SCCARA-GRAM

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 15, Number 8 August 1999

Going...going...

From the Mercury, Wednesday, July 14, 1999

Dot-dot, dash-dash taps an end to era of the telegraph

HALF-MOON BAY -- The commercial wireless era ended in North America with the same terse message that Samuel F.B. Morse tapped out 155 years ago: "What hath God wrought?"

But it was progress, not God, that doomed the telegraph. Globe Wireless, an 89-year-old company, beamed messages across the Pacific for decades from its KFS Marine station. While landlubbers changed to faxes and e-mail, nothing could beat the simplicity and reliability of the dot-and-dash communication across the open sea.

The Information Age changed all that, demanding faster and more versatile communication tools. You can't send a map with dots and dashes, and the speediest operator can send Morse Code only as fast as he can type; 25 words a minute gets you a first-class license.

Before the final sign-off around 5 p.m. Monday, KFS Marine did relay one last telegram from the National liberty Ship Memorial, the SS Jeremiah O'Brien, in San Francisco Bay to President Clinton in the White House.

"The message was 95 words, and it took me six or eight minutes to copy it," said station operations manager Tim Gorman, who took down the Morse Code message from the ship." Then I just transmitted it to the White House via e-mail."

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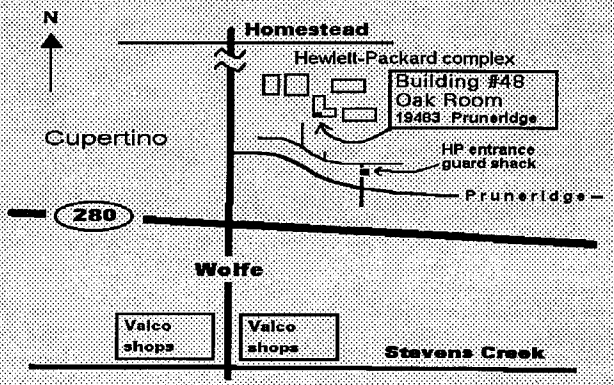
{Seems like amateur radio is quickly becoming the last bastion of Morse code. --Ed}

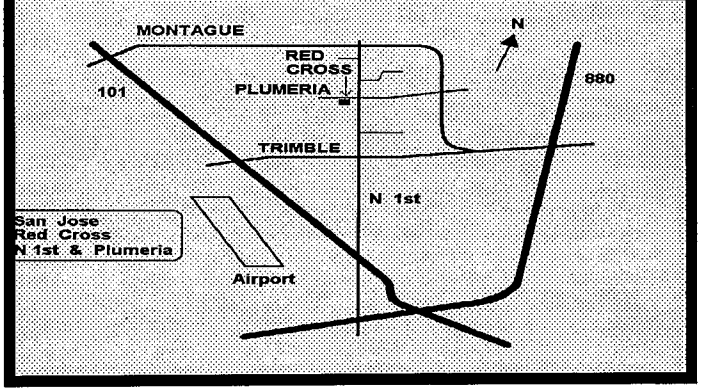
Calendar

8/9 **SCCARA General Meeting**
8/14 **Foothill Flea Market**
8/16 **SCCARA Board Meeting**--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
8/29 **SCCARA pot-luck picnic**--Mary Gomez Park Santa Clara, at San Tomas & Forbs, 10am-3

Next General Meeting:

Day: Monday, August 9, 1999
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Hewlett-Packard's Oak Rm, Bld #48
Featuring: (to be announced)





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SCCARA was formed 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. Web page: http://www.qsl.net/sccara

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N0ARY BBS	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	265-2336
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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 auto-dial and auto-patch is available). The two meter repeater is located in the Mt. Hamilton foothills, Alum Rock area. The 70 cm repeater and N0ARY BBS 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--our meeting night). Coordinator: Don K6PBQ. On ten meters, 28.385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00 PM. Net control: Wally KA6YMD. Visitors welcome.

N0ARY PACKET BBS

SCCARA hosts the packet BBS N0ARY (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 WB6YRU

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

SCCARA contact Clark KE6KXO: 408 262-9334
ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group: 408 243-8349
me-ae6z@worldnet.att.net

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, July 16, 1999

AMRAD CONTINUES LF EXPERIMENTS

Slow-speed beacon transmissions from the Washington, DC, area at 136.75 kHz under the call sign WA2XTF have been on the air continuously since May from the QTH of WB3KDU in Vienna, Virginia. The activity is being conducted under the Part 5 Experimental License issued to the Amateur Radio Research and Development Corporation to test the waters on 136 kHz. So far, reception reports have been received from amateurs near Washington, DC.

In March, the FCC granted a one-year experimental license to AMRAD to conduct tests using WA2XTF on 136.75 kHz from twelve sites in Northern Virginia. These experiments are to gain experience in anticipation that the FCC may allocate the low-frequency band 135.7-137.8 kHz to the Amateur Radio Service in the US. Several other countries already have an LF allocation at 136 kHz.

Last October, the ARRL petitioned the FCC to create two amateur LF allocations at 135.7-137.8 kHz and 160-190 kHz. The League asked for a 200 W PEP power limit (no more than 2W EIRP) and asked that the new bands be made available to those holding a General class or higher license. The League proposed permitting CW, SSB, RTTY/data, and image emissions. Its petition was designated RM-9404.

The installation at the WB3KDU experimental site has been a team effort using a ROPEX "The First" transmitter, a homebrew antenna system, and bits and pieces from various members' collections. After about a month of operation from this initial station, others authorized under the Part 5 license got serious about gathering the parts to put their own stations on the air. AMRAD participants were able to locate some large inductors and capacitors not normally part of HF/VHF junk boxes during the recent Dayton Hamvention.

While the list of stations is closed and new transmitting stations cannot be added, others are invited to join the project by listening and reporting results. Reception reports should be sent via e-mail to Andre Kesteloot, N4ICK, n4ick@amrad.org. More information is available about this experimental operation at the AMRAD Web site, http://www.amrad.org/. *--AMRAD Newsletter*

NO JOY ON 2-METER TRANSATLANTIC ATTEMPT

An effort to make the first transatlantic QSO on 2 meters has come up dry. The attempt by teams in Newfoundland and Scotland to confirm a transatlantic contact on 144 MHz and secure the Irish Radio Transmitters Society's Brendan Trophies ended a day early on July 3. The attempts began June 26.

"We operated until Saturday July 3 as the UK team wanted to get their gear down as bad weather was setting in," said Paul Piercey, VO1HE, the leader of the Newfoundland team. "There was nothing heard, but a couple reports of others listening were received." Piercey's group operated from St John's, Newfoundland, using the call sign VO1AA. The station was set up in Cabot Tower, where Marconi received the first transatlantic signal in 1901.

The Scottish group, led by Bill Ward, GM0ICF, operated from Ardnamurchan Lighthouse on Ardnamurchan Point--the most westerly point in the mainland British Isles. The group used the call sign 2S0ICF/P.

The IRTS's Brendan Trophies will be awarded to the first two stations to make a verified contact across the Atlantic Ocean using 144-146 MHz without aid of manmade reflectors, repeaters or moonbounce.

Field Day Fun

Top Ten List for the 1999 SCCARA Field Day (Call signs are omitted to protect the guilty)

1 Barbara: Darn it, we ran out of soda!

2 Dan: I just get so sick of this code. Maybe I'll just a relax a bit with some "quality" time at the phone station.

3 Wally: Hey... Forget the level. As long as the tower is pointing up is good enough for me.

4 Clark: Field Day in general is fun, but the take down Sunday afternoon is my favorite.

5 Gary: Why don't we just get along.

6 Mike: This sleeping in the wild beats the motorhome anytime.

7 Gary: Long wires are so useless. People who go to the trouble of putting one up must be "unbalanced."

8 Bob: What do ya say we double up on the steak order so that we can all bring one home.

9 Lou: The only thing I love more than my job is my pager.

10 Mike: Gosh, that citronella smells so good. It should be made into a cologne.

Bonus Unknown person: The soft whir of the generator is just so soothing.

73, Mike KB6LCJ

Repeater Problems

{This article came from the April 1999 issue of The Summit Sentinel of the Las Cumbres A.R.C. A SCCARA member saw it and suggested it might be informative for SCCARA members since we too have had interference problems with our repeater in the past. --Ed.}

LCARC challenged for K6FB frequency
by Tom K6KMT

Last month, some K6FB repeater users reported difficulty accessing the 2 meter repeater. These difficulties were associated with HT or low power access. Symptoms ranged from unintelligible audio to complete failure to bring up the repeater. It wasn't too long before the source of the problem was determined... a strong and frequent signal was interfering with the repeater input. This interference created hetrodyning[1] or complete "capture"[1] of the repeater receiver.

Shortly after the interference was discovered, a letter arrived from the Sacramento, San Joaquin, Bilingual, Repeater (group) or SSBR, located in the Central Valley. The letter indicated that SSBR was operating a new repeater on the K6FB repeater pair by "permission" of the Northern Amateur Relay Council of CA (NARCC)[2]. This knowledge saved the DF'ing step and made determining the source of interference easy. The next step was to determine how strong and frequent was the interference and what to do about it. This step was also a minor task and simply required putting the repeater in carrier access mode (PL=off). With the PL off, the extent and severity of the problem became very apparent. Now, what to do about it?

The SSBR group was contacted by phone to determine their intentions and to let them know of the level of interference their operation was causing to K6FBIR. The SSBR repeater owner stated "they had permission from NARCC" and wanted to "work with LCARC" to establish a wide coverage, high level repeater on the 145.45 pair in the Central Valley.

Shortly thereafter, a special and open meeting of the Las Cumbres Board of Directors was conducted with a signal agenda item: determine if it would be possible to work with SSBR as a co-channel partner or if not possible, how to expedite their move to another pair.

This issue was also discussed at the Las Cumbres March general meeting. The decisions and general consensus from both meetings was that it was not technically feasible or practical for two high level co-channel repeaters to operate in such close proximity. Further difficulties for K6FBIR arise from the different style of operation of the SSBR group. SSBR uses high power mobiles to access their repeater while LCARC generally uses low power HT's - a loose-loose situation for K6FB users.

Your Board of Directors is working hard on this issue to insure continued K6FBIR operation free of harmful interference. Several letters, phone calls and email have been directed to NARCC and the SSBR group. The results are somewhat positive. We have determined that SSBR does not have "permission" for continued operation on 145.45 and we have persuaded them to move off the frequency. In the meantime SSBR will limit their operation until the move. However, it may be difficult or impossible for SSBR to find a suitable repeater pair on 2 meters. Because of this, there is concern that SSBR may be reluctant to move.

The Good news: fortunately, NARCC policies and guidelines favor established and coordinated repeaters and prohibit new repeaters that interfere, especially on input frequencies. Now, the bad news: NARCC is powerless to make offending non-coordinated repeaters stop harmful interference or operation. We will know more after April 17th. *[If there is interest in SCCARA, I can try to follow up on this. --Ed.]*

You can help! K6FB repeater activity has been down in the past, possibly this is why SSBR landed on 145.45. But recently activity is up somewhat. And activity invites activity! So, dust off your 2 meter rig, get active, put out your call and meet new friends, rekindle old relationships, learn something new or help out with minor emergencies. Remember the fun of hamming and 2 meter repeater operation! If you're already active on the repeater, let no call go unanswered. If you can't talk, at least acknowledge those "lonely" stations are getting into the repeater.

Currently, K6FB/R's PL is mostly off. This will facilitate our weaker stations in working around any interference. However, because of this, you are apt to hear the SSBR users on our repeater; they are mostly Spanish speaking.

Don't let this keep you from using the repeater. If you have a mobile, you may be able to talk over them. When using low powered HT's you may not get in. If this happens, ask them for a "break," they hear our repeater loud and clear most of the time.

[1] Heterodyning and FM capture effect make it difficult or impossible for the repeaters' PL detector to detect PL encoded signals. Simply put--the PL encoder can't "hear" when interference is present. As a result, in PL access mode, the repeater fails to recognize that a legitimate signal with PL is present and fails to turn on or repeat. Unfortunately, to the legitimate user, there is no indication that anything is wrong, the users doesn't hear the offending signal because that signal is not using the proper PL. The repeater simply appears to be dead or the user may suspect their own rig.

[2] NARCC is the repeater coordination group for our area.

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):
KO6HH, 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

KO6HH, 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

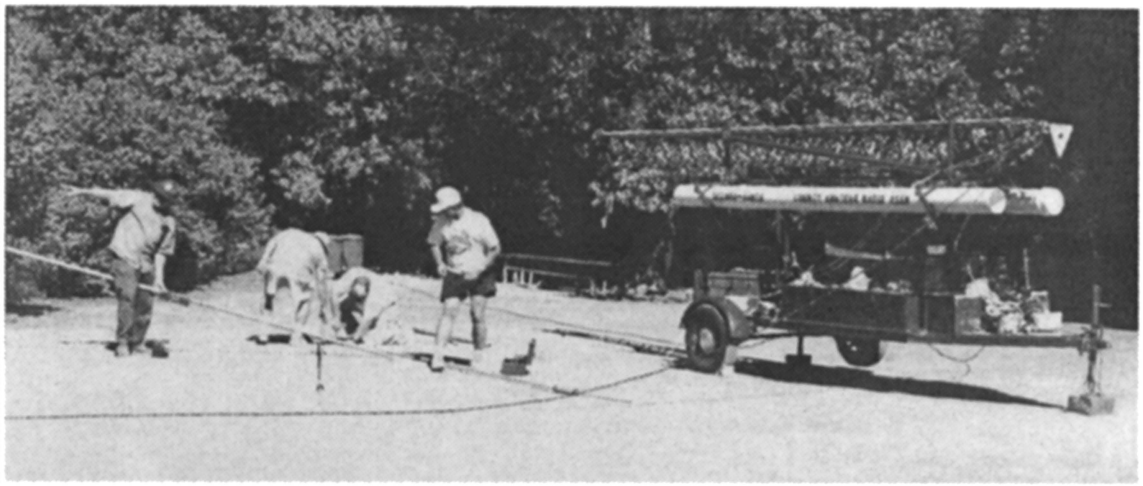
WN6U, Doug Eaton, (408) 377-3736
packet: home BBS NOARY, internet: wn6u@compuserve.com

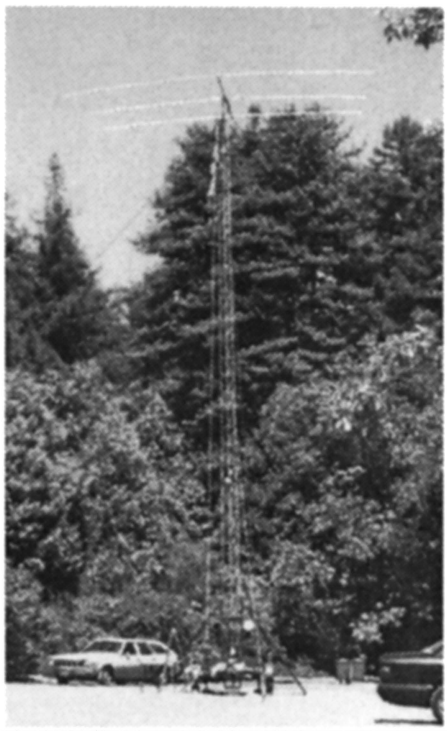
WA6VJY, Stan Getsla, day: (408) 738-2888 x5929, evening & msg: (408) 275-0735

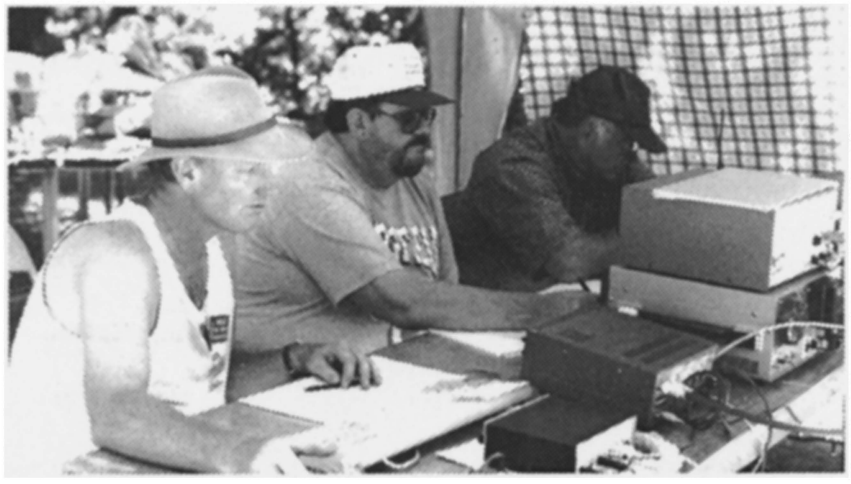
WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, msg (408) 265-2336
also (408) 269-2924
packet: home BBS NOARY, internet: wb6yru@aenet.net

SCCARA Field Day 1999...

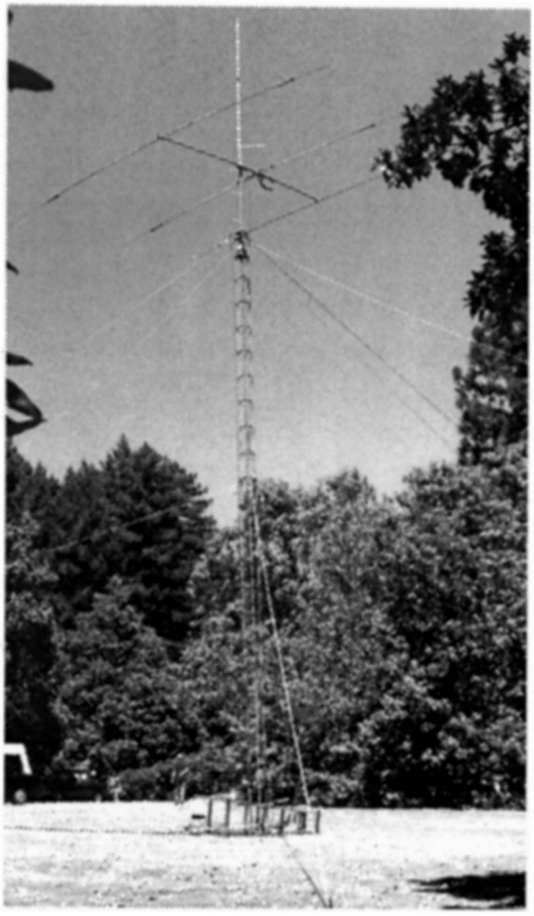
The beam for the CW station is assembled and hoisted up on the antenna trailer tower.



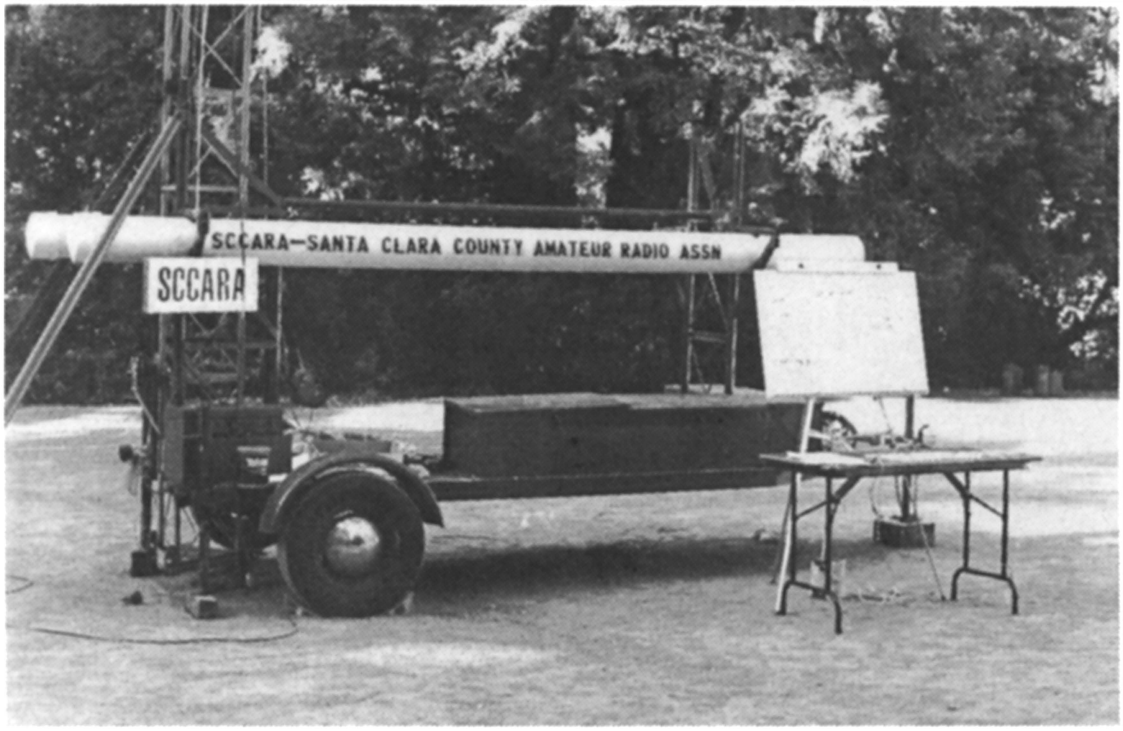




Now for the equipment check out by Rick N6DQ, Dan WM6M, and Lou WA6QYS.



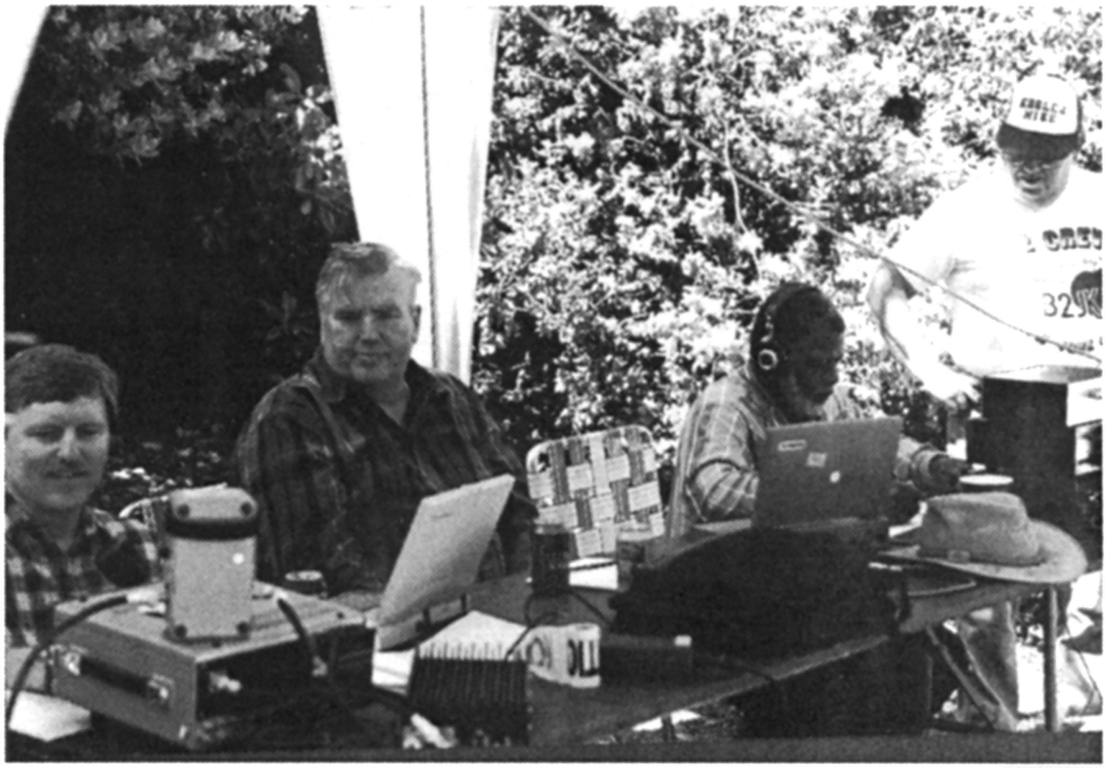
And now it's the phone station's turn...Rick N6DQ and Mike KB6LCJ put together the beam. The tower for the phone station contains the beam, dipoles (hard to see) and a tri-band vertical at the top.



The antenna trailer doubles as the information table welcoming visitors.

Carl KE6ZXU and Don K6PBQ snag a difficult contact at the code station.

Gary WB6YRU mans the VHF (two-meter) station as Don KO6HH looks on. Lloyd KD6FJI operates the HF phone station as Mike KB6LCJ looks on.



Barbara KD6QEI and Wally KA6YMD cook up a splendid BBQ dinner for us all...

...and we enjoy the meal in a delightful picnic area among the redwoods.

Photos by Henry WD6CGI and Gary WB6YRU

ARRL Pacific Division Update

August 1999

A New Twist for Field Day

SARATOGA, CA, --For Paul Wesling, KM6LH, Field Day means heading off into the California Sierra Nevada Mountains for two to three days, setting up tents, antennas, a generator and radios, and cooking up a storm. But he doesn't go alone. He invites his Boy Scouts to come along to try for thousands of QSOs with their distinctive K6BSA call sign. "What else?!" says Wesling, who's a Scoutmaster. "We operate as Troop 566, and the call sign get us lots of attention."

Every other July, Troop 566 also hosts a ham activity at the International Rendezvous, the Troop's council camp in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains near Yosemite. Scouts visiting from all over the world flock to the Amateur Radio tent to get on the air with Troop 566 as control op.

A summer tradition for Wesling and Rick Tavan, N6XI, is sponsoring a ham licensing class for Troop 566. "We get three or four 'new ones' with each class," Wesling reports. All other Scouts in the area are welcome, and the only cost is for the purchase of the ARRL's Now You're Talking book. Classes highlight a review of the material, and an explanation of things not understood during self-study.

Wesling says he's been incorporating Amateur Radio into his activities for older Scouts as well. "I'm also an advisor for Post 566 of Saratoga--now known as Venturing Crew 566 as the old Explorers are now called by the Boy Scouts of America," he said. "The primary focus of Crew 566 is high adventure, and secondarily we bring radio into our events." Wesling says his Crew 566 members used radio to help in the rescue of 12 hikers hit by lightning on Mt. Whitney. Another time a couple of years ago, the Scouts used radio to call in a helicopter to rescue an adult having a heart attack.

"We use ham radio a lot, and get a few new operators each year," he says. More information and photos are on the Troop/Crew 566 Web site, http://www.khaira.com/radio.html. For a look at additional Rendezvous '98 photos, visit http://www.khaira.com/pasttrip/rend98.html.

ARRL Educational Services Manager Rosalie White, WA1STO, thinks Wesling may be onto something to spice up your next Field Day. "If your club has held the same kind of Field Day for the past few years, and you'd like to do something different, why not contact your area Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop or council?" she suggests. A telephone number should be available in your telephone directory's White Pages--under Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

"Now's the time to ask for next year's Field Day," White adds. "The Scouts might come in handy if you need help with putting up tents, building a fire or cooking up some good grub, or if you need someone experienced with First Aid!"

Thanks, ARRL Web site at http://www.arrl.org.

Note: Paul Wesling, KM6LH, also is the Pacific Division Webmaster for the site at www.pdarrl.org.

CSVHFS FCC Petition Causes Stir

What a difference a couple of words can make. A petition for rulemaking aimed at formally segregating wideband and narrowband modes on VHF and UHF bands has generated a flurry of comments within the Amateur Radio community. But the controversy is due, in part, to the inadvertent absence of some wording in the filing from the Central States VHF Society of Kerrville, Texas.

The FCC has assigned RM-9673 to the CSVHFS petition, which seeks generally more restrictive regulation of the modes used by amateurs in the 6 meter, 2 meter, 1.25 meter and 70 cm bands.

Comments are due on the petition by July 28.

"The Central States VHF Society has long been concerned about the increasing encroachment into the so-called weak-signal portions of the bands above 50 MHz by wider-bandwidth modes, such as voice FM and occasionally packet also," said CSVHFS Government Liaison Committee Chairman Bill Tynan, W3XO. "All the Society was trying to do was to codify current practice into regulations so that nobody is confused."

The CSVHFS petition says that band plans such as those promulgated by the ARRL and other organizations "have not proven adequately successful in limiting these wide band modes from the band segments used for weak signal communication."

Tynan compared the petition's goals to the current regulatory situation on 10 meters, where FM is prohibited below 29 MHz. "I think you could see how bad it would sound on 20 meters if people decided they wanted to run FM because it sounded so good," he said. Problems resulting from wideband interference with narrowband--or weak-signal--modes such as CW or SSB are occurring more often, Tynan said, "especially in the larger cities."

Most of the controversy resulted from inadvertent wording in the CSVHFS petition that would have banned packet and APRS from the 2 meter band. "There's no intention of anything like that," Tynan said. "There was an error committed by me in the appendix in terms of not putting down all the modes that are listed in the rules." Tynan said the petition actually intended no other modifications of authorization for "data" or "test" modes above 50.3, 144.3, or 222.15 MHz and on the portions of the 70 cm band below 431.8 MHz and above 432.5 MHz. "Unfortunately, by the inadvertent omission of 'data' and 'test' from the Appendix, the filing did not properly reflect

that intent," he said.

Tynan said the mistake will be corrected when CSVHFS files its own comments on the petition by month's end.

The changes proposed to Paragraph 97.305 of the FCC rules would have the following effects:

50.0-50.1 MHz: Add RTTY and data emissions at up to 1200 baud (this band segment is now limited to CW only).

50.1-50.3 MHz: Delete MCA and data. The band segment would be limited to CW, phone, image, and RTTY, but CSVHFS proposes no maximum symbol rate for RTTY. No wideband FM would be permitted (modulation index would be limited to 1 or less).

50.3-54.0 MHz: No changes.

144.0-144.1 MHz: Add RTTY and data emissions at up to 1200 baud's (this band segment is now CW only).

144.1-144.3 MHz: Delete MCW and data. The band segment would be limited to CW, phone, image, and RTTY, but CSVHFS proposes no maximum symbol rate for RTTY. No wideband FM would be permitted (modulation index would be limited to 1 or less).

144.3-148.0 MHz: No changes.

222.0-222.15 MHz: Delete MCW, RTTY, data, test (except for brief test transmissions), and wideband FM.

222.15-225.0 MHz: No changes.

431.8-432.5 MHz: Delete everything but CW and SSB (ie, no wideband FM permitted), and image.

The CSVHFS Board of Directors will formulate its own comments on the petition when it meets in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, July 22-24. The CSVHFS petition also is expected to come up for discussion when the ARRL Board of Directors gathers in mid-July.

Thanks, ARRL Web site at http://www.arrl.org

Operation Overseas Now Easier

Operating overseas and in certain South American countries just got much easier for US hams. The FCC has implemented the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) Recommendation T/R 61-01 that eliminates the need to obtain a special license or permit for US hams wishing to operate for brief visits to most European countries. In addition, the ARRL has begun issuing International Amateur Radio Permits to simplify operation by US hams in certain South American countries.

Earlier this year, the US rendered paperless operation by hams from countries that have a reciprocal operating agreement with this country. Alien operators no longer need to file an FCC Form 610A to operate here. Alien visitors to the US holding an amateur license issued by their home country may operate in the US without submitting any FCC paperwork--provided that a reciprocal operating agreement is in effect between the two countries. The only documentation required is proof of citizenship and an Amateur Radio license issued by the country of citizenship. These arrangements are similar to longstanding arrangements between the US and Canada.

The US State Department applied for US participation in CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01 in 1997, and the request was approved in principle in early 1998. On June 7, 1999 the FCC put the final pieces of the CEPT arrangement into place by issuing a Public Notice in English, German, and French that spells out the basic information about Amateur Radio operation in CEPT countries. To operate in a CEPT country, US hams only need a copy of the Notice, their original Amateur Radio document, and proof of US citizenship (a US-issued passport or a birth certificate should suffice). The documents must be shown to authorities that ask to see them.

Participating CEPT countries as of June 7, 1999, include Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France (including Corsica, Guadeloupe, Guiana, Martinique, St Bartholomew, St Pierre et Miquelon, St Martin, and Reunion/Dependencies), Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom (including Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man). For updates, visit the ERO Web site, http://www.ero.dk and click on "Implementation," then "Decision/Recommendation," then "T/R-61-01".

Complete information on CEPT and IARP operation, including an IARP application form and a copy of the FCC Public Notice on CEPT, is available from the International Operating page on ARRL Web, http://www.arrl.org/field/ regulations/io/.

Thanks, ARRL Web site at http://www.arrl.org.

A personal note: I just returned from a trip to France from mid June until early July. I was able to use my US HT with whistle up access to work the French repeaters using the new CEPT privileges with some degree of success. An HT with 1750 Hz tone burst would have been better. If you are traveling to CEPT countries, consider taking along your HT.

Latest News on Spectrum Protection

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 July 1, the bill had received 84 co-sponsorships including Pacific Division Congresswoman Mink (HI - 2), Congressmen Farr (CA - 17), Miller (CA - 7), Campbell (CA - 15), Abercrombie (HI - 1), and Stark (CA - 13) [in order of co-sponsorship] The Pacific Section has a clean sweep! Great work in so short a time! We now have more co-sponsorships than we had for the 1998 bill, but we need to obtain 218 co-sponsorships to have a majority of the House as

co-sponsors. Keep up the good work!

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.and THOMAS Web.site.

Please Review Your Club Listing

Club Officers: I have been reviewing the club information in the Pacific Division web site recently (http://www.pdarrl.org) and discovered that some of the listings do not appear to be current. Will you please help me and the Pacific Division webmasters by reviewing your club information and submitting updating information. Thanks.

Coming Events

• Livermore Swap Meet - 1st 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 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.

• Reno Hamfest - Saturday, July 31, at International Game Technology, 9295 Prototype Drive, Reno, NV, from 8AM until 4 PM. ARRL VE Test session. For additional information, contact Bill, K7NHP, (775) 246-3756; Rich, N7TR, (775) 677-2943; or Neil, WA7KCD, (775) 972-8373. E-mail macm.yncsmassie@juno.com. Talk in 146.61(-) PL 123.

• GEARS 60th Anniversary Hamfest, Saturday, Aug. 7, at Chico State Farm Pavilion, Chico, CA. VE testing. Contact Ray, KO6TW email at rwatkins@csuchico.edu or Muriel, K6GSK, (530) 342-4765. E-mail k6gsk@w6rhc.org.

• ARRL Southwestern Division Convention, Long Beach, CA, Oct. 1 - 3. Contact Nate Brightman, K6OSC, (562) 427-5123.

• Bakersfield ARA Hamfest (Lake Costerisan), Oct. 8-10. Contact Robert Gerner, KB6JBL, (661) 588-7065, e-mail w6bar@hotmail.com.

• ARRL Pacific Division Convention (PACIFICON99), Concord, CA., Oct. 15 - 17. Contact Dick Brown, KT6X, (925) 676-9048, email paccon99@pacbell.com.

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Newsletter Notes

In this issue is an article from the San Jose Mercury about the closing of the last commercial CW station in the country. First MARS, then the Coast Guard, now this. It sure looks like the era of CW is past...except for amateur radio. And even within the amateur radio community there is a debate going about whether to relax or eliminate testing for CW proficiency.

In the Mercury article, I noticed the operator was really getting up there in years--89! Also, I found it interesting that the last message was ultimately delivered via e-mail. Some digital modes are now said to be superior to a human reading CW--able to copy even beyond the point where the human ear can distinguish the tones.

Is CW a "has-been?" It would be interesting to publish the thoughts of the membership on this topic. Please send in your comments. Let's hear what you have to say about the future of CW.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

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 ☐ Renewal ☐ I'm also an 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 ========== PLEASE DO NOT TEAR/CUT ==

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AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

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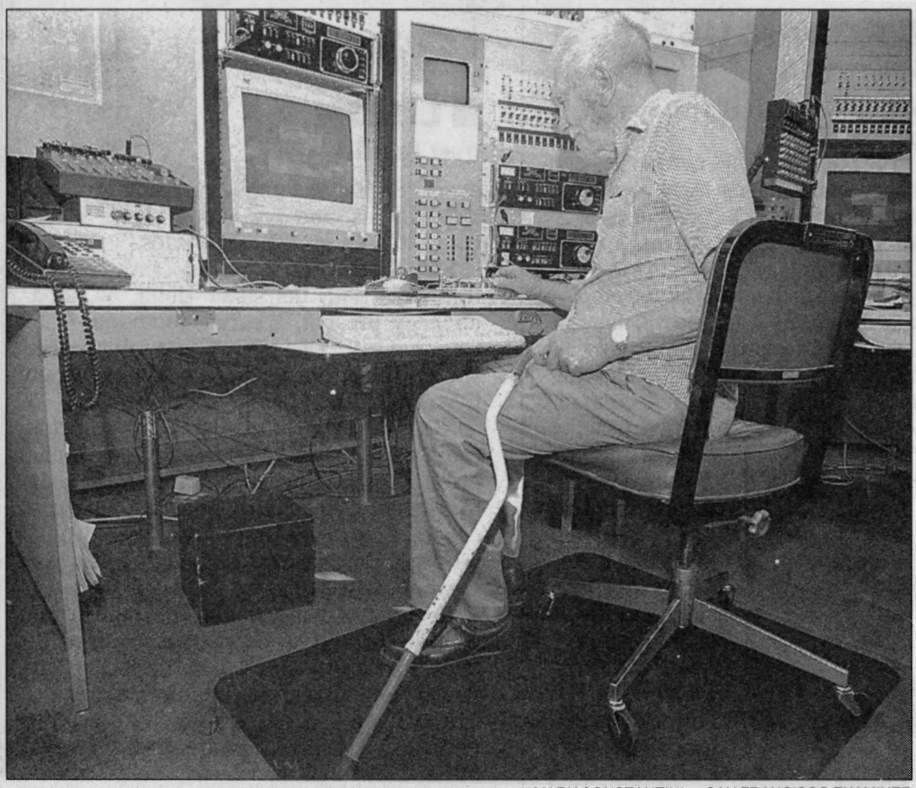
TALK OF THE BAY

A FRESH LOOK AT NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY AREA



MARK CONSTANTINI — SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

Dalton Bergstedt, 92, says his own goodbye to the telegraph at the marine communications station he managed 27 years ago in Half Moon Bay. He helped mark the last day of commercial Morse code transmissions in North America.

Dot-dot, dash-dash taps an end to era of the telegraph

HALF MOON BAY — The commercial wireless era ended in North America with the same terse message that Samuel F.B. Morse tapped out 155 years ago: "What hath God wrought?"

But it was progress, not God, that doomed the telegraph. Globe Wireless, an 89-year-old company, beamed messages across the Pacific for decades from its KFS Marine station. While landlubbers changed to faxes and e-mail, nothing could beat the simplicity and reliability of the dot-and-dash communication across the open sea.

The Information Age changed all that, demanding faster and more versatile communication tools. You can't send a map with dots and dashes, and the speediest operator can send Morse Code only as fast as he can type; 25 words a minute gets you a first-class license.

Before the final sign-off around 5 p.m. Monday, KFS Marine did relay one last telegram from the National Liberty Ship Memorial, the SS Jeremiah O'Brien, in San Francisco Bay to President Clinton in the White House.

"The message was 95 words, and it took me six or eight minutes to copy it," said station operations manager Tim Gorman, who took down the Morse Code message from the ship. "Then I just transmitted it to the White House via e-mail."