

# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 14, Number 5

May 1998



## President's Prose

Greetings!

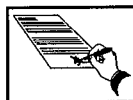
Suddenly it seems to be summer--time in this neck of the woods. I see people outside again all over the valley and yard work is being done! This can only mean one thing--FIELD DAY IS NEAR! We need to put the SCCARA Field Day activities together. Dan has volunteered to Chair the exercise again this year, but he will need help from all of us. If the meal plan is not yet firmed up, we need to get some idea who will be attending and which meals they will need.

The City of San Jose appears to be moving towards setting up a repeater site--we just aren't sure whose repeater it is! Our Repeater Chairman and the City's representative need to discuss the current plan to see if it is workable for both sides of the agreement. More on this to follow!

As Barbara reported briefly at the April General Meeting, SCCARA has had some contact with the San Jose Unified School District concerning a home for the club station. Although extremely preliminary, discussions appear to be very encouraging. More needs to be covered and specifics will be ironed out in the very near future.

SCCARA is still in need of a Secretary. We literally cannot exist without one--our California Corporation status depends on SCCARA maintaining a minimum number of officers--among these is the Secretary. This position means a lot more than having someone available to take our notes--the operation of the club revolves around the office of Secretary. This position requires someone who can attend both the General and the Board Meetings, and has at least a passing acquaintance with word processing. ANY VOLUNTEERS?

73, Jack, AC6FU

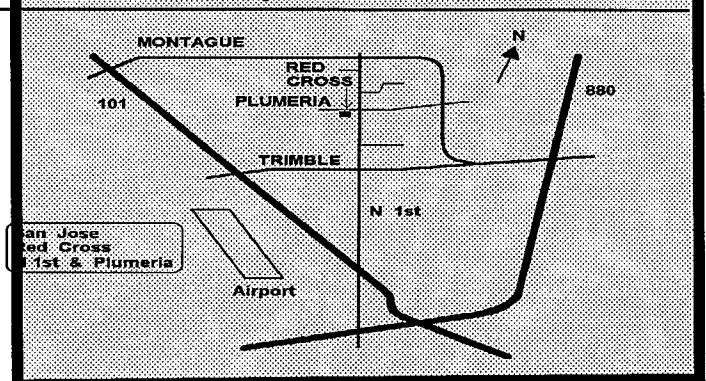
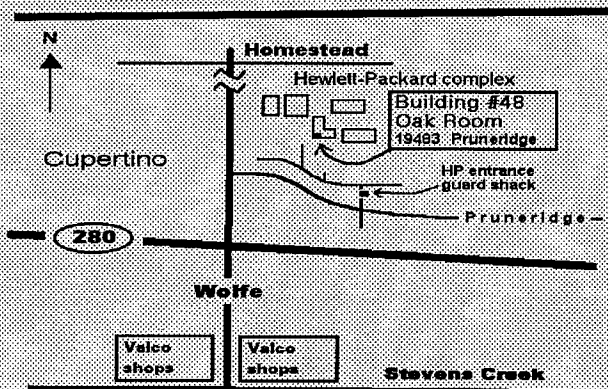


## Calendar

- 5/9 Foothill Electronic Flea Market
- 5/11 SCCARA General Meeting
- 5/13 Field Day Com. meeting (Dan WM6M, chair)
- 5/18 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

### Next General Meeting:

Day: Monday, May 11, 1998  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Place: Hewlett-Packard's Oak Rm, Bld #48  
Agenda: (to be announced)



# Meeting Minutes

## General Meeting, April 13, 1998



Called to order 7:40 PM by V.P. Barbara KD6QEI.

KD6QEI: I may have found a place to house our club station. It is in a building owned by the Unified School district. It still needs to be approved by them, but so far it looks good.

John Farley, KNTV Weather gave an interesting presentation about the weather, including the actual effects due to El Niño. More info is available on the National Weather Service's web page <http://www.nws.mbay.net>.

Regarding SCCARA getting a trailer to house the club station: Another club has something similar, but apparently it didn't work out--it was rarely used.

Treasurer Lloyd KD6FJI has the secretary's stuff and has started updating the roster database. Since our previous secretary (resigned) was also our webmaster, it seems our web page is effectively gone. We need someone to be secretary.

WA6QYS: SCCARA sponsors the August Foothill Flea Market.

WM6M: The first Field Day committee will meet soon, probably later this month. Anyone interested should contact Dan WM6M.

Adjourned 9:27 PM

Gary, WB6YRU

## Board Meeting, April 20, 1998



Present were: K6PBQ, KE6KXO, WA6QYS, KD6FJI, AC6FU, WB6YRU and KK6MX.

Motion for Board minutes from March 16, 1998 to be accepted as printed by Lou WA6QYS and seconded by Clark KE6KXO. Passed.

SCCARA Repeater report by Don KK6MX. Don mentioned that Trish said that they need to put up a portable Antenna for testing purposes at the Alum Rock site. We need to let NARCC know that we are going to be moving our repeater site to Alum Rock Park. The city wants to put up their own repeater at the site and use our present repeater as a backup at Alexian Brothers Hospital. Our 440 repeater may remain at the Hospital site. Our next move will be to have a meeting with Wally and Trish for a complete update.

The **SCCARA-GRAM** is published monthly by the **SANTA CLARA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**, PO Box 6, San Jose CA 95103-0006. Permission to reprint articles is hereby granted, provided the source is properly credited.

SCCARA was formed as a general interest amateur radio club 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.

The deadline for SCCARA-GRAM articles is one week before the last Monday of the month.

### OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

President	Jack Ruckman, AC6FU	379-4846
Vice President	Barbara Britten, KD6QEI	293-3847
Secretary		
Treasurer	Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI	225-6769
Station Trustee	Stan Getsla, WA6VJY	275-0735

Director	Clark Murphy, KE6KXO	262-9334
Director	Don Apte, KK6MX	629-0725
Director	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	241-7999
Director	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847

### STAFF

Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	265-2336
Facilities	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789

### COMMITTEES

Repeater	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
Field Day	Dan Dietz, WM6M	458-3460

### SCCARA REPEATERS

SCCARA owns and operates two repeaters under the call W6UU:

2 meter:	146.385 +	PL 114.8 (none for basic use)
70 cm:	442.425 +	PL 107.2

Phone patch capability is available (auto-dial and auto-patch). The two meter repeater is located in the Mt. Hamilton foothills, Alum Rock area. The 70 cm repeater is located at the Alexian Brothers Hospital, North of 280 and 101.

### SCCARA NETS

On our two meter repeater: Mondays at 7:30 PM, (not the second monday--it's our meeting night). Coordinator: Don K6PBQ.

On ten meters, 28.385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00 PM. Net control: Wally KA6YMD.

Visitors welcome to join in on the SCCARA nets.

### IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

SCCARA HOTLINE:	249-6909
ARRL LICENSE (VEC) HOTLINE:	984-8353

SCCARA will host the August 8, 1998 Foothill Flea Market. Lou WA6QYS will chair this event. So Please sign up and give him your support for a successful event.

Don KK6MX mentioned that there is another contact person at the S.J. Unified School District. Rod Sprecher - Director of General Services, phone 535-6000. This info is to be forwarded to Barbara KD6QEI for information.

Jack AC6FU is working on an annual report for 1997.

Discussion: We need more Amateur Radio speakers in hope of improving our attendance at our meetings.

Adjourn at 9:20 PM

Don village K6PBQ

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## WANTED

We are still in need of a secretary (to finish the 1997 term). If you have some acquaintance with using a computer and would be willing to help out your club, please contact the president or any board member.

The board has expressed an interest in continuing to have a web page. Our previous webmaster was Kevin and since he resigned we no longer have someone to maintain a web page. If interested, please contact any board member.

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## Field Day

### SCCARA PREPARES FOR FIELD DAY 1998

It's time to think about Field Day once again. SCCARA will once again trek into the mountains to camp out and set up base for Field Day operations. The site is our favorite at Mount Madonna in the Manzanita Grove area. (How many years have this been our site? An extra helping of Barbara's chili for the correct answer!)

Mark your calendar for the last full weekend in June. We will begin set up on Friday afternoon, June 26 by bringing the tower trailer, generator and other equipment to the site. As before, we will gather and work on the setup and have a bring-what-you-want barbecue in the early evening hours. Dinner is often accompanied by the sound of our generator and laughter. Come join us!

We do have a lot of fun trying to figure out what we did and how we did it the previous year. It's like a puzzle you put together once-a-year and don't see the pieces in between times. But somehow it all comes together...sometimes with time to spare!

We prefer to start setting up on Friday rather than waiting to start with the setup on Saturday morning. We operate a few less hours than those who start set up at the beginning of the contest but with a lot less chaos. This has saved us several times as antennas that worked well on Friday night become dummy loads on Saturday morning. Something about Murphy's Law.

Even with this early start, there are last minute changes and preparations taking place. You might think we do know what we are doing as, somehow at 11 AM, the starting time, our stations come alive and enter the fray.

We will again have phone and CW stations plus VHF/UHF and other capabilities to operate. Our very friendly rivalry between the phone and CW operators has pushed both groups to higher numbers of contacts in recent years. SCCARA made almost 1,000 contact in last year's contest. Let's make it our goal to exceed 1,000 contacts this year. We can do it!

None of the above happens without planning and participation. There will be a meeting of the Field Day Committee on Wednesday evening, May 13 at 7 PM at Carrow's Restaurant at Camden and highway 17. You are invited to come and be part of the committee.

We again offer to arrange transportation for anyone interested in coming to the site, even for just a short time. Some members would like to come, but due to various circumstances have not come up to share in the fun. We also urge anyone coming up to bring a friend. You will have a turn to operate if you wish and certainly will be welcome to take part.

We will once again have a fine Saturday afternoon lunch barbecue with Wally, KA6YMD and Barbara, KD6QEI fanning and manning the briquettes. They do a wonderful job and I look forward to dining in the redwoods with our group. If you only come for lunch and a visit to the park, that's reason enough to be there.

Dan Dietz, WM6M

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## From the ARRL

### Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Bill Introduced

At the request of the ARRL, a bill has been introduced in Congress to ensure the availability of spectrum to Amateur Radio operators. The bill, HR 3572, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1998, would protect existing Amateur Radio spectrum against reallocations to or sharing with other services unless the FCC provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" elsewhere. The bill was introduced March 27 by Rep Michael Bilirakis of Florida, a Republican, with the cosponsorship of Rep Ron Klink of Pennsylvania, a Democrat.

If approved, the measure would amend Section 303 of the

Communications Act of 1934 to preclude reallocation of any primary Amateur Radio allocations or diminution of any secondary allocations, and would block any additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce their utility to Amateur Radio, unless the Commission at the same time provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" to the Amateur Service.

The bill points out that a basic purpose of Amateur Radio is to provide "voluntary, noncommercial radio service, particularly emergency communications," and that Amateur Radio has "consistently and reliably" provided emergency communication during and after disasters. The measure notes that the FCC has "taken actions which have resulted in the loss of at least 107 MHz of spectrum to radio amateurs."

HR 3572 has been referred to the House Commerce Committee. An effort is under way to enlist additional cosponsors for the measure. Amateurs are encouraged to contact their Representatives and urge them to support the bill or to sign on as cosponsors. The full text of the bill is available at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c105:H.R.3572>:

#### **Vanity Fee could drop drastically**

The fee to obtain an Amateur Radio vanity call sign would drop drastically under the FCC's proposed fiscal year 1998 fee schedule. If adopted, the new fee will be \$12.90 for the ten-year term, payable at the time of application for a new, renewal, or reinstated license.

The new fee is contained in a FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, MD Docket 98-36, Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 1998, released March 25.

The current vanity call sign fee is \$50 for the ten-year term. The FCC says it has no plans to refund the difference between the current fee and the new fee for applicants who submit applications before implementation of the FY 1998 fee schedule.

The FCC has calculated the new fee based on an expected 10,000 applicants during FY 1998. The FCC says it will announce the effective date for the new fee either in the Report and Order that terminates the fee schedule rulemaking proposal or by a public notice.

#### **Wireless Privacy Bill passes House, hits Senate**

In a resounding 414-to-1 floor vote HR 2369, the Wireless Privacy Enhancement Act of 1998, passed the US House of Representatives in March and now awaits action in the Senate. The house-passed bill includes a report that specifically resolves concerns that the ARRL raised with the staff of the House Telecommunications Subcommittee.

When HR 2369 was first introduced, the League feared that

it unintentionally could have outlawed all out-of-band operations including MARS and Civil Air Patrol, as well as most scanning and short wave listening. These fears--also voiced by scanner enthusiasts, volunteer fire departments and others--were addressed by the bill's sponsor, Louisiana Republican Billy Tauzin, when the bill was amended last fall. However, the League continued to be concerned that certain provisions in the bill could be interpreted as forbidding the modification of linear amplifiers for 10 and 12-meter operation, as well as the modification of transceivers for MARS and CAP use.

In the days before the bill went to the floor, subcommittee staff worked with the League and with other involved parties to craft a committee report that would put our fears to rest. Committee reports are the official statement of "Congressional intent" on important legislation. The House voted on the bill and the report as a single package.

In part, the report made it clear that the Committee did not intend the legislation to prohibit hams from modifying linear amplifiers after purchase, as permitted by FCC rules, for use on 12 or 10 meters, or from building or modifying one amplifier per year to enable this capacity.

The report also said that the Committee did not intend that the proposed law be interpreted to discourage manufacturers from providing MARS and CAP modification information. The report also clarified other concerns raised by scanner enthusiasts, short wave listeners and manufacturers. The report's full text can be found at <ftp://ftp.loc.gov/pub/thomas/cp105/hr425.txt>.

During the house debate on the bill, Tauzin and Florida Republican Cliff Stearns both took time to praise the volunteer work of Amateur Radio operators in the wake of natural disasters.

There is no word on what the Senate plans to do about this legislation. --Steve Mansfield, N1MZA

-- From *The ARRL Letter*, April 3, 1998

#### **ARRL asks FCC to support voluntary band plans**

Following up on action taken at the January ARRL Board of Directors' meeting, the League has formally asked the FCC to equate observance of voluntary band plans with "good amateur practice." In a request for a declaratory ruling filed April 3, the League asks the FCC to affirm that amateur operation that conflicts with established voluntary band plans and causes interference or adversely affects those operating in accordance with applicable band plans would violate FCC rules.

Specifically, the League wants the Commission to confirm that hams should be familiar with--and should abide

by--voluntary band plans applicable to the bands they operate and to state that those who don't operate in harmony with those plans are not operating "in accord with good amateur practice." The League's filing builds on a 1983 declaration by the Chief of the FCC's Private Radio Bureau that simplex operation on a recognized repeater frequency was contrary to good amateur practice.

The League argues that a declaratory ruling that provides clear support for accepted voluntary band plans would highlight the importance of band plans in the amateur community and set "a standard of cooperative behavior which is expected of licensees." It also would make it easier to resolve interference complaints without having to resort to FCC action, the petition said.

The League requests the Commission "at an early date" declare that good amateur practice "anticipates compliance with the accepted voluntary international, national, and regional band plans adopted by cooperation and coordination" within the Amateur Radio Service. A complete copy of the League's petition may be found on the ARRL Web page at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/declreq.pdf>.

#### **FCC to allow electronic filings in rulemaking proceedings**

The FCC has amended its rules to allow the public to file comments and other pleadings electronically via the Internet in many rulemaking proceedings. Starting later this spring, the FCC will permit electronic filing in most notice and comment rulemaking proceedings, most proceedings involving petitions for rulemaking, Notice of Inquiry proceedings, and petitions for reconsideration. The FCC initially had proposed electronic comment filing only for rulemaking proceedings, but--in response to public comments--expanded it to include the other filings.

The Commission says it's "committed to taking advantage of new information technologies to serve the public" and says its new Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) "will make it much easier for members of the public to participate in the Commission rulemaking process and will increase the efficiency of the Commission's operations." Electronic filing now is available only in proceedings specifically designated by the Commission. It will become generally available in early June.

The ECFS will allow members of the public to file, review and print documents on-line through the Internet, rather than having to rely on paper copies accessible through the FCC reference room or copy contractor. The ECFS will accept electronically filed comments in rulemaking proceedings, scan-in paper documents, and locate, retrieve, download and print any documents in the system.

For now, the Commission will not accept electronic comments in broadcast allotment proceedings because of its concern that electronic filings in those restricted proceedings

might not be properly served on the parties, and to give the Commission more experience in electronic filing before including the large number of broadcast allotment proceedings.

The FCC acted on the matter April 2 (Report and Order FCC 98-56). Commissioner Gloria Tristani took issue with a provision to permit a midnight deadline for electronic comments while the deadline for paper filers continues to be 5:30 PM.

The complete announcement is at [http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/OGC/News\\_Releases/1998/nrgc8002.html](http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/OGC/News_Releases/1998/nrgc8002.html). --FCC

#### **1.2 GHz threat**

The ARRL has learned that the second civilian frequency for the global positioning system (GPS) could wind up within Amateur Radio's secondary allocation at 1.2 GHz. A decision on whether the new, second frequency will be 1205 or 1250 MHz is expected to be made in August. An allocation at 1250 MHz could mean the end of Amateur Radio in the band 1240 to 1260 MHz. The Amateur Radio 23-cm band runs from 1240 to 1300 MHz.

In February 1997, the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Department of Defense (DOD) announced an agreement assuring civilian GPS users of a second frequency--referred to as L5 and considered essential for critical civilian GPS uses. According to a DOD news release, the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security, chaired by Vice President Al Gore, "called for the establishment of a second civil frequency as part of a broader program to maintain US leadership in aviation and satellite technology."

For more information, see [http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Feb1997/b022797\\_bt095-97.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Feb1997/b022797_bt095-97.html).

-- From *The ARRL Letter*, April 10, 1998

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## **Newsletter Notes**

Finally, we have some photos! I've been wanting to try printing halftone photos directly with this new printer for a while now. It's better than pasting photos onto the master copy and *hoping* they make it through the copy machine without jamming. This also means I can accept electronic images (sent via e-mail).

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor





Lou WA6QYS and ?



Jack AC6FU, works some stations between burgers



Doug WN6U serves up some hot dogs while the peanut gallery supervises

## **SCCARA's picnic last summer**

# Packet Pieces

## Downloaded from the packet network:

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Date: 30 Mar 98 17:40

From: W1AW@W1AW

To: QST@ARRL

Subject: ARLB022 Spectrum Protection bill introduced

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From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT March 30, 1998  
To all radio amateurs

Spectrum Protection bill introduced

At the request of the ARRL, a bill has been introduced in Congress to ensure the availability of spectrum to Amateur Radio operators. The bill, HR 3572, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1998, would protect existing Amateur Radio spectrum against reallocations to or sharing with other services unless the FCC provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" elsewhere. The bill was introduced March 27 by Rep Michael Bilirakis of Florida, a Republican, with the cosponsorship of Rep Ron Klink of Pennsylvania, a Democrat.

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Why isn't phonetic spelled the way it sounds?

Why are there interstate highways in Hawaii?

Why are there flotation devices under plane seats instead of parachutes?

Why are cigarettes sold in gas stations when smoking is prohibited there?

Why does fat chance and slim chance mean the same thing?

If you can't drink and drive, why do you need a driver's license to buy liquor, and why do bars have parking lots?

Do you need a silencer if you are going to shoot a mime?

Have you ever imagined a world with no hypothetical situations?

How does the guy who drives the snowplow get to work in the mornings?

If a 7-11 is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, why are there locks on the doors?

If a cow laughed real hard, would milk come out of her nose?

If nothing ever sticks to Teflon, how do they make Teflon stick to the pan?

If you tied buttered toast to the back of a cat and dropped it from a high place, what would happen?

If you're in a vehicle going the speed of light, what happens when you turn on the headlights?

You know how most packages say "Open Here." What is the protocol if the package says, "Open Somewhere Else?"

Why do they put Braille dots on the keypad of the drive-up ATM?

Why do we drive on parkways and park on driveways?

Why isn't "palindrome" spelled the same way backwards?

Why is it that when you transport something by car, it's called a shipment, but when you transport something by ship, it's called cargo?

You know that little indestructible black box that is used on planes, why can't they make the whole plane out of the same substance?

Why is it that when you're driving looking for an address, you turn down the volume on the radio?

If you have your finger touching the rear-view mirror that says; "Objects in mirror are closer than they appear", how can that be possible?

Why is it so hard to remember how to spell MNEMONIC?

If someone invented "instant water," what would they mix it with?

Why is it called a TV "set" when you only get one?

Why does your nose run and your feet smell?

Why does an alarm go OFF when it begins ringing?

If "pro" is the opposite of "con", is "progress" the opposite of "congress"?

Why does "cleave" mean both split apart and stick together?

Why is it, whether you sit up or sit down, the result is the same?

Why is it called a "building" when it is already built?

Why do they call them "apartments" when they are all stuck together?

Why is there an expiration date on SOUR cream?

If you keep trying to prove Murphy's Law, will something keep going wrong?

Why does flammable and inflammable mean the same thing?

How can someone "draw a blank?"

Shouldn't there be a shorter word for "monosyllabic?"

Why is the word "abbreviate" so long?

Why did Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?

What is another word for "thesaurus?"

When they ship styrofoam, what do they pack it in?

If 75% of all accidents happen within 5 miles of home, why not move 10 miles away?

Why doesn't "onomatopoeia" sound like what it is?

Why do "tug-boats" push their barges?

Why do we sing "take me out to the ball game", when we are already there?

Why are they called "stands" when they're made for sitting?

Why is there only ONE Monopolies Commission?

Why does one get in trouble for reckLESS driving?

Does a fish get cramps after eating?

Why does "slow down" and "slow up" mean the same thing?

Why is it when two planes almost hit each other it is called a "near miss;" shouldn't it be called a "near hit?"

What does Geronimo say when HE jumps out of a plane?

[source unknown]

=====

Date: 16 Apr 98 20:00

From: AB7RG@KB7FRV

To: FARCE@USA

Subject: Clueless Coworkers:

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CLUELESS COWORKERS:

=====

Ever thought your coworker's brains were stuffed with straw, based on the advice they've given? Here are some nightmares for you...

I work at a first level tech support for a major ISP, where our job consists mostly of referring back to the user information found on the problem database. On a particularly quiet night the tech sitting beside me interrupts my web surfing with a question about news-groups. His caller got an error message and he was wondering what to do. I looked up the problem in the database, and found the exact error message and the excruciatingly well described path solving the problem. My coworker, not at all impressed, looks at me and says, "Oh, I never use the database, it sucks." and starts changing the user's parameters, asks me more questions, goes on for fifteen minutes walking the customer through every possible setup to finally escalate the call to a level 2 tech, who was probably ticked off to get such a stupid problem.

{Guess the phrase "use all of your available resources" never occurred to him, huh?}

Our company had just purchased 80 stores in CA. We were to bring 700 employees from the old stores to our company. The whole department was in on the Saturday before we were set to leave. The VP of Human Resources brought his wife in to help out. We were all rushing to get things done. I was having a bit of trouble, when I heard a



voice beside me ask, "How do you copy this?" I looked up to see the VP's wife standing in front of the HP printer thinking it was a copy machine. Trying not to laugh too hard, I explained the copy machine was down the hall.

{It never ends...}

We hired a new guy and I asked him to copy a file. He stared at the desktop for at least 15 minutes. Then he went to DOS. "Can you show me what to type in?"

{Gee, Windows provides facilities for that you know.}

One of our servers crashed. I was watching our new system administrator trying to restore it. He inserted a CD and started to type a path name to a directory named "i386." He started to type it and paused, asking me, "Where's the key for that line thing?" I asked what he was talking about, and he said, "You know, the one that looks like an upside-down exclamation mark." I replied, "You mean the letter i"? and he said, "Yeah, that's it!"

{Remedial alphabet and typing seem to be in order!}

73 & May the FARCE be with you! Clinton, AB7RG.  
[ AB7RG @ KB7FRV.AZ.USA.NOAM ]

=====  
Date: 14 Sep 94 04:38  
From: KA4AQQ@KF4OJ  
To: HUMOR@USA  
Subject: ALAS  
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ALAS

Tho I've taken my legal deductions  
(my tax-form acumen's transcendent)  
There doesn't exist  
Any place I can list  
The Gov't as a dependent

--  
From the Happy Club, 73 de Miguel  
KA4AQQ @ KF4OJ.#ARCFL.FL.USA.NOAM

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## Need Help?

Amateurs have a long history of helping each other. An experienced amateur who helps another is traditionally called an "Elmer." If you have a question or problem, you are encouraged to ask one of SCCARA's Elmers. Below is a list of topics including who to contact for each.

If you consider yourself to be reasonably competent

in at least one area of amateur radio and would be willing help others, please ask the club secretary for an Elmer survey form and fill it out.

Antennas, feed-lines, tuners:  
WB6EMR, AC6FU, K6PBQ, WB6YRU  
Lightning protection, grounding: WB6YRU  
Station set-up, equipment: AC6FU, K6PBQ  
TVI/RFI: WB6YRU  
Homebrew projects, construction: AC6FU, KD6FJI, WB6YRU  
Computers: KB6NP; IBM PC: WN6U, WB6YRU  
Packet Network (BBS, forwarding): WB6YRU  
Other digital modes (AMTOR, RTTY): WN6U  
Code operating and installations:  
WB6EMR, AC6FU, K6PBQ  
DX (long distance/propagation): WB6EMR  
Emergency operating/preparedness: WA6QYS  
FM (VHF/UHF, repeaters): WA6VJY  
HF operating techniques (SSB, CW):  
WB6EMR, AC6FU, K6PBQ  
Mobile operating: WN6U  
QRP (HF low power, all modes): WN6U  
TEN-TEN (10 M only): AC6FU  
Classes/license upgrading: W6ACW, AC6FU  
Legal/FCC rules: WB6YRU  
SCCARA (club inner workings):  
K06HH, K6PBQ, WA6VJY, WB6YRU, WA6QYS  
Math applications: AC6FU  
Children's Discovery Museum, volunteer operator: K6PBQ

W6ACW, Ed Hajny, (408) 739-6105

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

KD6FJI, Lloyd DeV Vaughns,  
day: (408) 299-8933, evening: (408) 225-6769  
packet: home BBS KB6MER

AC6FU, Jack L. Ruckman, (408) 379-4846

K06HH, Don Hayden, (408) 867-4643  
packet: home BBS NOARY

KB6NP, Jon Dutra, day & msg (408) 428-2058  
evening (408) 867-8654  
packet: home BBS NOARY  
internet: jad@aol.com

K6PBQ, Don Village, (408) 263-2789

WA6QYS, Lou Steirer, (408) 241-7999  
packet: home BBS NOARY

WN6U, Doug Eaton, (408) 377-3736  
packet: home BBS NOARY  
internet: wn6u@compuserve.com

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# ARRL Pacific Division Update

**May 1998**

## Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act

On March 27, Representatives Michael Bilirakis (R-FL-9<sup>th</sup>) and Ron Klink (D-PA-4<sup>th</sup>) introduced HR 3572, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1998.

The operational portion of the bill is Section 3 (see below), which, if passed, would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" if the Commission reallocates any primary or secondary Amateur Radio frequencies.

You can look up the full text of the bill on the House THOMAS web site at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c105:H.R.3572>:

The bill has been referred to the House Commerce Committee. While it is too early to offer any prognosis, the House only has about fifty days left actually in-session before the proposed October adjournment.

Our strategy must be very straightforward - a simple numbers game of gathering as many House cosponsors as we can.

Here is Section Three:

### "SEC. 3. FEDERAL POLICY REGARDING REALLOCATION OF AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM.

Section 303 of the Communications Act of 1934 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

(y) Notwithstanding subsection (c), after July 1, 1998:

(1) make no reallocation of primary allocations of bands of frequencies of the amateur radio service;

(2) not diminish the secondary allocations of bands of frequencies to the amateur radio service; and

(3) make no additional allocations within such bands of frequencies that would substantially reduce the utility thereof to the amateur radio service; unless the Commission, at the same time, provides equivalent replacement spectrum to the amateur radio service."

## Other News From the FCC

### Lower fees proposed for Vanity Calls

In a Notice of Proposed Rule Making released March 25 (MD Docket 98-36), the FCC proposes, among many other things, to change the fee for an amateur vanity call sign to \$1.29 per year for Fiscal Year 1998 (that is, \$12.90 for the ten-year term of the license instead of the current \$50). The details are in section 13 of Attachment H. Fiscal Year 1998 starts Oct. 1, 1998. It is also proposed that

there will be no refund from the current fee amounts to the new level for current Fiscal Year 1997 applicants.

Comments are due April 22, 1998, and reply comments by May 4. Comments must be in hard copy format. No e-mail comments will be accepted.

The entire document, which is fairly large because it deals with regulatory fees for all services, not just amateur, may be downloaded from: <http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Miscellaneous/Notices/1998/>

### Proposed new licensing procedure

On Mar. 20, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making, Docket WT 98-20, "To Facilitate the Development and Use of the Universal Licensing System in the Wireless Telecommunications Services." Comments must be filed by May 7, 1998, with reply comments by May 22. Comments must be in hard copy format. No e-mail comments will be accepted.

The NPRM apparently proposes no changes in privileges or qualifications for any class of license. Key goals appear to be:

1. Replacement of the venerable Form 610;
2. Elimination of the Form 610-A, thus providing paperless reciprocal licenses;
3. Proposed privatization of club licensing.
4. Require use of Taxpayer Identification Numbers (usually Social Security numbers).

The document is available at the FCC Web site, [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov). A link to the document can be found at [www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls/](http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls/).

### Electronic filing of documents in rulemaking proceedings

In GC Docket 97-113 amended its rules to allow the public to file comments and other pleadings electronically via the Internet using the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). The ECFS is currently available in proceedings specifically designated by the Commission, but will be available generally when the rules adopted on April 2 go into effect in "early June 1998." The Commission will issue a Public Notice indicating when the ECFS will officially be available for general use and how to use the new system.

## ARRL Asks FCC To Support Band Plans

On April 3, based on action taken at the January ARRL Board meeting, the League formally asked the FCC to issue a declaratory ruling to equate observance of voluntary band plans with "good amateur practice."

The League requests the Commission "at an early date" declare that good amateur practice "anticipates compliance with the accepted voluntary international, national, and regional band plans adopted by cooperation and coordination" within the Amateur Radio Service.

The League's filing builds on a 1983 declaration by

the Chief of the FCC's Private Radio Bureau that simplex operation on a recognized repeater frequency was contrary to good amateur practice.

A complete copy of the League's petition may be found on the ARRL Web site at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/declreq.pdf>.

## Ham Published in Scientific American

There was a great article in the April 1998 issue entitled, "Spread Spectrum Radio" by Dewayne Hendricks, WA8DZP, Assistant Director, and David Hughes. Congratulations, Dewayne and David!

## McGan Silver Antenna Award

Nominees are welcome for the seventh annual Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award, a chance to honor the ham who did the most to promote Amateur Radio in 1997. The McGan award was named for journalist Philip J. McGan, WA2MGQ (SK), the first chairman of the ARRL Public Relations Committee. It goes to the ARRL member who demonstrates volunteer public relations success on behalf of ham radio at the local, state or national level, and who best exemplifies the volunteer spirit of the award's namesake.

Public relations (as opposed to public service) activities are those specifically directed at bringing Amateur Radio to the public's attention in a positive light—typically through the media (newspapers, TV, radio).

Nominations for the seventh annual award are due May 29, 1998 at ARRL Headquarters, Newington, Connecticut, by 5:00 PM Eastern Time. Entry forms for the Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award are available from Jennifer Gagne, N1TDY, e-mail [jgagne@arrl.org](mailto:jgagne@arrl.org) or call 860-594-0328.

Send completed forms and supporting materials to Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award, care of Jennifer Gagne, N1TDY, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111.

## Applications for 1998 Scholarships

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington D. C., plans to administer sixty-six (66) scholarships for the academic year 1998-99 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds nine of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual Hamfest. The remaining fifty-seven are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies

beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2500 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Clubs are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters, during training classes, on their nets and on their WWW pages.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 1998, from FAR Scholarships, 6903 Rhode Island Ave., College Park MD 20740.

## Coming Events

- Livermore Swap Meet - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month at Las Positas College in Livermore, 7:00 AM to noon, all year. Talk in 147.045 from the west, 145.35 from the east. Contact Noel Anklam, KC6QZK, (510) 447-3857 eves.
- Foothill Flea Market - 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month from March to October at Foothill College, Los Altos Hills..
- Fair Oaks swap meets (near Sacramento) - Bella Vista High School, 8301 Madison Ave., on Madison Ave. east of Sunrise Blvd. April 18, May 31 and Aug. 15. 6:00 AM to noon.
- Placerville, every third Sunday, 3970 B Missouri Flat Rd #3 Placerville. 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Talk-in on 146.865-PL 142.2, 440.700+ PL 88.5. No fee, free parking. Hwy 50 East take Missouri Flat off-ramp. Go over Hwy to 2nd light, into shopping center in front of Radio Shack. See <http://www.inforum.net/h&h/radioswap.html>; e-mail [jwilson@inforum.net](mailto:jwilson@inforum.net), Jason Wilson KE6BUU.
- The Valley of the Moon ARC is holding its annual hamfest Saturday, April 25, 1998, at the Sonoma Veteran's Memorial Bldg., 126 First St. West, Sonoma. Talk in 145.35-PL 88.5. Contact Darrel Jones, WD6BOR at [wd6bor@aol.com](mailto:wd6bor@aol.com) or (H) (707) 996-4494.
- The International DX Convention, sponsored by the Southern California DX Club: Holiday Inn, Visalia, CA, May 1-3, 1998. Admission is \$55 by Apr. 15 and \$60 at the door. Make checks payable to "International DX Convention" and send to Don Bostrom, N6IC, 4447 Atoll Ave., Sherman Oaks, CA 91423. Call (818) 784-2590. Or contact Rick Samoian, W6SR, (714) 993-0713 or (310) 616-3912.

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# S.C.C.A.R.A. Membership Form for 1998

(Fill in name and address if there is no mailing label below; make corrections if the label is incorrect)

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

For family memberships (at the same address), please list other name(s) and call(s):

Annual membership dues are payable at the first of the year and expire the following December 31.  
New members joining on or after July 1, pay half the membership dues.

Annual Membership dues: ☐ Individual \$15 ☐ Family \$20 ☐ Student (under 18) \$5 \_\_\_\_\_

I want \_\_\_\_\_ SCCARA badges @ \$3 ea. Badge name & call: \_\_\_\_\_ ....

Please send the repeater Auto-Dial/Auto-Patch codes (no charge, circle): ..... Yes  
WE MUST BE ABLE TO VERIFY YOUR AMATEUR LICENSE  
BEFORE ANY REPEATER CODES WILL BE SENT TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

Give this completed form (or copy) with payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or  
mail to the return address below:

== PLEASE DO NOT TEAR/CUT ==

SANTA CLARA COUNTY  
AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 6  
San Jose CA 95103-0006

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League

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