputs  
-----guard band-----  
222.140 -  
EME, SSB, Weak signal,  
etc.

222.000 -Band Edge.

This is somewhat in conflict with the proposed ARRL bandplan, but theirs is only proposed. NARCC felt that any delay in implementing a bandplan would only cause problems for everyone on the band and so developed their own as shown above. It takes into account almost all users of the current bandplan. Those services which don't have a place in the new plan are: repeater control inputs, repeater links, and interties. These functions can easily be

accommodated on 440, 1296, and higher bands.

There was only one person who spoke against the bandplan. He proposed allocating more frequency space for digital modes since (he said) they are the future. However, he didn't have any specific recommendations and so was not able to convince anyone to make any changes to the proposed bandplan. I think that digital communications in Amateur radio is only just beginning and that it will be increasingly important as time goes by. Digital modes have the potential for much greater spectrum efficiency (number of communications channels per kiloHertz) than many current modes of operation. Spread spectrum will also be increasingly important, primarily as a way to reduce interference.  
4/11/91

I recently heard a conversation on our repeater between two members which was rather disturbing. It was about making use of a "closed repeater". It seems that the two were very rudely told to get off the repeater. I don't think the two were discussing anything that is against any FCC regulations in Part 97. I suspect the real issue was that they were using a "closed repeater". (Our 2 meter and 440 repeaters are NOT closed.)

A repeater owner has every right to prevent someone from using his equipment, but when this extends to forcing someone to vacate a frequency, then the owner is overstepping his authority. The radio frequency spectrum is a national resource regulated by the FCC in this country. The repeater owner certainly is operating legally if he chooses to turn off his equipment. He cannot prevent a legally licensed Amateur from using a frequency that the

Amateur is licensed to use. There is a "gentleman's agreement" which hams adhere to (for the most part) that says operation on the output or input of a repeater without regard for the repeater or its users is considered interference. But, if the repeater is turned off for the purpose of keeping people from using it, the frequency assigned to that repeater might then be used by those people on simplex. (I think that a fairly valid comparison might be: cars are owned by individuals, but the roads are owned by all. I might lock my car to keep you from using it, but I can't lock YOUR car or prevent you from using the road!)

By the way, although PL stands for "Private Line", the use of PL by a repeater is not necessarily an indication of the repeater being "closed". PL can also be used to prevent noise or intermod products from keying up a repeater if it is located on a particularly noisy hilltop. (and some of those hilltop sites are VERY noisy!) Our 440 repeater is PL'ed for noise rejection, not to prevent people from using it. Its PL tone is 107.2Hz and it is still operating right now from the top of Alexian Brothers' Hospital. It is available to all who can key it up.  
4/14/91

The flea market this weekend was a HUGE success! Frank AA6LL, Trish WA6UBE, Jim WE6V, Mike KB6LCJ, Gary WB6YRU, J.D. K6YKG, and many others helped this month. Thanks to all who helped.

We added over \$600 to the repeater fund this month. I especially wish to thank all those persons who purchased something from us and in that way helped our fund-raising efforts.  
4/18/91

Heard recently on a repeater: "I'll be away for the

weekend, so don't bother trying to reach me. 73 and I'll call you when I get back. W6--- clear." This kind of comment should be avoided. Your friends who might be listening probably wouldn't take advantage of this, but you have NO WAY of knowing who else might be listening. A quick trip to the local ham emporium to glance at a recent Callbook and your address is known. Breaking and entering would be a lot less difficult if the burglar knew in advance that your house was not occupied!

If you know of someone who is away on vacation (or YOU are going on vacation), DO NOT mention it on the air! You just might be inviting disaster for that person. Remember, we use PUBLIC airwaves. 4/24/91

Field Day this year will be June 22-23. Plans are well underway and will be discussed elsewhere in this SCCARA-Gram. I look forward to participating and hope to see you all at our club operating site. Please contact Lou WA6QYS (our Field Day committee chairman) for more info.

73 de Stan WA6VJY

## EMARC ANSWER

The most recent issue of the EMARC RELAY asked the philosophical question... What type of animal does SPAM come from???? The answer is obvious. It comes from SPIGS. EDITOR

## UNLICENSED PERSONS ON THE REPEATER

de Stan WA6VJY 4/27/91

Earlier this week a couple of people started using our repeater for contacting each other. The only problem is that the callsigns are not valid. One is using KB3ALO (name of Art) and

the other is using a call something like RT567DM (name of Glen). These callsigns are not valid.

A natural response is to tell them to get off the air, or at least try to find out more about them by trying to contact them. The FCC states, in no uncertain terms, that licensed Amateur Radio operators will only talk to licensed persons on the radio. (Part 97.111(a)(1)) Therefore, the only legal thing to do is try to prevent their using our repeater. To do that, a number of people have been monitoring the repeater. They can and will turn off the repeater to deny the illegal operators access to our repeater.

Unfortunately, this means that we will have to realize that the repeater may be off the air occasionally. So far, the repeater has only been off the air for short periods (5-10 minutes).

### REMEMBER:

1. don't talk to the persons
2. don't even talk ABOUT them
3. as much as possible, IGNORE them

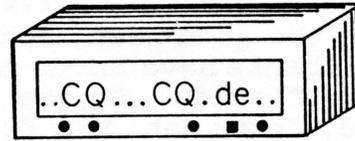
5/3/91

The unlicensed people have apparently moved on to another repeater. Our tactic of denying them the use of our machine apparently worked. If this happens again, we may opt to PL the repeater rather than turn off the repeater. This may or may not work, but we won't know until the situation presents itself.

de Stan WA6VJY

Stan makes some good points. Our repeater is now comparable in quality with the better repeaters in the bay area. With the improvement comes more responsibility on our parts. EDITOR

# MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 1991 GENERAL MEETING



Our meeting this month was held at the Sizzler Restaurant. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by President George Allan WA6O. Approximately 55 persons attended.

Doc Gmelin W6ZRJ was our Master of Ceremonies for the evening. The following gave a talk on the early days of Amateur Radio: Doc Gmelin W6ZRJ, Bill Stevens W6ZM, Och K6CAY, Al Gaetano W6VJT, and Shorty Freitas AE6Z.

We had our old movie of the early days of SCCARA shown on video. We ended the evening with introductions.

Adjourn 8:55 PM

Don Village, Sec. K6PBQ



Doc, W6ZRJ, was the master of ceremonies.



Bill Stevens, W6ZM, tells it like it was.



We had a good crowd at the dinner meeting.

## GOOD AND WELFARE

Among the good news, Susanne and Ben Wilbanks have moved to Boca Raton, Florida. On the other hand, Frank Mabie, a former President of SCCARA, passed away early in April. Frank was the former Head Mechanic at the Mercury News, and is related to the family that founded Orchard Supply Hardware.

de Herb KB6ABG

## FOOD FOR FIELD DAY

Nineteen persons have already made their food choices for Field Day weekend, June 22 and 23, 1991. How come I/we haven't heard from YOU! Just as for the last few years, we are offering steak or chicken, salad, baked potatoes, baked and green beans, and breakfast for those who are staying over. Call us with your selections, at 226-2919; tell us which of the above you desire, along with your name and call. If we're not home, leave a message. Remember, cut-off date for this year is 30 May. Cost is still \$10.00 per person, any overages will be returned to you on an equal share basis, or turned over to the club treasury, as you desire.

de Herb KB6ABG

Thanks to ATMS we no longer have to tell our kids that money doesn't grow on trees. Now we have to convince them that it doesn't come out of walls.

### SCCARA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Sorry to be so silent this past couple of months, but now that tax season is over you won't be able to shut me up.

There is a long list of new members that I haven't welcomed in the SCCARA-GRAM yet so here goes. If you hear them on the air or have an eye-ball QSO, please welcome them to the club. If I accidently forgot to list

someone, please let me know so you can get a proper introduction to the club.

First, we have gained a past member back. Angelito Sioson, KC6TCV, was a member in 1985 and is now rejoining as a newly licensed tech.

We also welcome Ben Vickers, WB6FRM who gave us a presentation in 1990 on Radio-Direction Finding and decided to remain a member after his complimentary subscription to the SCCARA-GRAM ran out at year end.

Eric Lund, N6YJD, has joined us after attending SCCARA's class last year and receiving his general ticket.

Mike Hastings introduced John Rogers, WA6LQO, to SCCARA after meeting him in a computer class.

Douglas Gardner, KA6OEC, introduced his son Robert Gardner, KC6SPM to ham radio and also to SCCARA.

We have gained another bus driver by the name of Gary Mendenhall, KC6OGF who joins KC6OGE, KC6RSD and KC6MYH (his fellow bus drivers) in the club.

Casey Durso, WB6MGR, joined in April. Some of you may know him from his business of DIS-STINK Engraving. He is the one that makes the SVECS ARES/RACES badges.

Speaking of RACES, at the April meeting when John Charcho N6FBA was informed that Emergency Auto-Dial was available at no charge to any SCCARA member, he promptly signed up. John is the Radio Officer for San Jose RACES and a Captain in the Fire Dept for San Jose.

Based on the color of his sign-up form, Garry Hodson, WB8TAK, has been thinking of joining SCCARA since last year. Glad you finally joined Garry.

Terry Young, KC6SOC attended our April meeting and joined at that time. Eric Anderson WA1PMF moved to San Jose recently from Florida. He joined after

seeing our info at Queements. Also finding flyers at Queements were Jim Liston, KC6SXH; Gerry Feeney, KC6SPB; Harold Welch KC6SAH (he is waiting for his new advanced call-congrats to you Harold); and Jeff Granum, KC6TFQ.

## Discovery Museum

The San Jose Childrens Discovery Museum is alive and well. Don, K6PBQ who is also our club secretary would be happy to tell you how You can help.



Assisted by Don, K6PBQ, operating at the childrens discovery museum, a young lady gets to talk with a Ham in Kansas on meters.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir;

This is a response to an article written by our Pacific director last month regarding the capability to receive police or other public safety channels. (I presume this means scanners also).

This would prevent honest people from listening to police and fire frequencies, such as volunteer firemen, policemen, V.I.P personnel working with the California Division of Forestry. It also includes persons who

have been robbed or victimized. I know of two such people in the Bay area that use a scanner to be alert of possible dangers. Where does this stop? Drivers of cars drive with suspended licenses, no license, drunk, no insurance etc.

It appears to me that " only honest people will pay the bill and receive the penalties. 73... Thor Johnson N6OHK

PS I do agree that police need to have privacy of the airwaves in some of their work, why don't they use scramblers etc. the cost would me much less than to try and modify all the radios the hams, scanners etc. have.

## Numbers to Remember

Travis Wise, KB8FOU, has recently put on-line a BBS oriented for the Ham community. The BBS offers Ham and non-ham related public-domain software as well as public and private messaging. The Ham BBS is accessible on 300, 1200 and 2400 baud 24 hours a day. To dial in phone 408 267-6396.

Nice going Travis EDITOR

Did you know that you can obtain free information regarding earthquakes worldwide??

Data 800 358-2663 1200,N,8,1  
Voice 303 271-0245 National earthquake center, Golden Co.  
415 329-4025 Bay area

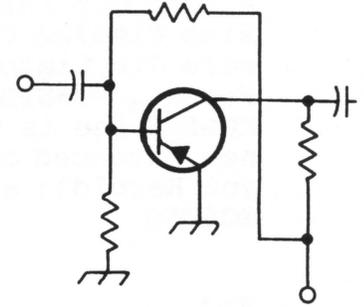
recording

Both of these are interesting additions. Give em a try.....

Your editor visited the Livermore Ham Radio Flea Market (in between articles). Who did I see there but Ed Hajny W6ACW. Ed, aside from being a regular at our meetings he owns "Books etc". Call him at 408 739-6105 for info on Ham related books and floppy disks.

# SCCARA Code Class News

At the club station, W6UW, at the Red Cross facility, (top row) JD K6YKG and Jack Stutz KC6JYS watch as Jim Okeefe WE6V demonstrates to three new licensees, Rich Van Gaasbeck, Jeff Hardacre and Nestor Pabinguit how to make a cw contact. All three are recent graduates of the code class and are awaiting their tickets. Later that nite they made their first contact on 40 meter cw.



Ship Tours  
Minerals

Earthquakes

fossils

Rocks &

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^ U.S.G.S. OPEN HOUSE ^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

U.S. Geological Survey  
345 Middlefield Road  
Menlo Park, California

May 18 and 19, 1991  
Saturday and Sunday  
10am to 4pm

Take advantage of special opportunity to:

Bring your favorite rock and ask a scientist for identification.

- \* talk with scientists about their work
- \* see exhibits and displays of our research
- \* enjoy educational videos favorite rock
- \* learn how maps are made
- \* see how computers assist in our research.
- \* learn fascinating facts about our earth
- \* take a tour of our research vessels
- \* and more!

Join us in an event that only takes place every 3 years!

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^ Mapping Volcanoes Water ^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

Say... any interest in making this a SCCARA field trip??? EDITOR

**Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association  
1991 Elmer Survey**

The following list of topics covers most areas of interest in Amateur Radio these days. If you have a desire to help fellow SCCARA club members, please indicate those topics you have some knowledge about and return the form to the club mailing address. We will be putting together an "ELMER" list from the responses to be handed out to all members who want it.

- A = Antennas, construction and installation
- B = Homebrew projects and construction
- C = Contesting techniques
- D = DX interests
- E = Emergency operating/preparedness
- F = VHF/UHF FM operating (repeaters, etc.)
- G = TVI/RFI help
- H = HF operating techniques (SSB, CW)
- I = IBM/APPLE computers in the shack
- J = Mobile operating
- L = Lightning protection and grounding
- M = Morse operating and installations
- N = NTS and traffic handling
- O = Satellite operating (OSCAR, AMSAT)
- P = Packet (HF/VHF/UHF)
- Q = HF QRP (all modes)
- R = Other digital modes (AMTOR, RTTY, R/C)
- S = Study help for upgrading (theory or code)
- T = Television, fast and slow scan
- W = VHF/UHF weak signal operating (SSB, CW)
- X = Other areas not listed above (please describe below)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALLSIGN: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ (DAYS) \_\_\_\_\_ (EVENINGS)

AREAS OF INTEREST (list by letter as shown above)

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If you wish to share your knowledge with your fellow hams, please fill this in and return it to any club officer at a regular meeting or mail it to:

SCCARA Elmers  
P.O.Box 6  
San Jose, CA.  
95103-0006



# THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, INC.

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO UNION

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT, U.S.A. 06111

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K1ZZ EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
SECRETARY

JAMES E. McCOBB  
K1TU TREASURER

203-666-1541  
FAX 203-665-7531

## WARNING

On March 16, 1991, the 80 meter Novice Segment moved to 3.675-3.725 MHz. The 3.725-3.750 MHz segment continues to be available to General and higher classes for cw, RTTY, and digital modes, only. NO phone is permitted in the 3.725 to 3.75 MHz segment.

## H.R. 73 THE AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT

Thanks to all who have sent letters to your congressman asking for their support and co-sponsorship of the act. The last report I saw showed the number of co-sponsors at 55. There is still a long way to go to reach 218 co-sponsors. If you have not written your congressman, please do so. See your March QST for information.

## PACIFICON '91

The Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association has withdrawn its application to hold Pacificon '91. Unless another club comes forward to do the Pacific Division Convention in 1991 there will not be one. Please look forward to the 1992 Convention on Oct. 17-18, 1992 in Concord.

The 10th Computer Networking Conference will be Sept. 27-28 in San Jose.

## ARRL PACIFIC DIVISION MEMBERSHIP

ARRL membership in the Pacific Division has declined by about 200 since Jan. 1, 1991. If your ARRL membership has expired, please renew. Your membership helps the cause of Amateur Radio at WARC '92 and other such conferences plus you get many benefits. Help your affiliated club by sending your renewal through it. Each affiliated club receives \$2 for handling renewals.

## COMING EVENTS.

1. Foothill Flea Market 2nd Saturday March to September at Foothill College in Los Altos.
2. Livermore Swap Meet 1st Sunday of each month, Las Positas College in Livermore, 7 AM to 12 noon.
3. Fresno Hamfest May 3-5, 1991, at the Airport Holiday Inn in Fresno.
4. West Coast VHF Conference May 3-5, 1991 at the Holiday Inn on the Beach, Ventura.
5. Reno Hamfest August 3, 1991, in Reno, NV. Contact K7HRW for information.
6. Computer Networking Conference Sept. 27-29, 1991 in San Jose.
7. Siera Hamfest and Computer Fair Oct. 12, 1991 in Minden, NV. Contact W6FFT for more information.
8. Southwestern Division Convention Oct. 11-13, 1991 in Scottsdale, AZ.
9. Pacificon '92 Oct. 16-18, 1992 in Concord.

## NEW FCC RULES?

Are you ready to be retested? In a surprise announcement released today, the FCC has decided to require all currently licensed amateurs to be retested by December 31, 1992 in order to keep their license. In addition, the testing elements have been stiffened to include integrated circuit design, satellite communications, and advanced wave theory. Code requirements have also been changed: 20 WPM for General Class and 25 WPM for Advanced. And in a move which is unparalleled, the Extra Class applicant will be required to copy 60 WPM RTTY by ear. Horace Null of the FCC, contacted after the announcement, said "Because of budget cutbacks, the FCC needs to generate sufficient fees for operations. The \$20 testing fee and the retesting of all Amateurs should generate these funds." Also in the surprise announcement was a decision to issue personalized call signs for an additional \$20 fee, much the same as personalized license plates which have been a proven revenue producer for some states.

In the same announcement, the FCC has decided to give the Amateur portion of the 10 meter band to the cellular telephone companies. Again, Mr. Null stated that "...the phone network will be greatly enhanced by the long distance potential of the 10 meter band." When pressed on the inconsistency of openings on 10 meters, Null stated that "plans are in the works for a future mission on the Space Shuttle to release 30 tons of shredded recycled aluminum at an altitude of 250 miles. This should greatly increase the consistency of 10 meters."

The ARRL said in a companion announcement that they are studying the new FCC rulings and expect to make an announcement shortly. However, the ARRL did suggest that amateurs everywhere should immediately stop turning in their aluminum cans for recycling. ;-)

73 from the Klamath Falls Packet Group  
John Zantek in Klamath Falls OR 97603

The two articles on this page were found in the EMARC newsletter. Thanks to Bob AA6BT and EMARC.



There was a rhyme that went:

Steak and chicken is really fine;  
but I like Livermore.....

## Swap Meets First Sunday (Livermore)

Don't forget the next Livermore Amateur Radio Klub Swap Meet, this Sunday, May 5, from 7:00 am to 12:00 Noon at Las Positas College near Livermore.

### The Livermore Amateur Radio Klub Swap Meet

Is held on the first Sunday of every month  
from 7:00 am to 12:00 Noon

May 5  
June 2  
July 7  
August 4  
September 1

at Las Positas College  
Near Livermore

Buyers enter free. Sellers pay \$10.00 per space. Covered areas will be available in case of inclement weather.

Convenient to both the Bay area and the central valley area, Las Positas College is located North of the Livermore Airport just off of Interstate 580. Take the Airway Bl/Collier Canyon exit north from Interstate 580. Turn right at the stop sign and follow the signs. Talk-in repeater frequencies are 147.045 (+) for the Bay Area and 145.350 (-) from the central valley.

Sponsored by the Livermore Amateur Radio Klub to assist the Livermore Amateur Radio Klub (LARK) in providing public service to the community.

Ray, KK6AM@WA6YHJ

