

# SCCARA-GRAM

## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association



Volume 19, Number 12

December 2003



## President's Prose

This year has gone by so fast! It seems that I was elected only a few months ago. Now I am heading for my last year as President. I want to say THANK YOU!!!!!! To all the support staff who have helped so willingly to make this a memorable year. Looking back, I would say it was a good year. There has been progress on the repeater at the Eagle Rock, City vault site. What has been done so far has improved the reception and transmission. The repeater will eventually be inverted to the 146.985 output / 146.385 input but the date cannot be anticipated. If you cannot bring it up, just try the reverse pair. During the next year, things look even better. It is also hoped that the repeater will be coordinated in the early part of next year. My hope is that we can get the radio station up and running at Regional Medical Center. I plan to help Wally get this done, as I have more daytime hours available than he does, to interface with the day staff of engineers at the hospital.

The weekly nets are important to club members. It is the place to get club information between meetings. I want to see more members checking in at the nets. I will keep track of the check-ins, and reward those who have participated at next year's Christmas luncheon. I hope there will be many winners. Thanks to all those who ran the various nets that SCCARA has.

Thank you to Gwen Stierer who was the Bingo coordinator for this year's picnic. She did a good job. Gwen and Lou Stierer got the pizzas for February's pizza meeting.

Thank you to all that helped at the Flea Markets and Field Day. Those activities required a lot of people to make things come out right.

Thank you Don Hayden and Lou Stierer for helping to get speakers for the meetings. All of the speakers were interesting. They made the meetings more meaningful. I'm sorry that there were some no-show speakers.

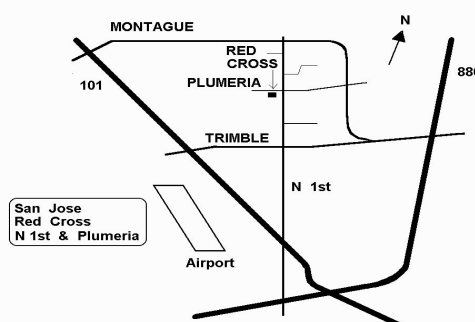
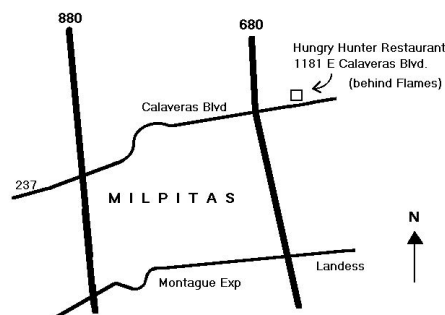
My hope for next year is that it will be better than the last, that we will have speakers at all of our meetings, and that the meeting room will be filled with members and

## Calendar

- 12/7 **Livermore Electronic Flea Market**
- 12/15 **SCCARA Board Meeting--**(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 12/20 **SCCARA General Meeting--Luncheon**
- 1/12 **SCCARA General Meeting**

### General Meeting:

Day: Saturday, December 20, 2003  
Time: 12 noon  
Place: Hungry Hunter, Milpitas  
Featuring: Luncheon, installation of officers



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**The deadline for articles is one week before the last Monday of the month.**

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>.

#### **OFFICERS - DIRECTORS - STAFF**

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	e-mail: <a href="mailto:kd6qe1@arrl.net">kd6qe1@arrl.net</a>	
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	e-mail: <a href="mailto:david.paul@sumcousa.com">david.paul@sumcousa.com</a>	
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Station Trustee	Don Hayden, KO6HH	867-4643
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	e-mail: <a href="mailto:clarkmurph@yahoo.com">clarkmurph@yahoo.com</a>	
Director	Don Apte, KK6MX	629-0725
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:aptekk@aol.com">aptekk@aol.com</a>	
Director	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	241-7999
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:wa6qys@aol.com">wa6qys@aol.com</a>	
Director	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
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Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	265-2336
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#### **COMMITTEES**

Repeater	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
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N0ARY BBS	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	265-2336
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:wb6yru@aenat.net">wb6yru@aenat.net</a>	

#### **SCCARA REPEATERS**

SCCARA owns and operates two repeaters under the call W6UU:

2 meter:	146.385 +	PL 114.8
70 cm:	442.425 +	PL 107.2

Phone auto-dial and auto-patch is available. The two meter repeater is located at the Santa Teresa Hospital, south-west San Jose (near IBM). The 70 cm repeater and N0ARY BBS is located at the Regional Medical Center (formerly Alexian), east of downtown San Jose, 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](mailto:info@n0ary.org)). Sysop: Gary WB6YRU

#### **TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

SCCARA contact Clark KE6KXO:	408 262-9334
ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group,	
Morris Jones, AD6ZH:	408 507-4698

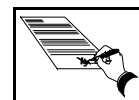
visitors at each meeting.

Please have a very pleasant, and meaningful holiday season. May you receive the gift you want for Christmas. I hope you don't overeat, nor overindulge in alcoholic beverages. As a nurse, I have seen to effects of drinking and driving. Are you an organ donor? (I hope not prematurely) These are some things to think about before this holiday.

I would like to thank David Paul KE6MV for volunteering to take the secretary spot. His election will be made formal at the next regular meeting.

Stay Happy and Healthy. See you next year.

Barbara, KD6QEI



## **December Meeting**

Our annual Christmas meeting this year will be a luncheon again instead of a dinner. It will be held on Saturday December 20 at the Hungary Hunter in Milpitas, (Calaveras Blvd just off Hwy 680, old yellow house location).

Lunch is at 12 noon. Please note that on Saturday, there isn't a regular bar, but you will be able to order a bottle of wine for the table.

This year we will not be having the raffle prize drawings. Instead we will have a gift exchange. The way it works is that everyone brings a wrapped gift suitable for a man or woman costing about \$8-\$10. This type of gift exchange is always a lot of fun to participate in.

Reservations need to be in by Friday Dec. 12 (see sign-up sheet). Talk-in will be on our repeater, W6UU, 146.385+ (simplex if you can't hit the repeater). Why not renew your membership at the same time?

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there!

73, Don K6PBQ

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **General Meeting, Nov. 10, 2003**



Members present: 19. One visitor, David Paul, AE6MV, became a member of SCCARA, at the end of the meeting.

#### **SPEAKERS:**

Bob Lanning, W6OPO, Coordinator for NARCC, (Northern Amateur Relay Coordinating Council). He talked about how

the coordination and sanctioning process occurs. The hardware is set in an exact form so as not to interfere with other repeaters. Even though SCCARA has been coordinated for a long time, when the repeater was moved, the coordination was voided. According to Mr. Lanning, a change of the antenna position, transmitter, or power out makes the coordination void, requiring a completely new process. The upside down coordination for us was about 30 years ago and required by the then poor selectivity of receivers - and there seldom was PL tone 30 years ago. The band plan is part of the scenario. Bob has promised to assist us. We are not coordinated now because we moved our repeater and changed equipment. Don Hayden, KO6HH, station trustee, is working with NARCC to get things straightened out and get us sanctioned at the new location.

Dick Delp, KD6QG. He is a docent at the computer history museum located at Bay Shore and Shoreline. Originally known as the Boston Computer Museum, then renamed to a more appropriate name for this area. There is a buzzword, "visible storage" which means space available, but not being used, attached to the museum. The address of the museum is: 11401 Shoreline. It's the old Silicon Graphics building. The web site is: [www.computerhistory.org](http://www.computerhistory.org). They have lectures and special events. There are no appointments for single people. There is an appointment secretary for groups. He also brought some pictures to show us. The museum is open Wednesday, Friday, and Saturdays, 1:30 to 5:00. The guided tour lasts 1 1/2 hours. The guide will be able to touch the equipment because they are the only ones who have gloves. The public is not allowed to touch any equipment.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**PRESIDENT:** Remember to bring a present for the gift exchange if you are coming to the Christmas luncheon. There will be a gift for everyone who comes to the luncheon. This is her last year as President, but not her last year giving a gift at the Christmas luncheon. She plans to continue to give a gift to all attendees as long as she remains a member of SCCARA. She thanked all people who helped her over the past year getting speakers, scheduling and helping at the club's social events, and getting the news out to everyone as to what's happening in the club.

**TREASURER:** Checking: \$1,844.55. Savings: \$4,926.73.

**REPEATER:** There have been no changes. We are waiting for crystals. If you can't get the repeater, reverse the pair and try again. The PL tone is the same at 114.8. Modifications need to be made on the controller to get the phone patch going. The weather is a factor in getting the work done.

**BBS:** It is up and running. It is connected to Bob's place but no traffic is being passed on the Internet connection. There is no forwarding path. The rest of the BBS is

working, as well as the 2-meter port. It is suspected that there is a glitch at our internet hosts site. The phone line is working.

**SCCARA-GRAM:** No changes. More pictures, articles from members about radio related subjects are always wanted. Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, wanted to have a survey regarding the station at the American Red Cross radio room. Question: Would more people use the station if there were more things at the station?

#### OLD BUSINESS:

**Field day:** There are no results known/published from field day 2003. There is nothing published in QST magazine, or on the ARRL web site.

**ELECTION:** Clark Murphy, KE6KXO, made a motion for a white ballot. Don Village, K6PBQ, seconded the motion. Motion carried. Officers for 2004 are: President: Barbara K. Britten, KD6QEI; Treasurer: Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI; Station Trustee: Don Hayden, KO6HH; Director: Lou Steirer, KA6QYS; Director: Don Village, K6PBQ.

Don Apte asked if the club was still interested in purchasing a 2-meter linear amplifier for \$200.00. It is a Mirage/KLM 300 watt amplifier. Clark Murphy suggested that this item be tabled to the Board meeting. A motion was made by Gary Mitchell to authorize the purchase of the amplifier per the Boards approval. Seconded by David Paul, AE6MV.

**BOARD MEETING:** Meeting date: December 15, at the Red Cross. There will be pizza at the meeting.

**CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON:** This will be held at the Hungry Hunter in Milpitas at 12:00 noon, on 12/20/03. Don't forget to bring a gift for the gift exchange. Barbara will have a gift for everyone who attends. Details also on the website.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

None noted. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn by Clark Murphy, seconded by Roy Metzger. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Barbara K. Britten, KD6QEI.

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## Board Meeting, Nov. 17, 2003



The meeting was called to order at 19:44 by the President, Barbara Britten, KD6QEI. The usual meeting room was occupied, so we met in the cafeteria.

The President appointed an interim Secretary, new member David Paul, AE6MV. Gary Mitchell WB6YRU agreed to send an email listing the duties of the Secretary. Barbara advised that the duties of the secretary are to take and provide minutes, to maintain the list of members and to report regarding any membership termination. Barbara seemed almost overcome with relief.

The Treasurer, Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI, reported a savings balance of \$ 4926.73 and a checking balance of \$ 2617.49

The repeater trustee, Wally Britten, KA6YMD, reported that both repeaters are functional, that we still await receipt of the new xtals and then will need to wait for the road to the repeater vault to dry.

Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, reported that he found the problem with the BBS: its operating script included a provision to await a handshake response from the node. Gary edited the script, and the BBS is now fully functional. The Internet port remains inoperative. Testing indicates the problem not to be in the BBS, so it's likely in Bob's system. Unfortunately, Internet is necessary for N0ARY functioning.

Regarding SCCARA-GRAM, Gary thinks it would be good to send an introductory letter to new amateurs. Barbara committed to offer a draft of an introduction letter, for presentation at the next meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the accessibility of the list of new amateurs' names.

Regarding the club station, Gary received 12 ayes, 6 nays and 36 shrugs in response to his question about whether members would use the club station if more transmission modes and frequencies were available.

Field Day results are currently unavailable.

The Survey of Club Equipment was discussed, then tabled until next year. Gary will place a request in the next newsletter for club equipment to be brought to the January meeting for a physical audit. The Collins transceiver was discussed.

The MIRAGE preamp was presented. It is a model B3030G, 30 W input, 300 W output. The motion to purchase the unit from Don Apte KK6MX and passed 4/1 at the price of \$200.00.

Next year's Field Day, 6/26-27/2004 was brought up. Discussion ensued regarding holding Field Day at Mount Madonna, or perhaps more locally, in conjunction with another group. Don Village moved that we reserve Mount Madonna for those dates. Clark Murphy seconded the motion, which passed without dissent.

Clark Murphy, KE6KXO, brought up the need for a projector to be used for presentations at club meetings. Most presenters arrive with a laptop and a PowerPoint(tm) presentation. Don Apte, KK6MX, offered that an LCD projection panel might be a good solution, as that allows presentations to be made with an overhead projector. Don will use one at the January meeting so members may judge its functionality. Barbara committed, when she reserves the room for the next year's club meetings, to ask about the projector installed in the meeting room.

Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, brought up the Installation of Officers. It was suggested that Frank Glass emceed the installation last year, perhaps this year Roy Metzger K6VIP could perform the honors. Barbara committed to contact him regarding the possibility.

#### Upcoming Meetings:

The December General Meeting will not be held on Monday December 8; instead, it will be the Annual Luncheon held December 20, as listed in the October and November issues of the SCCARA-GRAM.

The next Board Meeting will be December 15 at 19:30 at the San Jose Red Cross HQ.

Barbara asked for any further items of old or new business, with no response.

Clark Murphy moved that the meeting be adjourned, the motion passed by acclamation, and the meeting was adjourned at 20:47.

David Paul, AE6MV  
Acting Secretary

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## ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, October 31, 2003

### ARRL PETITIONS FOR REVIEW OF FCC ORDERS

The ARRL has filed a Petition for Review of two FCC orders that would allow certification of unlicensed 24 GHz Part 15 equipment at field strengths 10 times the level Part 15 rules now permit. The League petitioned the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on October 22. The ARRL is appealing a Report and Order (R&O), Amendment of Part 15 of the Commission's Rules to allow Certification of Equipment in the 24.05-24.25 GHz Band at Field Strengths up to 2500 mV/m, and a Memorandum Opinion and Order (MO&O), Amendment of Part 15 of the Commission's Rules

to allow Certification of Equipment in the 24.05-24.25 GHz Band at Field Strengths up to 2500 mV/m. Through this proceeding, ET Docket 98-156, and others, the ARRL has maintained that such high-powered devices should be licensed.

"It is ARRL's contention that the Commission has no jurisdiction, pursuant to §302(a) or otherwise, to authorize by rulemaking the operation of unlicensed devices which have significant potential for interference to licensed radio services," the League said in its petition. "Devices which have a substantial interference potential to licensed radio services, such as point to point microwave devices operating at 2500 mV/m at 24 GHz, must be licensed."

The FCC turned down the ARRL's Petition for Reconsideration in the proceeding this past summer. Taking the issue to the courts is the next step in the ongoing battle.

Amateur Radio is primary at 24.0 to 24.05 GHz and secondary on the rest of the band. The AO-40 satellite includes beacon, digital and analog transmitters in the vicinity of 24.048 GHz. The entire 24.0-24.25 GHz band is allocated for use by Industrial, Scientific and Medical (ISM) equipment. In addition to Amateur Radio, the 24.05-24.25 segment is allocated on a secondary basis for radiolocation in the Private Land Mobile Radio Services and for Earth-exploration satellites.

In outlining its case, the ARRL said it will argue that the FCC orders--the first in 2001 and the second this past summer--will allow unlicensed operation of transmitters having substantial interference potential to Amateur Radio licensees. "In allowing the operation of unlicensed transmitters at the permitted power levels, the FCC has exceeded its statutory authority" and, in doing so, has violated "301 of the Communications Act, the League asserted.

The League said it intends to show that the FCC's decision was "arbitrary and capricious" and contravenes the Administrative Procedure Act as well as administrative and judicial precedent. The ARRL calls on the court to "hold unlawful, vacate, enjoin, and set aside" the two orders, which allow operation of fixed point-to-point transmitters as part of a high-speed wireless Internet service or local area network.

The ARRL raised similar arguments regarding the FCC's Part 15 authority as part of its efforts to combat a proposal by SAVI Technology--in ET Docket 01-278--to permit RF identification tags to operate as unlicensed Part 15 devices between 425 and 435 MHz. In that proceeding, the ARRL maintained that the FCC lacks authority to permit the RFIDs to operate under Part 15 at the proposed field strengths and duty cycles.

In February 2002 the ARRL unsuccessfully petitioned the FCC to reconsider and reverse a portion of the December 2001 R&O in ET-98-156. The League contested the FCC's jurisdiction to authorize unlicensed operation of RF devices that pose significant interference potential to licensed services, and it asserted that such devices should be licensed. The FCC did not agree on either count.

"We reject the assertion that there is a significant interference potential from the unlicensed operation authorized in the Report and Order," the FCC concluded in the MO&O released July 21. The FCC also said the League failed to support its argument that the devices it authorized should be disqualified from Part 15 unlicensed operation because they may serve functions similar to those in deployed in licensed services.

The FCC MO&O reaffirmed its authorization to permit the Part 15 devices at field strengths of up to 2.5 V per meter and noted its requirement to use directional antennas. The ARRL had called the proposed power levels and antenna gain figures--33 dBi--"entirely inappropriate for Part 15 unlicensed facilities."

## **DITTER II--THE RETURN OF THE DITTER**

Some solid teamwork between the FCC and the ARRL and accurate direction-finding led some Amateur Radio volunteers to the source of an unidentified and continuous string of dits being transmitted without identification on 14.024.8 MHz. The situation last week was eerily similar to one more than three years ago, when another volunteer eventually tracked down another "ditter" <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2000/07/28/2/>> on the West Coast that had plagued 20 meters. After receiving reports of the more recent signal, ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, found he was able to copy it from ARRL Headquarters. The ARRL called upon the FCC's HF Direction Finding (HFDF) facility in Maryland to get a bearing on the signal.

"Really aggravating," is how the HFDF facility's Betty Mallay, KL7AP, described it. "Of course, it doesn't help when others try to 'dit-dit-dit' along with it," she added wryly.

The HFDF facility was able to localize the signal's source to vicinity of Houston, Texas. Skolaut then called on ARRL South Texas Official Observer Coordinator Carl Griffin, KA5KQZ, to see if any of his volunteers had direction-finding equipment that could pin it down.

Two of them--who prefer to remain anonymous--took on the challenge. Their DFing led to a location in a Houston suburb that was within three miles of where the FCC's HFDF facility

said it would be.

As in the earlier case, "Ditter II" apparently had no idea his station was transmitting. "I called him on the phone, and he went and checked the station and it had something up against the keyer," one of the volunteers said in his report to Griffin. "He was embarrassed." Left unanswered was why the unidentified amateur's transmitter was powered up and ready to transmit in the first place.

Complimenting the OOs on their quick work, South Texas Section Manager Ray Taylor, N5NAV, took a philosophical view. "I monitored it several times with about S7 signal," he said. "We all make mistakes at times."

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From *The ARRL Letter*, November 7, 2003

### **PROGRESS ENERGY REACHES OUT TO NC HAMS ON BPL**

North Carolina amateurs are getting heard regarding broadband over power line Internet delivery (BPL) by a company whose infrastructure would carry such a system. Raleigh, North Carolina-based Progress Energy has responded to many calls and e-mails this fall from concerned hams by contacting several local Amateur leaders and beginning a dialog that will include Amateur Radio in their BPL testing. In October, Progress Energy network engineer Bill Godwin met separately with Wake County ARES EC Tom Brown, N4TAB, and Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, Wake County ARES PIO, and talked by phone with Technical Specialist Frank Lynch, W4FAL. Godwin wanted to know more about Amateur Radio, what hams thought problematic with BPL, and who in the amateur community he and Progress Energy should work with. ARRL North Carolina Section Manager John Covington, W4CC, and ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, were identified as primary persons for Progress Energy to work with. Godwin set a positive tone by promising that Amateur Radio operators would be part of the next phase of testing, to begin early in 2004 in Wake County, NC. Godwin asked about notch filters. It was explained that notching the ham spectrum might work in a limited sense, but it wouldn't protect other services like shortwave broadcast listeners, aviation, etc. Progress Energy completed their Phase I test in the Wakefield area of north Raleigh early last summer. Phase I was designed to give Progress Energy engineers experience with the hardware, and let them know if it really worked. Amateur Radio was not involved in that test, and no Amateur Radio interference monitoring was conducted. But they have been hearing from hams steadily, and stridently, ever since. Phase II is planned for the end of 2003 and early 2004. It will be a larger test and focus more on marketing than technology, but hams will

be invited to participate, and their interest will be technical. Both Phase I and II tests involve mostly underground wiring. ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare's testing in areas with underground wiring showed that substantial interference still occurred, though above ground wiring was worse. Progress Energy is testing a system manufactured by Amperion. More information about BPL and Amateur Radio can be found at the ARRL Web site at [www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/](http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/)

--Thanks to Gary Pearce KN4AQ, Wake County, NC ARES PIO

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From *The ARRL Letter*, November 14, 2003

### **ARRL SPONSORS BPL GATHERING FOR COMMUNICATIONS PROFESSIONALS**

The interference potential of Broadband over Power Line (BPL) to over-the-air radio services was the topic of an ARRL-sponsored meeting of 25 communications professionals November 7. The National Association of Broadcasters hosted the gathering at its headquarters in Washington, DC.

"Listening to everyone introduce themselves and explain why they had come made the trip to Washington worthwhile all by itself," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, who offered opening remarks and guided the discussion. Sumner showed excerpts from the ARRL BPL field test videos, which graphically demonstrate that BPL's interference potential at HF is real, not just theoretical.

During the meeting, representatives from the shortwave broadcasting, public safety, aeronautical and scientific communities joined amateur and amateur-satellite representatives to discuss the threat of BPL and possible avenues to combat its interference potential to licensed HF and low-VHF spectrum users. Military and consumer electronics representatives participated as observers. Coming the farthest was Chip Margelli, K7JA, who attended on behalf of the Yaesu Amateur Division of Vertex-Standard.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, reviewed the status of last April's FCC's Notice of Inquiry on BPL and noted that more than 5000 comments were filed with the Commission--most of them from Amateur Radio operators. Imlay said that proposed FCC rules changes could come as soon as early next year.

Imlay added that a number of non-amateur organizations support ARRL's position on BPL. Representing the National Association of Shortwave Broadcasters, George Jacobs, W3ASK, affirmed their strong support for the ARRL position.

ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, provided a technical review of BPL. BPL delivery systems would use existing low and medium-voltage power lines to distribute Internet and other broadband services to homes and businesses.

Other points the group touched upon included:

- BPL emission measurements by government agencies are under way, but the results have not yet been made public. The FCC denied an ARRL Freedom of Information Act request on the grounds that their test results represent work-in-progress.
- A government representative observed that concerned groups should be wary of tying in the overused term "homeland security" with any anti-BPL campaign, since it could be spun back against BPL opponents.
- Meeting attendees cited numerous and increasing instances of interference from Part 15 devices, suggesting that such instances only infrequently result in complaints to the FCC--and even less frequently in any FCC action.

A follow-up meeting may be held early next year if it becomes clear that the FCC intends to release a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding BPL. Some attendees indicated a willingness to accompany ARRL representatives to meetings with federal officials to underscore that concerns about BPL are not confined to radio amateurs.

"It's apparent that concerns about BPL run very deep and include nearly every over-the-air radio service," Sumner remarked after the meeting. "Now we can work together much more effectively to express our concerns both inside and outside of government."--Derek Riker, KB3JLF, compiled information for this report

## **UO-14 REACHES THE END OF THE TRAIL**

UO-14 has officially ended its long run as an Amateur Radio satellite, although it continues to transmit telemetry and respond to commands from Earth. The Mission Control Centre at the Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL) Center for Satellite Engineering Research announced this week that the venerable and popular bird "has reached the end of its mission after nearly 14 years in orbit." Launched in 1990, UoSAT-OSCAR-14 pioneered the PACSAT communication concept as the first 9.6 kbps Amateur Radio data communications satellite, although it became best known in recent years as an FM "easy sat."

"Since launch, UO-14 has completed over 72,000 orbits and as many charge/discharge cycles of its on-board NiCd

battery," said AMSAT-UK Chairman Martin Sweeting, G3YJO. "However recently one of the battery cells has become exhausted and can no longer support continuous operation of the repeater." Sweeting said UO-14's transmitter shuts down shortly after it is commanded "on" due to undervoltage, so the microsatellite's mission has been terminated.

"Thank you UO-14 for your long service!" Sweeting concluded.

AMSAT-NA Board Member Bruce Paige, KK5DO, an enthusiastic UO-14 user, called the AMSAT-UK announcement "sad news." He said the loss of UO-14 leaves amateurs with SO-41 and SO-50 as the only two LEO FM voice satellites. He noted, however, that the planned 2004 launch of OSCAR-ECHO would help to fill the void. OSCAR-ECHO is set to launch next March 31.

The popular and heavily used FM satellite's repeater quit working in August, but hope remained within the amateur satellite community that UO-14 somehow could be revived. Ground controller Chris Jackson, G7UPN, at one point was able to reset the satellite, but he later determined that UO-14 had suffered a primary power system failure that was causing the spacecraft to shut down during some eclipses.

During its active lifetime, UO-14 served several roles. After some 18 months as a PACSAT, UO-14 was switched to non-amateur frequencies for humanitarian use by Volunteers In Technical Assistance, which used it for messaging into Africa. After the store-and-forward communications computer proved no longer able to perform that task, UO-14 was turned back to amateur use as a single-channel FM voice repeater.

UO-14 again served a humanitarian role in early 2001 when hams assisting with earthquake relief operations in the Indian State of Gujarat took advantage of the satellite to provide communication from the stricken region.

The beauty of UO-14 was that it required minimal gear to make contacts--typically 5 W and modest antennas would do the trick. Operators with dualband handheld transceivers and "rubber duckie" antennas often could make QSOs via UO-14.

## **SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT COSPONSOR LIST TAKES A GIANT STEP**

Encouraging news this week from Washington: The list of House cosponsors for the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act, HR 713, has reached 69. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, says he's pleased with the progress since mid-October, when he'd expressed his frustration over a lack



of cosponsors. Since that time, the list has grown by 17 representatives. The Senate version of the legislation, S 537, is holding at eight cosponsors.

"I'm cheered up that we've got new representatives to sign on, but we can't just stop," Haynie said. "We gotta keep at it." He said the League has been concentrating its efforts on promoting HR 713 because the bill has the best chance for success of any Amateur Radio-related legislation now before Congress.

Haynie continues to encourage ARRL members to not only urge their senators and representatives to cosponsor HR 713 and S 537 but to write and ask them to actively support them. "This is something that's important to the future of Amateur Radio," Haynie reiterated.

Sponsored in the House by Rep Michael Bilirakis (R-FL) and in the Senate by Sen Michael Crapo (R-ID), the Spectrum Protection Act would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio if the FCC reallocates primary amateur frequencies, reduces any secondary amateur allocations, or makes additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce their utility to amateurs.

HR 713 has been referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. Haynie testified before that panel in June. S 537 has been referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

For the convenience of those writing their representatives and senators to urge cosponsorship of the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003, sample letters are on the ARRL Web site. For guidance on the best methods of contacting your members of Congress, see "Communicating with Congress," by Derek Riker, KB3JLF, on the ARRL Web site or in the April 2003 issue of QST (p 46).

Additional information—including the text of the Spectrum Protection Act and information on how to write members of Congress—is on the ARRL's "The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003" Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/arspa.html>>.

Those writing their lawmakers on behalf of the Spectrum Protection Act are asked to copy their correspondence to the League via e-mail to [specbill03@arrl.org](mailto:specbill03@arrl.org).

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## SCCARA's Picnic

September 27, 2003

Photos by Don Village, K6PBQ





# K6BSA DE K6PBQ

On Saturday Oct. 18, I operated Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) from my home QTH. This is an annual scouting event where scouts are able to talk with other scouting groups via amateur radio. This year I had Girl Scout Troop 1111 from Palo Alto over for JOTA. We were able to talk with special event station K6BSA in Milpitas. K6BSA was a joint venture between the Milpitas Amateur Radio and Electronics Society and the Saratoga Amateur Radio Assoc. They were set up at the Milpitas fire station on S. Main St. in Milpitas near the Great Mall.

This was the first year that they came over for JOTA. They had a great time chatting with K6BSA and practicing with Morse Code.

73, Don Village, K6PBQ



Girl scouts talking to K6BSA



K6BSA



Practicing Morse Code



# Packet Pieces

## Downloaded from the packet network:

=====  
Date: 28 Jun 2000 00:51  
From: AB7RG@AB7RG  
To: QUOTES@USA  
Subject: QUOTES # 060 !!!  
-----

Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve one's condition.

Call for an ambulance, the police, and for a pizza. See which one arrives first.

Sure, you say that you come in peace...

If man evolved from apes, why do we still have apes?

It seems as if the only time that the world ever beats a path to your door is if you're in the bathroom.

There are two kinds of pedestrians... The quick and the dead.

An unbreakable toy is useful for breaking other toys.

A closed mouth gathers no feet.

It's not hard to meet the expenses... They're everywhere!

Jury: Twelve people who determine which client has the better lawyer.

The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.

Famous Last Words: "Don't worry, it's under control."

Everybody lies, but it doesn't matter much since nobody listens.

Here's another excuse to use if you're late for work: "I was abducted by aliens!" Well at least it works for me. Of course I do work for myself. Be kind of sad if I fired myself, now wouldn't it?

Oxymoron: Honest politics.

Good Day: When you avert a disaster.

Bad Day: When you try to avert a disaster and subsequently cause one...

I'm not sleeping. I'm just inspecting the inside of my eyelids.

I'm not weird. You're perception of reality is just blurred.

A fanatic is one who can't change his mind and won't change the subject.

A truly wise man never stops learning.

Hear no evil, see no evil. -- Be stupid...

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.

Government: (n) An institution consisting of people who know absolutely nothing about anything, but make a lot out of everything.

Famous Last Words: "That could never happen here."

Never ever play leap-frog with a Unicorn.

For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism.

First Rule Of War: Never underestimate the Americans.

Shoot for the moon, even if you miss, you'll be among the stars...

Ever notice how some people never seem to quit giving their advice, yet never take any one else's?

If rational thoughts were like money, we would be a very poor nation.

Have a nice day. Unless you were planning otherwise...

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

## Newsletter Notes

In the last SCCARA-GRAM there was a survey asking members whether they thought they might use the club station once in a while if it were well equipped with various modes, etc.

The results (if you can call it that) are in. Only two people voluntarily offered their opinion. I asked two others in person, but they couldn't give me an opinion. At the November general meeting, we went around the room and finally collected some responses...

12 said yes, 5 said no, and 39 apparently had no opinion (did not respond).

So, what does this mean? Would it be worth while to spend some money beefing up the club station? On its face, with so many not responding, the implication is probably not. The pessimist in me says those who couldn't be bothered to respond, actually did vote with their silence, that is, "no." On the other hand, the optimist in me says: "if we build it, they would come."

Ultimately, it's up to the board to decide to spend money. I was hoping to have a higher percentage of the members respond to the survey, to help guide the board. We have enough to money build a station that would be the envy of the vast majority of amateurs. But should we?

Personally, I think any club with a station should make it the best that they can comfortably afford. A good club station could attract new members and give existing members a reason to renew. But with just twelve out of 57 members caring enough to say yes, is that enough? If it were up to me, I'd do it... but that's me.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

# December Luncheon Meeting Sign-up

Our annual December christmas meeting will be a luncheon this time; on Saturday December 20, at the Hungry Hunter in Milpitas, Calaveras Blvd just east of Hwy 680 (old yellow house location), we've been there before. Luncheon is at 12 noon. Please note that on Saturday there isn't a regular bar. You will be able to order a bottle of wine for the table.

We will have a choice of four entrees. The regular lunch is \$15.00 each, children's choices are indicated below. Reservations need to be in by Friday, December 12. Talk-in on our repeater W6UU, 146.385+ (simplex if you can't hit the repeater). I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there. Why not renew your membership (back cover) at the same time? See "December Meeting" article for information on gift exchange.

-- Don K6PBQ

For the annual meeting in December, sign me up for the following lunch(es):  
From the regular menu, \$15.00 each:

_____ Prime Ribs of Beef	_____ Forest Mushroom Chicken
_____ Salmon	_____ Vegetarian Pasta

From the Children's menu:

_____ Deli Burger, \$7.50	_____ Chicken Strips, \$7.50
_____ Fried Shrimp, \$8.75	Total for lunches: \$ _____

Please renew your membership (over) at the same time--combine both payments here -- GRAND TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Give this form (or copy) with payment to the Treasurer or mail to: SCCARA PO Box 6 San Jose CA 95103-0006

## 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, K6PBQ, WB6YRU

Lightning protection, grounding: WB6YRU

Station set-up, equipment: K6PBQ

TVI/RFI: WB6YRU

Homebrew projects, construction: KD6FJI, WB6YRU

Computers: KB6NP; IBM PC: WB6YRU

Packet Network (BBS, forwarding): WB6YRU

Code operating and installations: WB6EMR, K6PBQ

DX (long distance/propagation): WB6EMR

Emergency operating/preparedness: WA6QYS

FM (VHF/UHF, repeaters): WA6VJY

HF operating techniques (SSB, CW): WB6EMR, K6PBQ

Classes/license upgrading: W6ACW

Legal/FCC rules: WB6YRU

SCCARA (club inner workings):

KO6HH, K6PBQ, WA6VJY, WB6YRU, WA6QYS

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) 918-4635, evening: (408) 225-6769  
packet: home BBS KB6MER

KO6HH, Don Hayden, (408) 867-4643  
packet: home BBS N0ARY

KB6NP, Jon Dutra, day & msg (408) 428-2058  
evening (408) 867-8654  
packet: home BBS N0ARY  
internet: jad@aol.com

K6PBQ, Don Village, (408) 263-2789

WA6QYS, Lou Steirer, (408) 241-7999  
packet: home BBS N0ARY

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 N0ARY  
internet: wb6yru@aenel.net

# SCCARA Membership Form for 2004

(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: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Licence Expiration  
Date (mo/yr): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

For family memberships (at the same address), please fill out a separate form for each. Indicate the "primary member" for mailing purposes: \_\_\_\_\_

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:** ☐ \$15 Individual ☐ \$20 Family ☐ \$5 Student (under 18)

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

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 OR CUT FORM <====

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY  
AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**

PO BOX 6  
San Jose CA 95103-0006

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League



**FIRST CLASS**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**