

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 15, Number 6

June 1999



Let's Go To Field Day 1999!

The month of June always brings us a great opportunity to get together in our mutual hobby and have a great time. I refer to Field Day of course! I call it an *opportunity* because that is exactly what it is, an *opportunity* to enjoy the great outdoors and a very nice county park, an *opportunity* to be part of an organized group effort to go back to basics and get a station on-the-air, an *opportunity* to strengthen our membership through the spirit of friendly competition with other groups around the country and within our own club.

Field Day is a win-win situation if you decide to take the time and make the effort to be there. You win because you will take home a good feeling that you contributed to our effort and the club will win because you were there. I strongly as possible urge you to make plans to be there.

The set-up group will again meet at Carl's Jr at Branham and Almaden around 1 PM on Friday, June 25th, then go up in a convoy. That group will include those bringing computers, rigs, shelters and other necessary equipment. If you would like a ride, please let me or one of the committee members know. We will try to arrange a ride for every interested person who doesn't have transportation. Don't be shy--ASK!

The set-up group will make their way to Mount Madonna Park (we'll be on our repeater) and begin the equipment setup on Friday afternoon. As always, a BBQ will make the night sky heavy with the aromas of chili, hot dogs and burgers. Bring what you like as we will have a fire going for you!

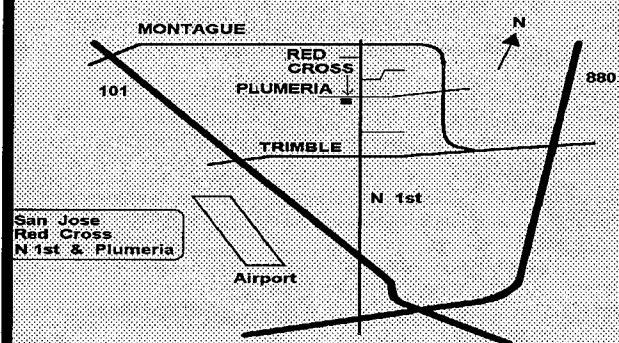
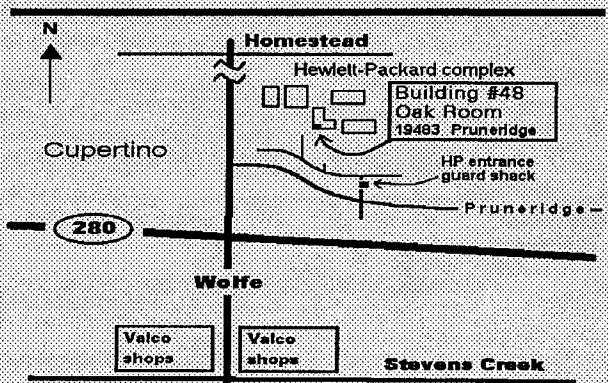
Friday night will also give us a chance to test equipment and propagation. I have heard that propagation is not good this year so we will be running the full 150 watts of power we are allowed. We will again have a CW, Phone and VHF/UHF station plus we are planning on having a Novice station. What we need is operators, young or old--we need you!

Calendar

- 6/12 Foothill Flea Market
- 6/14 SCCARA General Meeting
- 6/21 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 6/26-27 Field Day

Next General Meeting:

- Day: Monday, June 14, 1999
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: Hewlett-Packard's Oak Rm, Bld #48
- Featuring: Dan WM6M will talk about Field Day this year and batteries.



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, our repeater is W6UU.
Web page: <http://www.qsl.net/sccara>

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

OFFICERS - DIRECTORS - STAFF

President	Barbara Britten, KD6QEI	293-3847
Vice President	Bob Forster, N6PCQ	296-5509
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
Facilities	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789

COMMITTEES

Repeater	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
N0ARY BBS	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	265-2336
Field Day	Dan Dietz, WM6M (831) 430-9650	

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.

N0ARY PACKET BBS

SCCARA hosts the packet BBS N0ARY (just east of down town San Jose). User ports: 144.93 (1200 baud), 433.37 (9600 baud), telephone 408 259-8497, internet (by registration only, get info by sending e-mail to: info@n0ary.org). Sysop: Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, packet: wb6yru@n0ary.nca.ca.usa.noam, e-mail: wb6yru@aenet.net.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

SCCARA contact Clark KE6KXO: 408 243-8349
ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group: 408 243-8349
me-ae6z@worldnet.att.net

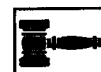
If you can not come to Field Day, please consider operating from your home station to give out contacts. There is a class for that type of operation. You won't get any Field Day points but everyone that you work will appreciate working you.

Finally, I encourage you to ask friends, family, relatives and others you may know to come and see what we do every June. Better yet--BRING THEM!

73, Dan, WM6M (Field Day chairman)

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, May 10, 1999



{No minutes were received by the deadline}

Board Meeting, May 17, 1999



Present: Robert, N6PCQ; Wally, KA6YMD; Dan, WM6M; Gary, WB6YRU; Lou, WA6QYS; Don, K6PBQ; Clark, KE6EXO; Lloyd, KD6FJI; Don, KK6MX

7:40 p.m. Meeting called to order by Robert, N6PCQ, Vice President.

Robert, N6PCQ, first topic, Business cards: Gary, WB6YRU, had some samples of business cards. There was a discussion of what we want and/or need on the business card.

Motion by Clark, KE6EXO, to accept one of the business cards. Second and passed. The cards will be printed by Gary, WB6YRU, on an as needed basis.

The next topic, Field Day, the Field Day chairman is Dan, WM6M. Dan discussed field day and the logistics involved and how we can get publicity for us. There was some discussion about the trailer and any repairs needed. We also discussed the number of antennas, modes and novice station.

Gary, WB6YRU, the Office Depot will photocopy the newsletter at about the same price as Wolf Camera. The only problem is that there is no work space to put the newsletter together.

Lloyd, KD6FJI, the new bank account has been established at Union bank. The old account at Bank of The West has not been closed due to lack of a second signer to the account

not being available. Lloyd gave Robert the name of Mr. Jerry McKee, KA6GZO, who donated \$100.00 to SCCARA. Don Village, K6PBQ, helped in stall a vertical antenna at Mr. McKee's QTH.

Don, K6PBQ, discussed having a picnic. The picnic will be pot luck due to the SCCARA budget limitations. The picnic will be the last weekend in August.

9:43 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Lloyd, KD6FJI

BBS Report

Wally KD6YMD and I spent most of Sunday May 23, installing the 23 cm antenna at the BBS site. Unfortunately, there seems to be some software problem getting the BBS to communicate with the TNC. So, at least from a hardware perspective, N0ARY BBS is now ready to link up to the packet backbone.

This is the last planned work and expense that needed to be done regarding the installation of the BBS at the Alexian site. From here on, expenses will be just repair/maintenance and any upgrades we may decide to do later.

Gary WB6YRU, Repeater Committee

News from ARRL

The ARRL Letter, April 30, 1999

FCC DROPS ENFORCEMENT LINE, WANTS E-MAIL

The FCC says it now wants Amateur Radio enforcement complaints via e-mail or US mail and has discontinued its Amateur Enforcement Line (202-418-1184). The FCC this week requested that amateur-related complaints be sent via e-mail to fccham@fcc.gov or via the US Postal Service to Compliance & Information Bureau, ATTN Amateur Radio Complaints, 1270 Fairfield Rd, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

The FCC instituted the telephone service last fall when it beefed up amateur enforcement under the direction of Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH. However, the FCC never intended to maintain the telephone service permanently.

The FCC said this week that complaints already filed on the telephone service will be acted upon, and anyone who has left a message will receive a return call from Commission staff.

FCC WON'T EXPAND SPECIAL EVENT CALL SIGNS

The FCC has denied the ARRL's petition that sought to expand the Amateur Radio special event call sign program. The League had asked the FCC to amend its rules to permit the use of special event call sign formats that go beyond the current one-by-one (1x1) format now authorized. The petition also had asked the Commission to include within the special event program call signs denoting US territories and possessions having no mailing address.

In an April 21 letter to League, D'Wana Terry, chief of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division within the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau said the FCC was "not persuaded that the requested changes to the system are warranted at this time." The League's petition was submitted May 18, 1998, but it was never assigned a rulemaking number or put out for public comment.

ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, called Terry's decision "somewhat disappointing."

The special event call sign program is administered by several private sector coordinators, including the ARRL. Those wanting a special event call sign for a limited period are able to reserve one via the Internet. Under current rules, 750 combinations of 1x1 format call signs are available for limited periods. Stations operating with special event call signs still must identify with the station's regularly assigned call sign at one-hour intervals.

In its petition, the League said there has been significant demand for special event call signs outside of the 1x1 format and for DXpeditions to locations under US jurisdiction that lack US Postal Service addresses. The League also said that there has been "a great deal of interest" in additional special event call sign formats that would let the call sign symbolize a particular event or type of event.

Terry said the FCC has not received any indication from the Amateur Radio community that demand for special event call signs exceeded the number available. She also said the need to create additional formats was outweighed by the complexity of creating them. She advised more experience with the current system before deciding to change it, and she urged the League to continue to monitor demand for special event call signs. Sumner said he was encouraged that the FCC, while denying the petition, had invited the League to revisit the issue later.

THE PERFECT H-T FOR FIELD DAY?

Just when you thought modern H-Ts had included just about every feature conceivable, along comes Alinco with its new DJ-195T that includes--get this--an experimental "mosquito repel" feature. Alinco USA Branch Manager Katsumi Nakata, KE6RD, says the unit emits an electronic

tone to keep the annoying insects away from the vicinity of the radio. "It's a feature we added just for fun," Nakata said. "The mosquito repel feature could make the DJ-195T the first radio capable of de-bugging a Field Day operating position," he added with a smile. (Hmmm. Was that announcement dated April 1?)

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the packet network:

=====

From: KB3BBG@AA3CH

To: HUMOR@USA

Subject: Poptpourri.

Sam and Joe were waiting for the soccer match to begin.

"I bet I could tell you the score of the game before it begins," said Sam. Joe, who loved to bet, bet him \$15.00 that he couldn't.

"Well, what is it, smarty pants?" inquired Joe sarcastically. "Zero-zero." Sam replied and took his money.

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

NTS & traffic handling:

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 DeVaughns,
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

WA6VJY, Stan Getsla, day: (408) 738-2888 x5929,
evening & msg: (408) 275-0735

WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, msg (408) 265-2336
also (408) 269-2924
packet: home BBS NOARY
internet: wb6yru@aenet.net

Newsletter Notes

We were in for a bit of a surprise when we took the May issue in to be copied at our usual place (Wolf Camera & Video)--all the copiers had been replaced by telescope displays! Now, I have nothing against telescopes--I have one myself which gets used often--but a little advance notice would have been nice.

We had to make an "emergency run" over to Kinko's. They have a nice place to work (preparing the newsletter for mailing), but their prices are about twice as much.

Fortunately, Office Depo has a copy center with prices similar to Wolf, so our newsletter costs will not change much. On the down side, Office Depo doesn't have adequate space available for us to work.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

ARRL Pacific Division Update

June 1999

Hollingsworth: Man of the Hour

The FCC's Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, exhorted a standing-room-only crowd at the Dayton Hamvention to "read over the basis and purpose of Amateur Radio and the rules in Part 97" and to operate as if youngsters and overseas stations might be listening in. He made the remarks Friday, May 14, during the first of two FCC forums in Hara Arena.

Calling Amateur Radio "an American institution," Hollingsworth momentarily assumed the mantle of the ham radio evangelist. Ham radio, he said, is "not about the First Amendment, it's not about slandering somebody you don't like, it's not about ridiculing somebody who's operating 10 kHz away, it's not about jamming or obscenity." Nor, he said, is it intended to be a talk show or an "electromagnetic forum for hate groups" or "an audio version of The Jerry Springer Show."

Hollingsworth called the on-air activities of some hams "childish and stupid--and 20 years ago we called that CB" and said the hobby does not always present its best face to the world. He also said hams need to understand that demand for HF spectrum in countries outside the US is increasing.

"Too many in our service take the allocations for granted," he said. Hollingsworth suggested that, in the international arena, Amateur Radio can do just as much damage as good. "Some of the Third World countries would love to have 75 meters as a national telephone system," he said. What does transpire on some amateur frequencies "is often an international embarrassment," he said.

"Having a right to do something doesn't mean it's right to do it," he said, advising the hams on hand to "look at the big picture here and save our service." He asked hams to not retaliate against hams who are offensive on the air or who break the law but to shun them instead. He also challenged each ham to recruit one newcomer into the hobby or to help another licensee to upgrade. "And don't forget about young girls," he added.

Hollingsworth took advantage of the forum to openly question the behavior of The Liberty Net. "I don't get the connection yet," he said, between what Liberty Net participants do on the air and the basis and purpose of Amateur Radio. He suggested that young people listening to The Liberty Net probably would consider it "stupid," and that

parents would not want their kids hearing it.

"What kind of service is it when you're afraid to leave on the radio in the house or the car?" he asked. Hollingsworth said he even knew of a young Extra class amateur whose parents won't let him on 75 meters.

Hollingsworth also pointed out that the Amateur Service is not the only one with enforcement issues. "The percentage of violations that you would expect in the Amateur Service was way low, because we probably have as much or more unlicensed operation in some of the commercial services as we do in amateur." Even after years of FCC enforcement neglect, Hollingsworth, the problems in the Amateur Service are not as bad as they could have been.

He also emphasized that Amateur Radio still has a major public service role to play in providing emergency communication.

"Every ham in American has a decision to make: Are you going to be a part of the problem or are you going to be part of the solution?" he said.

Commercial interests are eyeing amateur frequencies, he said, and hams should not lose their bands by default. "Amateur Radio has survived world wars, it's survived depressions, it's survived all the incredible explosions in technology, and if it's lost, we're going to be the ones who will lose it," he said. Hams themselves will determine the fate of Amateur Radio. "We have an awesome responsibility."

In response to a question from the audience, Hollingsworth revealed that FCC officials that morning had attempted to visit the station of Glenn Baxter, K1MAN, in Belgrade Lakes, Maine. Baxter heads the American Amateur Radio Association; his on-the-air talk and news transmissions have been the subject of some controversy within the amateur community. Hollingsworth said that, although Baxter's station was on the air, no one came to the door and the building appeared to be locked--with a padlock in one case.

Hollingsworth delivered similar remarks at a second FCC forum on Sunday, May 16, where he shared the podium with Bill Cross, W3TN, of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. Hollingsworth also addressed a Drake collectors group on Saturday. He received an enthusiastic reception at all three venues and often was accosted after his presentations by those who wanted to thank him for renewing the FCC's amateur enforcement program. Some even sought his autograph.

Hollingsworth and an FCC field office team from the Commission's Detroit office spent several hours doing enforcement work at the Hamvention itself. The field office personnel attempted, without success, to determine the sources of intentional interference on the Hamvention's 2-meter talk-in frequency. At least one source appeared to

be mobile.

FCC personnel also cited or verbally warned several vendors about violations related to the sale of amplifiers. Cited were: Donald W. Hewitt, K5JLI, Worth- More Electronics of Tomball, Texas, for manufacturing and selling external RF power amplifiers that operate below 144 MHz; Richard D. Pierce, N2QPQ, Kettering Ohio, for selling external RF power amplifiers that operate between 24 and 35 MHz. Models included the Comet 350, the Varmint Linear XL-50, and the Magnum 125. Pierce also was warned that he was in violation of FCC rules for offering to sell a Galaxy Saturn radio that transmitted on the Citizens Band and was not FCC certified; Emtron Industries' Rudolf Breznik was cited for manufacturing and selling external RF power amplifiers that operate below 144 MHz. FCC certification had not been applied for.

Receiving oral warnings relating to amplifier marketing were Acom International of Sudbury, Massachusetts, for not displaying a certification disclaimer at its booth; and QRO Technologies of Bryan, Ohio, and Command Technologies of Denver, Colorado, for failing to display disclaimers that certain models cannot be sold in the US and were for export only.

Hollingsworth said repeat violations at future hamfests could result in a \$7000 fine. Thanks, ARRL Members Only web site. Be sure to read the related enforcement stories in June QST "Happenings" pages 79 to 82. The ARRL Members Only section of the ARRL web site at www.arrl.org contains late-breaking enforcement reports.

FCC Comes to Terms with Grizzly Peak Licensee

An agreement has been struck to let the San Francisco Bay Area's K7IJ Grizzly Peak repeater system return to the air. The FCC's top Amateur Radio Enforcer, Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, announced a negotiated settlement May 14 at an FCC forum at the Dayton Hamvention. The K7IJ repeater system was shut down by the FCC March 5 after Commission officials determined it was out of control of the licensee, Bruce Wachtell, K7IJ, and primary control operator Blake Jenkins, N6YSA. The case involved evidence that had been developed by members of the Amateur Auxiliary.

Among other conditions, the K7IJ repeaters will have to provide for a "live, real-time control operator" at all times, in order to be allowed back on the airwaves.

The shutdown followed complaints that Jenkins routinely allowed unlicensed individuals to use the repeater and that he and others engaged in prohibited practices on the air. Along with the shutdown notice to K7IJ licensee Bruce Wachtell of Carson City, Nevada, Warning Notices went to

several K7IJ regulars alleging behavior that included airing cordless telephone and air traffic control conversations as well as profane language.

Hollingsworth has been discussing possible resolutions to the K7IJ situation with Wachtell and Jenkins for several weeks now. "If this doesn't work, we're gonna shut 'em down again without hesitation," he told the ARRL. Most of the negotiating took place via e-mail exchanges between Hollingsworth and Wachtell, a radio operator aboard a container ship in the Pacific.

In addition to requiring a live, full-time control op, the five-point "K7IJ Repeater Agreement" requires the repeater operators to configure an audio stream to let the FCC monitor the repeaters at all times. Additionally, stations not known to the control operator would have to identify at the beginning of their transmissions, not just after 10 minutes.

To deter unlicensed operators from using the machines, the control operator would have to announce that the repeater "does not welcome or tolerate unlicensed users." The control operator would have to turn off the machine and report it to the Commission if unlicensed operators persisted in attempting to use the repeaters.

Licensed stations not abiding by FCC rules on the K7IJ repeaters would be asked to bring their operation into compliance. If the improper or illegal operation continued, the control operator could decide either to turn off the repeater or to leave it up and report the matter to the FCC. The agreement makes it clear that the licensee's responsibility is subject to the provisions of 97.205(g) relating to inadvertent retransmissions by repeaters.

"This is a good-faith agreement," Hollingsworth said. If the repeaters are operated in compliance with the conditions, Wachtell and Jenkins will avoid further enforcement action.

In a related action, Hollingsworth recently recalled K7IJ regular Timmy O. Sheen Jr., N6MZA, of Sacramento for retesting. Hollingsworth said he's been in touch with Sheen and said he expects him to appear for retesting.

A few other operators were warned and recent license grants were set aside in connection with the K7IJ shutdown. Hollingsworth said the FCC would deal with those cases individually. Thanks, ARRL Members Only web site.

FCC Sets Aside Multiple Club Station Grants

The FCC has set aside 14 recently granted club station call signs and 12 recently granted club vanity call signs held by an individual trustee. The FCC's Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, took the action May 11 in a letter to Motoaki Uotome, W9BO, of Honolulu, Hawaii. Uotome is the trustee for 35

club station call signs in various cities in the continental US as well as in Hawaii, the Marianas, Guam, and Alaska.

The action is the first of several that Hollingsworth said he expects to take, and it could have implications for other holders of multiple club station call signs. "They'd better have legitimate clubs or they're coming back to us," Hollingsworth told the ARRL today. "We're getting a lot of complaints that people are scarfing up these call signs."

Hollingsworth said the FCC is not concerned about a single club station call sign used by a club or a DX or contesting group, but he emphasized that the FCC will not tolerate abuse of the system. He indicated similar letters soon would go out to other licensees who serve as trustees for multiple club station call signs.

Hollingsworth told Uotome that the FCC was setting aside 14 call signs granted within the last 30 days "pursuant to 1.113 of the Commission's rules." In addition, Hollingsworth said the FCC was setting aside 12 vanity call signs issued to Uotome in the last 30 days.

Several club station call signs granted for more than 30 days will remain in the FCC database for now, but Hollingsworth asked Uotome to "provide justification within 30 days as to the need for each of these call signs."

Hollingsworth said that he wants to know names, addresses, and telephone numbers of club members, meeting times and dates within the past year, proposed meeting times and locations within the coming year, and copies of minutes, if any, taken at meetings within the last three months.

Hollingsworth said the FCC intends to cancel all of the listed call signs if Uotome does not "satisfactorily respond" to his inquiry within 30 days. He also warned that any willful misrepresentation or deliberate omission in replying would lead to revocation of Uotome's Amateur Radio license. Thanks, ARRL Members Only web site.

FCC Spikes Restructuring Rumors at Dayton

The big FCC announcement about Amateur Radio license restructuring that many hams erroneously had been expecting at the Dayton Hamvention turned out to be that there would be no announcement. Speaking to a packed house at the Sunday FCC forum at Dayton Hamvention, Bill Cross, W3TN, of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau spiked rumors that the FCC would have something substantive to say at Dayton about restructuring, WT Docket 98-143.

"I can confirm without reservation that the rumors that have been flying fast and furious as to what the Commission has decided or will decide are just rumors," he said, after baiting the audience at the start of his talk. He said the Commission

had not decided anything as of mid-May.

Cross said the FCC received 2250 comments from the amateur community in the proceeding. "The paper comments fill two Xerox boxes in my office," he said. "They and the electronic ones have been read, summarized, categorized, analyzed, tabulated, etc." Although the comment deadline passed in January, comments continue to straggle in, he said.

"Most of you thought that three or four operator classes was enough." The League's proposal has recommended a four-license structure, eliminating the Novice and Tech Plus classes and grandfathering those licensees into General. Other proposals called for three license classes. The FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking also called for eliminating the Novice license and combining Tech and Tech Plus licensees into the same database for administrative purposes.

Cross inferred that the FCC would establish either three or four license classes. He told the forum that he could "safely say" that whatever the FCC finally decides, it will not offer the same number or more license classes or any new ones, nor will it call for one or two license classes. "There isn't much support for going this way," he said of a two-tier system.

Based on the comments received, Cross said, many hams believe amateur examinations are not testing on the correct information. "You all really want change here," he said. He invited hams to suggest questions to the Question Pool Committee, the body that comes up with the questions that appear on amateur exams. (Ray Adams, W4CPA, is chairman). "If you think your exams are not asking questions on the right material, it is because the right questions are not making it into the question pool."

But Cross said comments on Morse code testing standards "drew the most passionate responses." The League has suggested 5 WPM and 12 WPM testing tiers. One commenter, Cross said, had suggested raising the top speed to 40 WPM. He said those expecting a new top speed above 20 WPM would be disappointed.

In other remarks, Cross said the FCC has issued some 14,000 vanity call signs, some the products of "truly astonishing" creativity on the part of the applicants. He said the FCC has received a few complaints about vanity call signs deemed objectionable but added, "We do not censor call signs." Vanity applications continue to show up at the FCC at a rate of approximately 1000 a month.

Cross also said the Universal Licensing System would be going into effect for Amateur Radio later this year, and it will incorporate the vanity call sign program. The system will replace the venerable Form 610 series with a new, inclusive electronic document known as Form 605. ULS will permit amateurs to file applications, modifications or renewals via

the Internet. Individual hams will not be required to file electronically, however.

He encouraged hams to register for the ULS. "So far, about 5800 of you have registered," he said. "We have another 745,000 of you to go." For more information, visit the FCC's Amateur Radio page, <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/amateur/>, Thanks, ARRL Members Only web site.

Send suggested amateur examination questions to:
Ray Adams, W4CPA, QPC Chairman 6702 Matterhorn Ct
Knoxville TN 37918-6314

Copies would be appreciated to:

- W5YI VEC PO Box 565101 Dallas TX 75356-5101
- Scotty Neustadter, W4WW 9710 Dortmund Dr SE Huntsville AL 35803-1116
- Bart Jahnke, W9JJ ARRL VEC 225 Main St Newington CT 06111

ARRL Urges FCC to "Hurry Up"

The ARRL has urged the FCC to act "without delay" on Amateur Radio restructuring and has suggested that the Commission adopt the League's restructuring plan as its own in order to speed up the process. In a letter May 19 to FCC Chairman William Kennard and the five FCC Commissioners, the League says that the state of limbo created by the current FCC Amateur Radio restructuring proceeding, WT Docket 98-143, is stifling Amateur Radio's growth, as current and prospective hams await an FCC Report and Order.

"This is antithetical to the goal of the proceeding," the League said. It asked the FCC to adopt the League's plan in a Report and Order "at the earliest possible time."

The ARRL told the FCC that its comprehensive plan of four license classes and two Morse code testing tiers--5 WPM and 12 WPM--plus re-farming of the Novice/Technician Plus HF CW sub-bands "constitutes a reasonable middle ground proposal." The ARRL's restructuring proposal formed the core of the League's comments to the FCC on WT 98-143, which the FCC refers to as the Part 97 Biennial Review. Both the FCC and ARRL proposals would eliminate the Novice and Tech Plus licenses. The ARRL's letter stressed that "refarming" of the Novice class sub-bands was "the most critical portion of the League's comprehensive plan, or, indeed, of any license restructuring plan the Commission may adopt." The League said refarming was "essential" to make room for anticipated additional licensees using SSB HF sub-bands. In addition, the League said, refarming "is absolutely necessary to preserve and enhance the incentive self-training program" and to ensure more efficient use of limited HF allocations. Under the League's plan, General, Advanced, and Extra class licensees would get additional HF spectrum for phone operation.

"The League offers its comprehensive plan in toto, as the best means of accomplishing increased growth in the Amateur Service and the continuation of the value of the Service as a foundation cornerstone of telecommunications development," the League's letter said.

Judging from comments made at the Dayton Hamvention FCC forum by William Cross, W3TN, of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, no substantive progress has been made toward formulating Amateur Service rules changes beyond reading, analyzing, and tabulating comments. Cross said no decisions had been made on WT Docket 98-143 as of May 13. The FCC received 2250 comments from the amateur community in the proceeding.

In its letter, the League took the opportunity to express appreciation for the support for the Amateur Service by both Kennard and WTB Chief Thomas Sugrue and to thank the FCC for the renewed enforcement efforts of Compliance and Information Bureau Chief Richard Lee and CIB Legal Advisor Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH.

"Their innovation and dedication to purpose, together with your timely reemphasis on regulatory compliance, has reinvigorated the Amateur Service and represents the finest tradition of government service to the public," the letter concluded. Thanks ARRL Members Only web site.

Update on Spectrum Protection Act

It's round two in Congress for the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act. At the request of the ARRL, Rep Michael Bilirakis introduced the 1999 version of the proposed legislation, HR 783, on February 23. As of April 12, the bill had received 33 co-sponsors including Pacific Division Congresswoman Mink (HI 2) and Congressman Farr (CA 17). Great work in so short a time!

The bill is aimed at ensuring the availability of spectrum to Amateur Radio operators. It would protect existing Amateur Radio spectrum against reallocations to or sharing with other services unless the FCC provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" elsewhere. Bilirakis, a Florida Republican, also sponsored last year's measure, which attracted upwards of 83 cosponsors on both sides of the aisle. Rep Frank Pallone Jr., a New Jersey Democrat, is the initial cosponsor of the 1999 bill.

ARRL Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Steve Mansfield, N1MZA, says the 1999 bill "is largely the same as last year's HR 3572." The major difference is that the 1999 version adds "Amateur Satellite Service" frequencies to "Amateur Radio Service" in detailing the frequencies that would be afforded protection under the act.

Specifically, HR 783 would amend the Communications Act to require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement

spectrum" to Amateur Radio and the Amateur Satellite Service in the event of a reallocation of primary amateur allocations, any reduction in secondary amateur allocations, or "additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce the utility thereof" to amateurs.

Mansfield said it's too soon to predict how HR 783 will fare in the new Congress, but said the fact that it has been introduced so early in the session "bodes well for our prospects." He said that a number of the cosponsors from last year already have indicated an interest in signing on again, "so I think we'll have a lot of support."

A copy of the measure is available via the Thomas Web site <http://thomas.loc.gov/>. Thanks, ARRL Bulletin.

E-mail Addresses Available to Members

ARRL members can now announce their ARRL membership through their e-mail addresses! A new membership service is available for those wishing to have an ARRL e-mail address, and you won't have to switch e-mail services to do it. Not only that, but it will be free-of-charge to League members!

The new, personalized League e-mail addresses will consist of the member's call sign @arrl.net. Electronic mail sent to the address automatically will be forwarded to any e-mail account you choose.

As long as you remain an ARRL member, you'll never have to notify people of an address change - even if you change Internet service providers.

Members are able to sign up quickly and easily through the ARRL Members Only Web Site. If you are not already registered for the Members Only Web Site, you can do so at <http://www.arrl.org/members/>.

Pac. Div. Winners of ARRL Scholarships

DeLynn Bettencourt, KE6FWU, of Crows Landing, CA, is the winner of a General Scholarship Fund Award. She will graduate from Turlock High School this month and plans to attend California State University in Fresno to take Electrical Engineering. She is also the winner of the Smittcamp Family Honors College Award.

Derrill Dabkoski, AC6UY, of San Francisco, CA, is the winner of the Charles N. Fisher Memorial Scholarship Award. He is currently attending City College of San Francisco and is transferring to the University of California Berkeley this fall as a junior. He will be studying in the EE and Computer Science Department.

Congratulations to both DeLynn and Derrill! Thanks, ARRL Foundation.

Pac. Div. Section Managers Re-elected

Bob Davis, K7IY, the incumbent Nevada Section Manager, and Don Costello, W7WN, the incumbent San Joaquin Valley Section Manager, both were unopposed for reelection so were named to new two year terms. Congratulations Bob and Don and thanks for all your work during the last two years!

Dayton A.R.A. Scholarships

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association is accepting applications for its annual scholarship awards. The DARA Scholarship Program is open initially to any Amateur Radio operator graduating from high school in 1999. There are no restrictions on course of study, nor does the student need to be pursuing a four-year baccalaureate degree, but schools selected must be accredited. Awards are made on a nondiscriminatory basis. Selection criteria include financial need, scholastic achievement, contributions to Amateur Radio, and community involvement. Decisions of the DARA Scholarship Committee are final. Maximum individual awards are \$2000. For an application and full details, send an SASE to DARA Scholarships, 45 Cinnamon Ct., Springboro, OH 45066. Application deadline is June 15, 1999. Thanks Stan Kuck, NY8F.

Coming Events

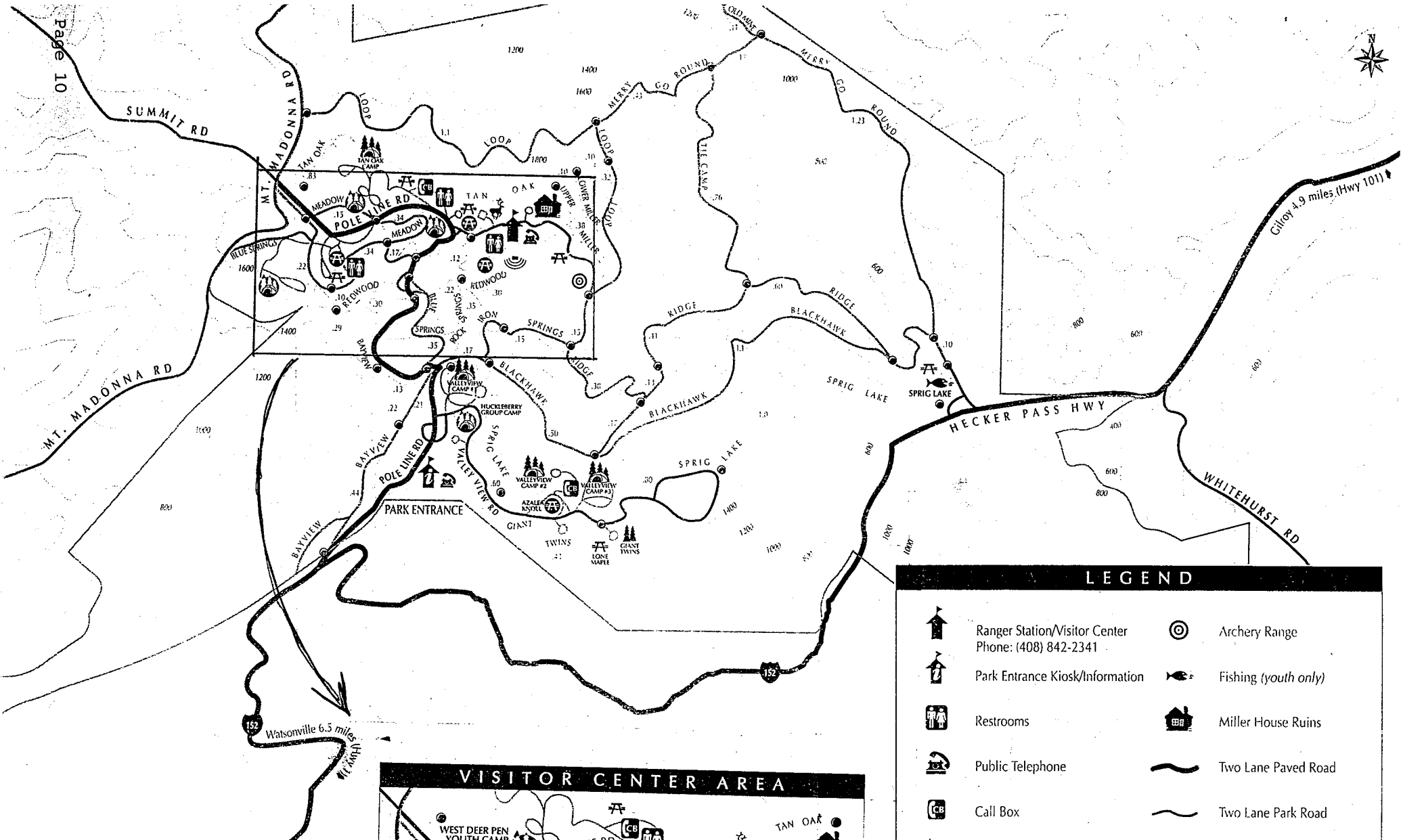
- Livermore Swap Meet - 1st Sunday of each month at Las Positas College in Livermore, CA, 7:00 AM to noon, all year. Talk in 147.045 from west, 145.35 from the east. Contact Cliff Kibbe, KF6EII, (209) 835-6715, e-mail larkswap@hotmail.com.
- Foothill Flea Market - 2nd Saturday of each month from March to October at Foothill College, Los Altos Hills, CA.
- Western States Weak Signal Society (WSWSS) will have their summer meeting on June 5, 10:00AM, at Baker's Square Restaurant, Harbor Blvd. and Hwy. 50.
- ARRL Field Day, June 26 & 27. For complete details see May QST pages 95 and 96. General contest rules are on the ARRL web site at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>.

Brad Wyatt, K6WR
Director, ARRL Pacific Division

18400 Overlook Rd. #5
Los Gatos CA 95030-5850
(408) 395-2501 (voice & fax)

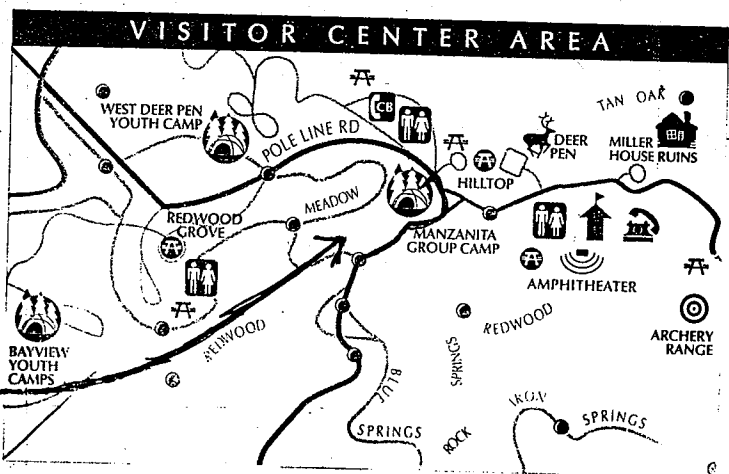
Packet: K6WR @ N0ARY.#NCA.CA.USA.NOAM
Internet: k6wr@arrl.org
Pacific Division Web site <http://www.pdarrrl.org/>





Enter the Manzanita
camp area at the upper
right.

WE WILL BE HERE



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---------------------------|
| | Ranger Station/Visitor Center
Phone: (408) 842-2341 | | Archery Range |
| | Park Entrance Kiosk/Information | | Fishing (youth only) |
| | Restrooms | | Miller House Ruins |
| | Public Telephone | | Two Lane Paved Road |
| | Call Box | | Two Lane Park Road |
| | Reserved Campground | | One Lane Paved Road |
| | Campground | | Equestrian/Hiking Trail |
| | Reserved Group Picnic Area | | Footpath (hiking only) |
| | Picnic Area | | Elevation Contours (feet) |
| | Amphitheater | | Trail Distance (miles) |

Field Day is coming up!

1999 Field Day contest weekend is June 26 & 27. Mark your calendars!

For those who are new to Field Day or amateur radio: Field Day is one of the biggest radio contests of the year. The underlying idea is to give amateurs practice making contacts under disaster conditions. This means the participants are encouraged to set up and operate portable stations powered by something other than PG&E. You can operate at home, but it's better (worth more points) to "setup shop" elsewhere. For the past several years we have been going up to Mt. Madonna County Park (Southern end of the county). We usually have a variety of stations and antennas. The stations have included phone, CW, digital, novice, solar, VHF, etc. The antennas have been: beams on towers (one is a sizable crank-up on a specially made trailer), a long wire, and miscellaneous dipoles and verticals. The more exotic the power source, the better. We usually use batteries, generators, and solar cells. We operate under a classification where several transceivers are on the air at one time. We are allowed a certain amount of time to set up--that's why some of us go up Friday afternoon. Once set up, we have 24 hours (starting at a specific time) to make as many contacts as possible. It's a lot of fun and a great way to hone those operating skills! Everyone is encouraged to participate. You can make a weekend of it or just show up for part of it, whatever you like.

The SCCARA Field Day weekend will again be held at Mt. Madonna County Park on June 26 & 27. Anyone who joins the set-up group going up on Friday, June 25 and stays through Sunday, helping with both setup and tear-down, will be able to stay for free. All others need to pay the camping fee of \$8.00 per night per vehicle. Those who won't be staying overnight will be responsible for paying the "day use" fee themselves at the Park entrance. Dan WM6M is the 1999 Field Day Committee Chairman. If you would like to get more involved, contact Dan by phone: 831 430-9650 or e-mail: dand@mrbattery.com.

The set-up group plans to meet for lunch on Friday, June 25 around 1 PM at Carl's Jr. at Branham and Almaden. We then take off in a convoy to Mt. Madonna, chatting along the way (this by itself is kind of fun). We'll be on our repeater 146.385(+), switching to simplex (146.385) once we get into the mountains. Anyone may join the set-up group.

The club will be serving a BBQ dinner at 1:00 PM on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday morning. The Saturday dinner will be your choice of steak or chicken, plus all the "fix'ns." Please indicate your choice on this sign up sheet. The cost of the dinner is \$11 per person and the Sunday breakfast is \$5 per person. You must pay for these meals in advance so we'll know how much food to buy--**Monday, June 21 is the cutoff date** (Board meeting). All other meals are pot-luck (nobody goes hungry) or fend for yourself if you wish. (Barbara will be bringing CDF Chili again...very popular.)

We're expecting a great Field Day this year, so please come join us!

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Overnight camping fee @ \$8.00 / night / vehicle: \$ _____

OR

_____ I will join the set-up group going up Friday, then help tear-down Sunday.

_____ Saturday steak dinner(s) @ \$11.00 / person: \$ _____

_____ Saturday chicken dinner(s) @ \$11.00 / person: \$ _____

_____ Sunday breakfast(s) @ \$5.00 / person: \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Please fill out this sign up sheet (or copy) and get it to Barbara by Monday, June 21. Deliver it by hand at the next club meeting or mail it with your check (payable to SCCARA) to:

Barbara Britten, KD6QEI 585 S 14th ST San Jose CA 95112

Any questions? Call Barbara KD6QEI at 408 293-3847 or Dan WM6M at 831 430-9650.

S.C.C.A.R.A. Membership Form for 1999

(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

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
SAN JOSE CA
PERMIT NO 3318

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED BULLETIN