

SCCARA-GRAM

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association (SCCARA)
Volume 8 Number 8

Organized in 1921
August 1992

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I trust that everyone is having a nice summer. Our household is catching up for lost time since I'm back to work. We just installed a new driveway and sidewalk plus started painting the house exterior yesterday. Got to bring in the hay while the sun shines.....

A flier is enclosed in the SCCARA-GRAM regarding the picnic. The time and location has changed since last meeting. I need a head count so that I will know what to buy etc.

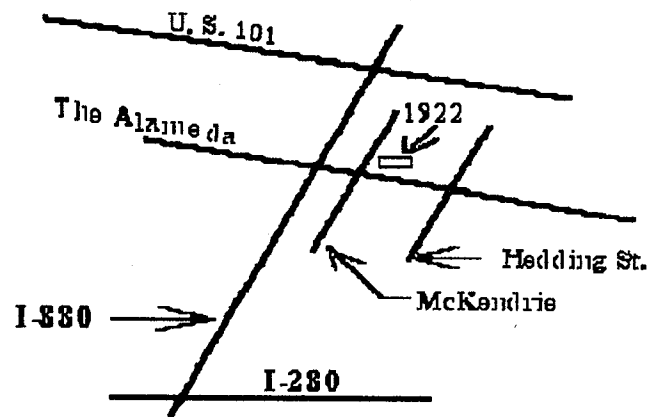
Many thanks to George WA6O for providing a nice video for last months meeting. I think those people had a few bucks tied up in antennas and radios. George has once again come through with a speaker for this months meeting. Have you ever wondered who these DX'ers are and why they like that facet of radio so well. Well be prepared to find out at the August meeting.

The board discussed our meetings thru the end of 92 and I will pass along that our September meeting will be held at the Sizzler in the Almaden Fashion Plaza. It will be our regular meeting night but NO BUSINESS!!! Well maybe a little monkey business..... Our Christmas dinner is also firmed up for Friday December 18. It will be at Renzos (same as last year).

Thanks go to Doug WN6U for the help in the selection of the present HF digital mode configuration. We have already held one class at the Red Cross and will be doing

Next Meeting

Date; Monday 8/10/92
Time: 1930 - 2200 Approx.
Place: United Way Bldg.
1922 The Alameda



Agenda

The speaker for our August meeting will be Jim Maxwell, W6CF. Jim's talk is entitled "What To Do When the DX Bug Bites..." Jim is a member of the ARRL DX Advisory Committee, is a well known DX'er and an avid Ham Radio Historian.

Important Dates

08/08 Foothill Flea Market
08/10 SCCARA Monthly Meeting
08/24 SCCARA Board Meeting
09/01 SCCARA-GRAM Deadline



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Cont'd)

another real soon. Gary WB6YRU is taking a look at the pair of 220 mhz radios which the club owns to see if they are adaptable for packet use.

Two more months to go for our flea market efforts at Foothill. Please let Gary WB6YRU know if you have some "excess" treasures that the club could use.

We'll hope to see you all at the picnic.

73 Mike KB6LCJ

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 13, 1992

Call to Order: 1932 PDST.

Self introductions by all present. It was noted that Jack Russell, WA6EIR had guests; Henry Ponce, who is studying for Novice; Mary Russell, KB6UFB (Jack's daughter); and Danny Sheehan who is also studying to be a Ham. Don, K6PBQ said he had received his certificate for DXCC.

Mike asked if anyone is going to the ARRL National Convention in Los Angeles on Aug. 20-23. Also, who is going to Pacificon '92? At this point asked George, WA6O to explain about the Video for this evening's program. George explained it's about a DX Contest station set by Team Finland on the Island of Curacao.

"Hold it", Doc, W6ZRJ asks Mike. "Can we talk about the class before you start the program?" Mike consented. Doc reports on his contact with Wilcox High School and says the guy there wants instructors to have teaching credentials. Doc asks Al, W6VZT take over. Al tries to see if there's any interest in either upgrading or learning more

about electronics; says he doesn't know if they want to bother unless there's some interest in it. Much discussion and when all is said and done, more was said than done.

George got to run the video. It was about the efforts of Team Finland's efforts to assemble a massive contest station on the Island of Curacao - Installing towers rotators, beam antennas,....etc. I lost track of how many, but I heard a number, like 15 in just one site. Some were near the shore and others on the hill; covering 160 thru 10. I can only conclude that a high score in this case, shouldn't count much when most of us have to contend with a single (multi-band) antenna and 50 watts, maybe. Which reminds me; they had fifteen (15) Yaesu FT-1000's! Well, it was great to watch all the details of this DX-pedition. Everyone enjoyed. Let's do this some more!

**** BUSINESS ****

TREASURER: Stan reports that the Flea Market netted around \$2,250. We currently have 174 members. If you ordered badges; they are ready and can be picked up at this meeting. He also has past issues of the SCCARA-GRAM. Field Day site at Mt. Madonna has been reserved for next year.

REPEATER: Stan says transmit PL has been turned back up to normal. There have been no more problems reported. Bill, W6ZM asks why we continue to run at reduced output. Stan explains; the level is about right (equal to the coverage expected for this site).

JUNE FLEA MARKET: Lou, WA6QYS reports that 24 members worked at the SCCARA sponsored event. Thanks to all.

FIELD DAY: Compliments! Doug, WN6U; Barbara Britten and Red Cross for Meals; and SCCARA Members for support and participation.

MONTHLY FLEA MARKET: (July) Gary

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES (Cont'd)

reports we sold about half of the "stuff", but we need more. Net proceeds from July: \$168.00. More about ON-GOING CLASSES: Gene, W6LYG asks Jim, WE6V if he purchased new tapes and/or electronics as voted by members. He Stated that John, AA6QE gave him some tapes he can use and he hasn't yet bought new machines. So, money is, as yet unspent.

Mike invites motion to adjourn; so done. Meeting adjourned at 2130 PDST.

Respectfully submitted for members' approval with 73 from Secretary, Gene, W6LYG.

PACIFIC DIVISION UPDATE August 1992

Charles P. McConnell, W6DPD
DIRECTOR ARRL PACIFIC DIVISION.

AMATEUR RADIO AWARENESS DAY SEPT.

19, 1992. The purpose of this day is to make the public aware of Amateur Radio by setting up public displays at parks & shopping malls. Start planning your Club's exhibit now. You can request brochures to hand to the public from ARRL.

PART 97.113 REVISION. The FCC issued a NPRM in P.R. Docket 92-136 to amend its rules regarding permissible Amateur communications. The comment deadline is October 1, 1992 and the Reply Comment deadline is December 1, 1992. If adopted, the new rules would relax restrictions on public service type communications, such as parades, races, and fairs, which are currently prohibited. More information will appear in August and September QST.

DISTINCTIVE CALL SIGNS FOR A FEE.

Two members of the House of Representatives have written FCC Chairman Alfred Sikes asking for a call

sign program where Amateurs can request distinctive call signs. This program would be self supporting with fees covering the Commission staff and equipment requirements. ARRL President George Wilson III, W4OYI, has written a letter to FCC Chairman Sikes again expressing the ARRL support for a system to grant specific call signs to Amateurs upon request. The letter offered the services of the League in working with FCC staff in developing a fair, workable system for assigning specific, unassigned Amateur Radio call signs.

DARA SCHOLARSHIPS. There are eight winners of the Dayton Amateur Radio Associations \$2000 scholarships for 1992. The DARA scholarship program is open to graduating high school seniors who are also FCC licensed Amateurs. There are no restrictions on license class or course of study selected by the students. For more information, write to DARA Scholarship Program, 45 Cinnamon Ct., Springboro, OH 45066. The deadline for submissions for 1993 scholarships is May 15, 1993.

SPACE STATION COMMUNICATION. The FCC has changed its rules to allow Amateurs of any class of license to operate from a space station. A space station is defined as a vehicle more than 50 km above the earth's surface and that transmits on frequencies assigned to the Amateur Satellite Service. Previously, only Amateurs with the Extra Class could operate from space stations, but waivers were routinely granted to astronauts with other classes to operate from space. The effect of this rule change is to reduce paper work for the FCC. This action took place on July 1, 1992.

ARRL BOARD MEETING. The ARRL Board met July 17-18, 1992 at Rocky Hill, CT near Newington. The Board accepted the recommendation of the

(Continued Next Page)

PACIFIC DIVISION UPDATE (Cont'd)

Digital Committee and directed that a petition for rulemaking be filed with FCC to effect semi-automatic, unattended digital operation on the HF bands. (The position of the Pacific Division was to support only full automatic, unattended operation on the HF bands. The Pacific Division voted against semi-automatic, unattended digital operation. The Board voted to defer consideration of any change of the organization until January so that the full rationale for the change can be shared with the membership. Staff was directed to more effectively promote family membership to licensed spouses and children. An ARRL Industry Advisory Council was created in response to a Long Range Planning Committee recommendation. A Field Organization Volunteer of the year Award was created to be administered at the Division level. A national DTMF tone standard was adopted in response to a Public Service Advisory Committee recommendation. The full minutes of the Board meeting will appear in the September issue of QST.

NOVICE EXAM PROGRAM. The FCC has released a NPRM on the inclusion of the Novice Testing program in the VEC program. The details of the NPRM are not known at this time. Watch the Amateur press for Docket Number and comment dates. The ARRL and W5YI both filed petitions for rulemaking on this topic.

PACIFICON 92. The Mount Diablo ARC has been planning the 1992 Pacific Division Convention for more than a year. They will have a great event for you. Please use the information in the Pacific Division Report and register for this event. ARRL President George Wilson III, W4OYI will attend along with other ARRL staff. The programs will be great and there will be a flea market.

The emphasis will be on youth, so encourage your young Amateurs to attend.

COMING EVENTS.

1. **LIVERMORE SWAP MEET.** 1st Sunday of each month at Las Positas College in Livermore, CA. 7 AM to Noon, all year. Contact N7TVE for information.
2. **FOOTHILL SWAP MEET.** 2nd Saturday, March-September. Foothill College, Los Altos CA.
3. **ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION.** August 20-23, 1992 at the LAX Marriott Hotel. Contact WA6WZN for information.
4. **AMATEUR RADIO AWARENESS DAY.** September 19, 1992.
5. **FLEA MARKET. SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS, INC.** Sept. 26, 1992, 8 AM to 2 PM. Holy Ghost Hall, 7960 Mill Station Rd, Sebastopol CA. Write SCRA, Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402 or call Alan Bloom N1AL at 707-577-3981 (days) for information.
6. **CALIFORNIA QSO PARTY.** October 3-4, 1992. Contact AD6E for information.
7. **SIERRA HAMFEST AND COMPUTER FAIRE** October 10, 1992. Carson Valley Inn, Minden NV. Contact Duncan Insley WA6RRU 702-267-4223 for information.
8. **PACIFICON '92. ARRL PACIFIC DIVISION CONVENTION.** Oct. 16-18, 1992. Concord Hilton Hotel in Concord CA. For information Contact Pete Tormey, N6QGN or call 510-932-6125.
9. **BOY SCOUT JAMBOREE ON THE AIR.** October 17-18, 1992
10. **INTERNATIONAL DX CONVENTION.** April 16-18, 1993. Holiday Inn, Visalia, CA. Contact Jim Knochenhauer, K6ITL, for information.
11. **WEST COAST VHF/UHF CONFERENCE.** May 21-23, 1993. Holiday Inn, Ventura CA.

FIELD DAY 1992 REPORT
de WN6U



Greetings and thanks to all who attended SCCARA's 1992 Field Day effort. This years crew did a fine job and there was plenty of fun to be had by everyone. The usual group of hard workers showed up on Friday afternoon to set-up the antennas and the 4 stations: CW, Phone, RTTY and Novice. After set-up the group had a pot-luck dinner/barbecue. The actual event started at 11:00 AM Saturday morning by which time we were barely finished setting up. It would be nice to see more club members come out and help us set-up at next years event.



FIELD DAY REPORT (Cont'd)

The bands were good to us this year; we always had at least one good band opening to somewhere. The Phone station made 431 contacts and the CW station was right behind with 420 QSO's (including the RTTY contacts). The Novice station made 31 Phone and 5 CW contacts.

The overall point winner was the CW station with 840 points, followed by the Phone folks with 431 points. The club made 700 bonus points: 300 for using emergency power, 100 for media coverage, 100 for getting the ARRL FD message and 100 for holding our effort in a public place.



FIELD DAY REPORT (Cont'd)



Saturday afternoon we were treated to a dinner by the Mass Care unit of the Red Cross, many thanks to those folks. The action continued on into Sunday morning at which time the Red Cross prepared breakfast for us. At 11:00 AM we started tearing everything down and by 2:00 PM we were on the road home.

I'd like to offer my thanks to everyone who helped with this years effort, especially Gary WB6YRU who spent many hours writing the software that we used for logging this year. His program worked without a hitch. 73 to all. Doug WN6U.

SCCARA SPONSORED NOVICE CLASS

The board discussed the possibility of holding a class of perhaps 6 or eight weeks duration to prepare prospective HAMS to get their licenses. It will be woven into our existing code class. Several of you have indicated an interest in facilitating. A meeting will be set in August (probably on a Tuesday after the normal code class) to hash it around plus look at the ARRL instructor guides. Come to our meeting and stay tuned at our Monday nets for more info.

73... Mike KB6LCJ

REPEATER COMMITTEE REPORT

de WA6VJY

07/31/92

About 2-3 months ago I received a phone call from a ham who lives in the Central Valley. He was concerned about our repeater causing interference to a system he maintains in Manteca. His repeater was being "timed out" by what sounded like a user way out in the fringes of his coverage area. Eventually he was able to pick out a callsign. It turned out to be the W6UU repeater.

This was a combination of two events occurring roughly simultaneously. One was the onset of summer and the typical cloud cover associated with weather this time of year.

The other was an increase in our output power by about 3dB or so. We increased the power output of the repeater because the particular design of the power amplifier used in our repeater needs to be operated above a certain level to prevent production of spurious emissions. Rather than chance generating out-of-band signals, we chose the possibility of interfering with other on-channel users geographically

separated from us.

Unfortunately, the weather previously mentioned brings about excellent ducting conditions between about 5am and 10am. We would bring up and time out their repeater. They are PL'ed, but it was no use. We transmit the PL they need to key up their repeater. Our actions, therefore, were twofold: 1) turn down our transmitter power by adding about 9-10dB of attenuation at the transmitter output port, and 2) reduce the level of the transmitted PL tone we have on our signal.

Since these adjustments were made, the Manteca repeater hasn't been bothered by our signal. The power adjustment has also brought our system more into "balance" than it was previously. By "balance", I mean this: a typical mobile user running about 20 or so watts into a typical antenna will hear the repeater just about the same as the repeater hears him. (the repeater actually hears the user a little better than the user hears the repeater it seems) This is where I believe the system should be operating. I understand that users in the "fringe areas" have noticed a reduction in received signal strength. (Another point to keep in mind is that our repeater is sanctioned by NARCC as a "low level" repeater...definitely of limited coverage).

If a user tries to make a phone patch, but notices that the repeater is becoming scratchy, he's still being received by the repeater well enough to be able to control the phone patch properly (he can still hang up the phone). Before the transmit power was reduced, there was a significant number of phone patches initiated by users who were then unable to hang up the phone. Part 97.7 of the FCC regulations states, in part, "Every amateur radio station, when trans-

mitting, must have a control operator." If the user is no longer in range of the repeater and cannot control it while it is transmitting, then he is not abiding by the regulations. True, the repeater will eventually hang up the phone (after as much as 10 minutes of that annoying BEEP-BEEP-BEEP the Phone Company puts on the line when you leave the phone off-hook). During that time, however, the repeater would be UNUSABLE by anyone who doesn't have the hangup code. It would also be VERY ANNOYING to anyone monitoring the repeater.

I, therefore, have recommended to the board of Directors that we not increase the repeater power output. Should anyone have questions regarding this, please consult:

- 1) the FCC regulations Part 97 regarding repeaters and control operators;
- 2) the club station license Trustee, Doc W6ZRJ;
- 3) the chapter in "The ARRL Handbook for the Radio Amateur" which discusses repeater principles and operation;
- 4) NARCC by-laws concerning power levels, use of CTCSS, and the definition of "a low level repeater".

73, Stan WA6VJY

HATS OFF TO BOB KELLER, KB6OHO

The exceptionally good Field Day photos are the work of Bob Keller, KB6OHO, the official SCCARA-GRAM Photographer. Bob underwent surgery the day after Field Day and complications developed soon after. I'm especially happy to say he's better now and will be soon be out stalking you with his trusty camera.

Thank you, Bob!

de George WA6O

THE STATUS OF HAM RADIO

(Continued from July 1992)

By WB2EZG (replying to WA2EQF)

(Tnx: Doc, W6ZRJ)

The state of the radio exams today don't reflect the bent toward true learning and education; until they do, we are in trouble. The ARRL should be doing something about this, both nationally and locally. But at the level of education I am speaking of, they have failed, period. Ham classes for the most part are designed to get you to master the question pool; not to understand how things work.

And the fact that we have a question pool, with the EXACT exam questions and answers published periodically, is ridiculous in itself.

Fortunately, it appears that education presently has a higher priority than making money. Indeed, the country has learned, for the time being, that making a fast buck is not worth all the hassles that accompany deregulation, bad management, and get-rich-quick schemes. Send the message to Congress, NOT THE FCC, that you can provide the unique service of REAL education at little or no cost to the country, and you will see how fast our fortunes change.

73, Vince Biancomano, WB2EZG

TNX, JOHN COLE, AA6QE

Jim O'Keefe, WE6V advises that due to the generosity of John Cole, AA6QE, it will unnecessary to spend the money allocated by the Club in the last general meeting. John gave the Tuesday Class a set of Heathkit Teaching Manuals, plus the Gordon West and KB6MT Training Tapes.

TNX, John from SCCARA

SCCARA-GRAM

Radio Classes

Radio Classes for both NEWCOMERS and AMATEURS WHO WISH TO UPGRADE will be offered this Fall at the San Jose Scottish Rite Temple. Classes will include:

BEGINNER CLASS: Both Code and No-Code Instruction.

ADVANCED CLASS: Will include both the Theory and CW Instruction.

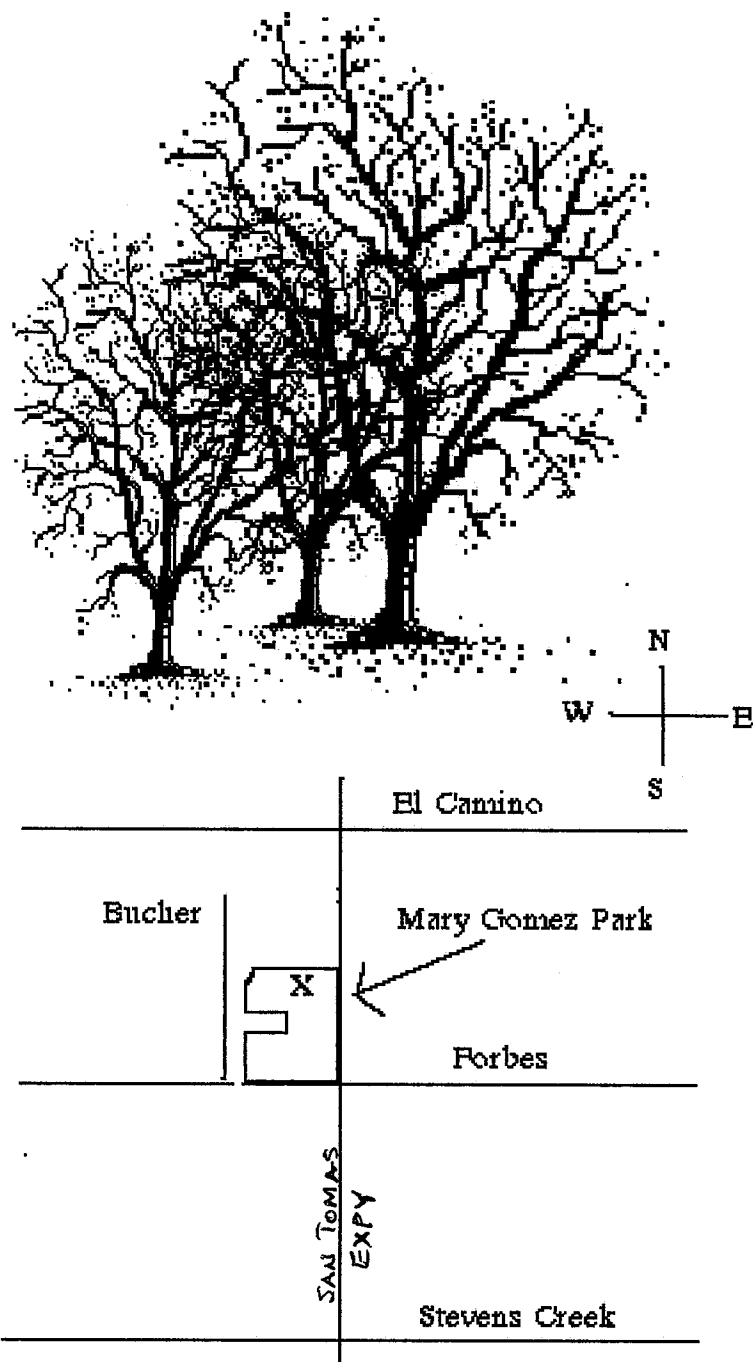
SPECIAL NOTES:

1. The Beginner Class will cover the basic theory for the Novice and Technician License Tests and we will introduce anyone who is interested to the K6RAU Code Course, which is "The Best Code Course in the West". With this course (available on tape) you can learn 5 WPM in ONE MONTH. We will include "How to Operate Your Amateur Radio Station" in our classroom instruction.
2. The Advanced Class is a good opportunity for those who wish to upgrade from Novice or Technician to General or Higher. There will be special tips and instruction on how to upgrade to EXTRA CLASS for those who are interested. You can do it on the air. If you are a Novice or Tech with Novice Privileges, we will get you started on the Novice Bands to learn CW the easy way.
3. In the Advanced Class, we will teach radio and electronic theory so you can really understand the written test and will give instruction on how to repair your own radio equipment.

FOR INFORMATION CALL "DOC" AT 973-8583 OR "AL" AT 379-3776

DAYS AND TIMES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE SEPTEMBER SCCARAGRAM





Sccara Picnic

Date: Sunday August 9, 1992

Place: Mary Gomez Park in Santa Clara

Time: 1000-1500 (or so)

Cost: \$3.00 per person, payable on picnic day.

Provided: SCCARA will provide the fire, soda, hot dogs, hamburgers, condiments, plates and eating utensils

Bring: Your lawn chairs and favorite salad or dessert to feed 6 persons.

Whats there: Pool, tennis, basketball etc.

Parking: If you get there early, there is parking in the parking lot. Otherwise there is plenty of street parking.

Talk-in: We will be monitoring 146.385 the day of the picnic plus our hotline will also have info.
PH. 408 249-6909

SANTA CLARA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

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REPEATER INFO

REPEATER COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

STAN GETSLA WA6VJY 408-275-0735

CALL	W6UU
2 METER	146.385+
440	442.425+ (PL) 107.2

Nets are held every Monday evening at 19:30 sharp.
except for the second Monday which is our meeting
night.

STATION TRUSTEE

JEAN "DOC" GMELIN W6ZRJ 408-973-8583

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SCCARA HOTLINE 249-6909

ARRL CLASS HOTLINE 971-1424

ARRL VEC HOTLINE 984-8353

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY
AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**

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