

# SCCARA-GRAM

**Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association**

**Organized in 1921**

**Volume 8, Number 9**

**September 1992**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer is slowly drawing to an end and the cooler morns are a sure sign that fall is just around the corner. Was that rain I felt last Saturday???

As you have likely noted from the weekly nets, the September dinner agenda has been changed. Due to cost factors the board decided not to continue at the Sizzler. Well I think we have a treat for you!

We also are bringing back an old club tradition in the form of a spaghetti feed. As you well know, the United way building is quite well equipped. The decision was made to "do it ourselves". Part of the impetus was the very successful summer picnic.

The fare will be spaghetti and meat sauce, salad, french bread, soft drinks and coffee for the price of \$ 3.00 per person. Dinner will be served at 7pm to allow for those who get home later from work. There will be a video of Field Day 92 and maybe some other entertainment. All in all it should be a nice evening.

**SCCARA is now OFFICIALLY a SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB** and has a spiffy certificate to prove it. It was a long time coming.

Don't forget that elections (ours) are just around the corner. We are a club with a long and proud history and YOU could help the tradition continue.

I'll see you at the September Dinner meeting.

73 Mike KB6LCJ

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

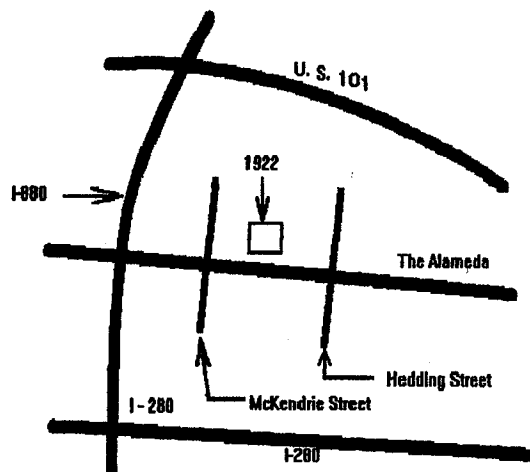
- 09/07 Labor Day
- 09/12 Foothill Flea Market - Sponsored by  
S.V.E.C.S. ( Last one of the Season)
- 09/14 SCCARA General Meeting
- 09/28 Jewish New Year  
SCCARA Board Meeting
- 09/29 SCCARA-GRAM Deadline

## **Next Meeting**

**Date: Monday 9/14/92**

**Time: 1830 - 2200 Approximately**

**Place: United Way Building  
1922 The Alameda, San Jose**



## **Agenda**

An Old Fashioned Spaghetti Feed at Our Regular Meeting Site. The Cost will be only \$ 3.00 per Person. The Price includes Spaghetti and Meat Sauce, Tossed Salad, French Bread and Butter and Soft Drinks or Coffee. We will Begin Serving at 7:00 P.M.

## MINUTES

### GENERAL MEETING AUGUST 10, 1992

Meeting called to order at 1930 PDT. Mike asks all to sign logs; especially visitors. Visitors will receive copy of next SCCARA-GRAM in the Mail. Mike announced we have visitors from the Mount Diablo Club (sponsors of Pacificon '92).

Mike reported on the club picnic and announced winners of prizes. Self Introductions followed, as is the custom.

WA6O introduced Jim Maxwell, W6CF (or W6 "Chicken Feathers" as George put it). Jim's first point was; the WAC (Worked All Continents) award was actually originated by two SCCARA members, 6HM and 6OI back in 1925. Jim went into the background of how it began and then proceeded to talk about the business of DX'ing. Jim's talk covered many aspects of DX'ing from how to work 'em to how to get a QSL from 'em.

Mike then introduced Pete, N6QGN to make a pitch for PACIFICON '92, THE ARRL PACIFIC DIVISION CONVENTION October 16-18 at the Concord Hilton in Concord, CA For details on the Hotel, call 510-932-6125. Pete says they've reduced prices and are encouraging youth to attend. Prices are \$3.00 in advance or \$5.00 at the door. Admission ticket is good all 3 days. There will be a Flea Market, many exhibitors and around 85 Technical Sessions.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mike received a card from Herb, KB6ABG. Herb is "temporarily" in Oregon and O.K.

Month of OCTOBER is time to nominate officers for the coming year.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Minutes of last meeting were approved as printed in the SCCARA-GRAM.(TNX, W6LYG)

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Stan, WA6VJY announced we have 3 new members; KA6CBN, KA6GZO and KD6EFL.

### GOOD AND WELFARE

Mike asked for a volunteer to serve as chairperson

for this committee. As usual, no response.

### FLEA MARKET

Gary, WB6YRU said, "We got \$134.00 selling stuff left over from last time. But, some very good stuff contributed by Bob, the ever zealous Club Photographer. Only Don, KC6WMM and Gary went last time. They would welcome more Club Members.

### REPEATER COMMITTEE

Stan relates he talked to a guy in the Valley and they've had no problem since we made our changes. The new plan is to bring the power up to the point where it helps us, but doesn't interfere with them.

### SPECIAL COMMITTEES

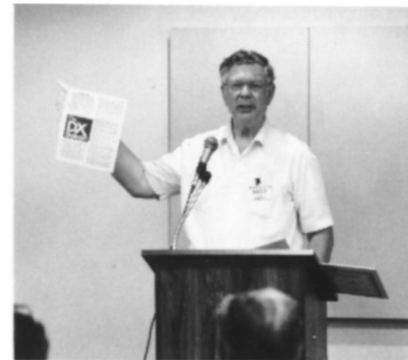
RED CROSS; Doug, WN6U says AMTOR/RTTY is working and available. He offers to help on Wednesday evenings... Call him.

Gary has (2) 220 MHz rigs to be crystallized and applied for packet stations.

Special Request re; September Foothill Flea Market from Lou, WA6QYS; Needs Help! This is a S.V.E.C.S. sponsored event. We should help if possible.

Mike requests adjournment 2135 Hrs.

Submitted for Members' approval by Secretary, Gene, W6LYG.



### THE END IS NEAR....

...The end of terms for the current SCCARA board that is. Ever wondered what's involved with being a board member? A board member should be a "regular" at our meetings. In addition they attend a monthly board meeting. The meeting is on the fourth Monday of each month at the Red Cross. The board's duty is to take care of the club's day to day business plus provide direction for the club. It really isn't a demanding job plus you get to know some mighty nice folks.

The terms for the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary are one year. The board members are voted in for two year terms. Additionally, the past president is a board member as is the Station Trustee. Here is the sked:

September meeting: appoint an election committee.

October meeting: Submit tentative slate plus ask for additional nominations from the floor.

November: Vote in the new slate.

Please think it over. **SCCARA needs YOU!!!**

73... Mike KB6LCJ



### DONATIONS FOR LAST FLEA MARKET

September is the last Foothill Flea Market for the year. To date, we have brought in a little over \$1000. Our locker is low and we could use any goodies you might want to part with. The contact for donations or to help is Gary WB6YRU.

It would be nice to close out 92 with a big flea market. What do you say???

### WHY ARE WE CALLED HAMS?

This bulletin showed up recently on the packet network: Have you ever wondered why we radio amateurs are called HAMS ?? Well it goes something like this-- the word ham was applied in 1908 and was the call letters of one of the first amateur wireless stations operated by some of the members of the Harvard Radio Club. They were Albert Hyman, Bob Almy and Peggie Murray. At first they called their station Hyman-Almy-Murray. Tapping out such a long name in code soon called for a revision, and they changed it to Hy-Al-Mu, using the first two letters of each name. In early 1909 some confusion resulted between signals from HYALMU and a Mexican ship named Myalmo, so they decided to use only the first letter of each name and identified their station as HAM. In the early pioneer and unregulated days of radio, amateur operators picked their own frequencies and call letters. Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals than some commercial stations. The resulting interference finally came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington and they gave much thought to propose legislation designed to critically limit amateur activity. In 1911, Albert Hyman chose the controversial Wireless Regulations Bill as the topic of his thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator David Walsh, a member of the committee hearing the Bill. The Senator was so impressed that he sent for Mr. Hyman to appear before the committee. Hyman was put on the stand and described how the little amateur station, HAM, was built, and he almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the bill went through, they would have to close up the station because they could not afford the license fees and other requirements which were set up in the bill. The debate started and the little station HAM became a symbol of all the little amateur stations in the country that were crying out to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations who did not want them around. Finally the Bill got to the floor of the congress and every speaker talked about the poor little station, HAM. That's how it all got started. You can find the whole story in the Congressional Record. Nationwide publicity identified the station HAM with amateurs. From that time to this, and probably to the end of time, in radio, Every amateur is a HAM

I hope you found this as interesting as I did,

73 Gary WB6YRU

# SCCARA-GRAM ROTOGRAVURE SCCARA PICNIC



# SCCARA-GRAM ROTOGRAVURE

## SCCARA PICNIC



### Red Cross Happenings

Scott KB6UOO stopped by at our last board meeting and mentioned that the Red Cross move has been delayed for one year. This motivated Scott to address the issue of installing a digital lock (one using bar codes) at the Red Cross radio room. He has the computer lined up and plans to install soon. There is a problem however in purchasing the bar code reader.

He indicated that the cost of a reader was around \$260. SCCARA was asked if we would foot the bill for the reader. The board has voted to purchase the reader with a \$300 cap. Scott will do the actual purchase and give us the receipt. This will enhance the room security by logging the individual in and out plus keep track of how long they were there.

In other areas, many thanks to Stan WA6VJY for loaning the club a printer for use with our computer system at the Red Cross. That HF station looks and runs GREAT. If you want to try the gear out, just stop by most any Thursday evening and get together with Wally KA6YMD or give him a call at home. The station is there for our use so give it a try.

73 MIKE KB6LCJ

### Dinner Meeting Info

The September meeting is open to all members and guests. The doors will be open at 1800 (some of us may be there even earlier) with dinner set for 7 PM. For your three dollars you will get a nice spaghetti dinner, some good entertainment and a great door prize. The board has decided to make the door prize as follows:

- 2 tickets to Pacificon
- 2 dinners at Pacificon
- 1 Saturday nite stay at the Concord Hilton

Great prize huh????

The dinner menu is:

- Spagetti and meat sauce
- salad
- french bread
- dessert (cake)
- coffee and soda

This is a real deal. Please join us!

You buy your tickets at the door.

### REPEATER COMMITTEE COLUMN

9/1/92

WA6VJY

Our problems with ducting to the central valley (Manteca in particular) have not yet gone away. On a number of occasions, I have heard a signal key up our repeater and start sending a CW ID. Most of the time the callsign was incomplete. On two occasions, I was able to pick out the complete callsign. The callsign is WA6SYE/R, the Manteca repeater. Apparently the path has been open on more than one occasion in our direction as well as the other way. We haven't been interfering with them for the last couple of months because we turned down our ERP (effective radiated power) and our transmit PL tone deviation.

Tonight at about 7:30pm, the PL tone deviation we transmit on our output was set back up to normal. We plan on seeing how this affects the WA6SYE repeater before raising our ERP any more than it is currently. I have also sent their technical committee a note suggesting an alternative to our problem having to do with both of us transmitting dual PL tones. If either we or they hear the secondary PL tone (one not used by any of the normal users), we might be able to use it as an "anti-PL" to keep the repeater from being brought up.

I am still in favor of keeping our ERP at its present level. The reason being that phone calls left "off-hook" when the user can't hang up the phone have dramatically dropped in number in relation to how many we used to hear. I would not like to see our club callsign in jeopardy in any way due to improper operation of our repeater (either by users or by being improperly adjusted and operated by the repeater committee).

For those of you who are interested in IBM-PC/clone shareware, I have some news. I have purchased a CD-ROM disk from Buckmaster which has the Callbook on it, along with a LOT of other programs and data files. The complete directory listing (about 55 pages worth) is available at the Red Cross radio room (at the club station). If you are interested in obtaining some of the data or program files, contact me at 275-0735 or the N0ARY-1 packet BBS. Most of the files are "ZIPPED" (compressed), so you will need a decompressing program (also available). I can store files on any IBM disk format. As for the callbook portion of the disk, I am just learning how to use the search features of the database program, so callbook data will not be available for a while.

73 de Stan WA6VJY

## FLEA MARKET REPORT

### JULY

The July flea market brought in \$168.58 for the club. We had a few items of some value, but most of it was the typical "junk-box" type stuff. We picked up some terminals from the Red Cross a couple of months ago, but unfortunately, they have been rendered obsolete by the march of technology. Despite the fact that they work, we haven't been able to sell them--not even for one lousy dollar! If you have a use for a dumb terminal or know someone who does, please let me know.

Don KC6WMM helped transport stuff and sold the whole time. Jim WE6V helped transport stuff and sold for half the day. Don K6PBQ also stopped by to help sell for half the day. Thanks guys!

### AUGUST

The August flea market was the slowest of the year for us--both in terms of stuff to sell and participation. With the exception of the leftovers from the July flea market, we had only a couple of new items of any value. Then Bob KB6OHO (the club photographer) showed up at the last minute with some good items. The net proceeds for this time was \$134.26 and I think almost half of that was from Bob's donations.

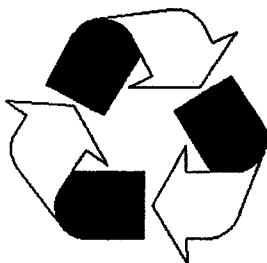
Don KC6WMM and I were the only people taking care of the SCCARA booth at this flea market. Thanks Don, and thanks Bob for helping us at least clear the \$100 mark.

### SEPTEMBER

The next flea market is Sat. morning, September 12. This is the last scheduled one until next year. By the time you read this it may be too late; if not, and you would like to help (sell, transport, or donate), please let me know before Friday evening (Sept. 11).

As of this writing, there are a couple of donations pending, so it looks like we may be able to end the season with a bang instead of a whimper (I hope).

73, Gary WB6YRU



## ANYONE GOING TO STAY OVER??

If we can dig up ten club members who are renting rooms, (at the Concord Hilton for Pacificon '92) we can get a complimentary room. Please let me know if you plan to stay over at Pacificon.

73..Mike, KB6LCJ

## NEWS FROM MIKE McCORMICK, AA6LL

Informed sources tell us that Frank McCormick, AA6LL has arrived in Ohio and is settling in. He made it accross country O.K. He tried to work HF Mobile back to this area, but propagation didn't cooperate. He sez he work a lot of others, though.

For those who want to drop Frank a line or give him a call, his new address and telephone number are;

Frank McCormick, AA6LL  
228 North Marylan  
Youngstown, OH 44509  
216-799-6832

(Tnx Roy Metzger, K6VIP)

## AL GORDOY, K6LHQ SILENT KEY

Longtime SCCARA Member, Al Gordoy, K6LHQ has become a silent key. Al was the SCCARA Treasurer in 1978 & 1979 and was a familiar face at SCCARA Meetings for many years both before and after his tenure of office. Al also served as Treasurer for the Three Club Consortium that sponsored the Pacific Division Conventions in the late seventies and early eighties.

Al will long be remembered for his sage advice and wise counsel as a member of the SCCARA Board of Directors. We will miss him.

**ARRL PACIFIC DIVISION UPDATE, September 1992.**

by **Charles P. McConnell, W6DPD, Director ARRL Pacific Division.** 1658 W. Mesa Ave. Fresno, CA 93711-1944. 209-431-2038. Packet @ N6ZGY.

**AMATEUR RADIO GROWTH.** FCC statistics released on June 30, 1992, show a total of 571,280 Amateur licenses in the United States. This figure includes 28,278 new licensees between January 1 and June 30, 1992. New Technicians at 20,822 is the entry license of choice with 7,046 Novices and 410 other. Thanks go to those clubs sponsoring training classes for Amateurs and to the Volunteer Examiners who conduct the examinations for the Amateur community.

**FCC ITEMS.** There are a number of items pertaining to Amateur Radio before the FCC at this time.

PR DOCKET 92-154 proposes to place the Novice Exam program under the VEC System. FCC says there is a high error rate on the 610 forms while the error rate on 610s through the VEC system have a very low error rate. There are also no pass-fail statistics available for the current Novice exam program while those statistics are available for exam elements conducted under the VEC system. Comments are due on October 9, 1992 and Reply Comments are due on November 9, 1992.

PR Docket 92-167 proposes to allow foreign Amateurs to have a 60 day operating permission upon presenting an Amateur license to a VE team and passing a 20 question exam. The VE team must determine the privileges the foreign Amateur possesses in his home country and file a report with their VEC. This would include Amateur from countries that do not have reciprocal operating agreements with the United States. Comments are due October 26, 1992 and Reply Comments are due November 30, 1992.

PR Docket 92-136 would revise Part 97.113 of the Commissions rules to permit Amateurs to provide communications at parades, races, and marathons, etc. which are currently in the gray area of the FCC rules. Comments are due October 1, 1992 and Reply Comments are due December 1, 1992. See **QST** for August and September 1992 for information on PR Docket 92-136.

**H.R. 73 AND S. 1372.** There are now 203 cosponsors of H.R. 73, The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1991. Check your July 1992 **QST** for information about your Senators and Representatives support for this legislation. This legislation needs to be passed by the end of this year or it will die with the end of the congressional session. Senate cosponsorship of S. 1372 is about 30 Senators. We need your help to influence your legislators to support this legislation.

**SCHOLARSHIP WINNER.** Congratulations to Craig Gullickson, KC6CEX, on being chosen the recipient of the Edmund B. Redington Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is administered by the Foundation For Amateur Radio. Way to go, Craig.

**PACIFICON '92.** October 16-18, 1992 are the dates. Concord California is the place. There will be 30 commercial exhibits highlighted by ICOM and Kenwood. There will be forums Friday through Sunday. ARRL President George Wilson III, W4OYI, will attend. Gordon West, WB6NOA, will speak at the banquet in addition to presenting forums. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, N3AKD, and Educational Activities Manager Rosalie White, WA1STO, will be present. See you there.

## REFLECTIONS OF AN OLD TIMER

By Doc Gmellin, W6ZRJ

Recently I heard a comment that the present structure of amateur licensing is good since it allows for a greater "cross section" of the population to become radio amateurs. The implication is that today you don't have to be an "electronic genius" to become a ham. That seems kind of funny to me since even when I started in amateur radio almost 50 years ago, most of the amateurs I met were not involved with electronic or professional radio.

Cases in point: The president, who held a Class A license, was a paint salesman; the amateur who first got me started was a machinist; one of the best known of the members of the club was a newspaper reporter/editor; one was a deputy sheriff, and there were several high school and college students who had already received their class A or B amateur licenses. There were also some XYLs who were mostly housewives who held at least Class B licenses. Some even held a Class A license.

It's true that there were a number of members who had been radio operators or technicians in the Armed Service or the Merchant Marine, but in almost every case, these individuals were amateurs before WWII and became operators and/or technicians because of the electronics and radio knowledge they learned as radio amateurs.

In my own case, I had taken no courses in electronics or radio and when I started at San Jose State College, my major was journalism/press photography. In fact my first job after college was as a newspaper photographer. Later when I became a high school teacher, my primary job was as a journalism teacher and advisor for the student newspaper. Later on I designed a course in electronics and radio which I taught for 20 years. All of my knowledge and the experience necessary to teach this class came from my experience as a radio amateur. As for my own military experience, in 1949 I received an offer from the Naval Reserve to come in directly as a 3rd Class Radioman without even going to "boot" school. I took the Navy up on this offer. They gave me a copy of the "Blue Jacket's Manual" and said I was to learn how to be a sailor on my own. They put me right to work on a radio circuit. My knowledge of amateur radio taught me enough to switch over to Navy procedure with no trouble at all.

Of course when I first started out in amateur radio, everyone had to go to San Francisco to take the test at the FCC office. The test was given by FCC personnel. It involved more than "memorizing" the answers to tests which now seem to be available. I remember I had to draw five schematic diagrams, complete with each part labeled and its value. You had to know how to design tuned circuits and what formulas to use to determine values.

What people say now is, "Yes, but in those days you

had to build your own radios." (We called them "rigs".) Well that was only partly true. We built our own equipment because we could not afford the price of the commercial gear then available. And after all, amateur radio is a technical avocation.

Now, everyone "buys" amateur radio rigs (now called radios) and many amateurs are little more than comminicators. Many say, "so what." But the question is why are these individuals on the air at all? Many answer that they "want to talk to people." Actually in a lot of cases such individuals won't even talk to their next door neighbors. Many become bored with standard amateur radio and are soon causing willful interference and many start to have "disagreements" on the air. This leads to the use of offensive language and even more willful interference. It happened on CB. Is this now going to happen in ham radio?

Some individuals become radio amateurs in order to obtain a personal communications system. This is especially true on the VHF bands where there are many repeater stations. Often amateurs turn the repeaters into personal communications systems which is about all they do with amateur radio. Amateur radio is much more than a personal communications system.

The danger of amateur radio becoming just a personal communications service is that we may in the future be classified as a "common carrier" communications system. That is not a legal use of the amateur radio bands which are, after all, defined by international agreement. If we become too much like a common carrier communications system, we may lose all or at least some of our bands.

Food for thought????? More "reflections" later.

Doc W6ZRJ



ICOM 725, KENWOOD TS140S, YAESU FT747GX

OR EQUIVALENT.

CONTACT: MALCOM, KD6BUR 408-268-3251

# 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 W6ZPJ 408-973-8583

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**SCCARA HOTLINE 249-6909**

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**ARRL VEC HOTLINE 984-8353**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY  
AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**

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