

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 20, Number 5

May 2004



President's Prose

The antenna trailer that was at the home of Don Hayden, KO6HH, has been moved to Clark Murphy's, KE6KXO, home on a temporary basis. It is at Clark's so that some of the repairs can be done before Field Day. It will have to be moved to a permanent location soon. I am working on finding a permanent place for the antenna trailer now. The other thing we need to find is someone with a big pickup truck to take the antenna trailer up to the Field Day site and then return to collect it after Field Day. I feel we should reimburse anyone who does this for their time and gas, if they are not a member of SCCARA.

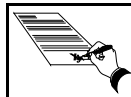
I want to say thank you again to David Paul for the good job he has been doing as our secretary. He seems to have gotten comfortable in the position rather quickly. We are lucky to have him. Thanks also for Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU for being our speaker in April and giving us the refresher on Packet Radio & BBS use. We all picked up something new.

Wally Britten, KA6YMD, has told me that papers sent to NARCC regarding the sanctioning of the repeater, has been received and accepted. We are one step closer to being sanctioned. Thanks to Wally, Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, and Don Village, K6PBQ, for all their work. Don Village has agreed to be the new Station Trustee to replace Don Hayden who recently became a silent key, and the new licenses have arrived.

Field Day is coming up soon. We need all the help we can get. Please think about planning some time to come to Field Day and man a station for a little while. Whether or not you have lunch, we need your support of time at a station of your choice. There should be a sign-up sheet somewhere in this issue. The meal prices will not change for this year.

Remember to check in on the Monday 2-meter, and the Thursday 10-meter nets. If you don't get to the meetings, this is where you will get updates on SCCARA, on a weekly basis. I'll be listening for you. Otherwise, see you at the meetings.

73, Barbara K. Britten, KD6QEI, President



SCCARA Hosting Flea Market June 12th

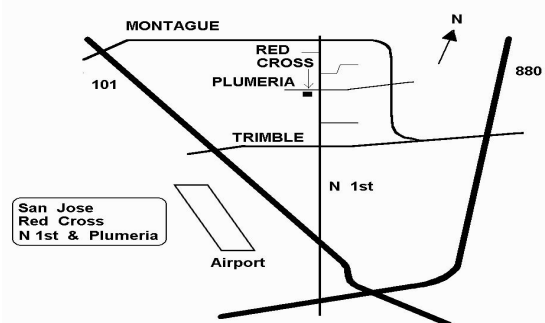
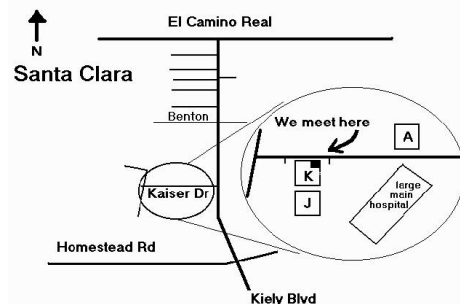
Come and be a part of the NEW electronics flea market

Calendar

- 5/1 Livermore Electronic Flea Market
- 5/8 Sunnyvale Flea Market (formerly Foothill)
- 5/10 SCCARA General Meeting
- 5/17 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting:

Day: Monday, May 10, 2004
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Bld K, Rm 1
Featuring: Michael Wright K6MFW will talk about NASA Ames communications, remote TV demo.



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The deadline for articles is the last Monday of the previous 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>.

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N0ARY BBS	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	269-2924
	e-mail: wb6yru@aenat.net	

SCCARA REPEATERS

SCCARA owns and operates two repeaters under the call W6UU:

2 meter: 146.985 - 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 Eagle Rock near Alum Rock Park in the foothills of east San Jose. 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). Sysop: Gary WB6YRU

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

held in Sunnyvale near the intersections of Highway 101, Highway 237 and Mathilda Avenue. The conveniently accessible new location saw a lot of action, to the satisfaction of both buyers and sellers at the first flea markets. SCCARA will be responsible for the management of the June 12th edition of this exiting event.

Flea Markets do not happen by themselves. It is the hard work of the volunteers of the sponsoring organization that ensures a successful operation. Here is your opportunity to help SCCARA gain a boost to its coffers while enjoying the camaraderie of you fellow hams. Help at the flea market is needed throughout the day from 0400 to 1400, but the two critical times are set up and clean up. Shifts are arranged in two hour increments, but you are encouraged to sign up for multiple shifts. None of the tasks are too strenuous and the more volunteers there are, the easier it is for everyone. Please sign up and be a part of this rewarding endeavor, and be a participant in the activities of your club.

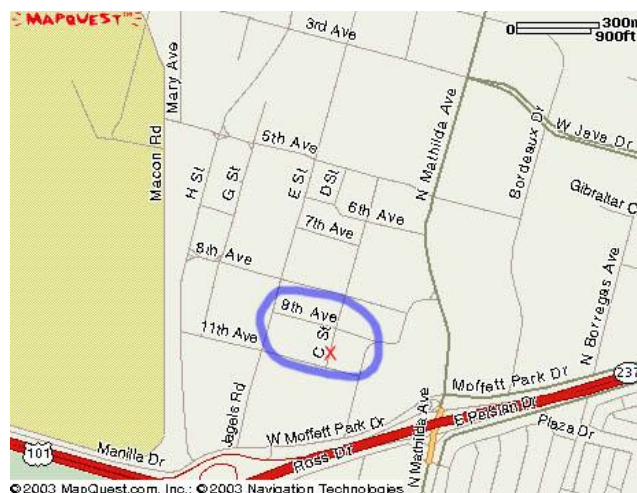
To volunteer, call me, Lou WA6QYS, at (408) 241-7999 and let me know your shift preference.

- A. 0400 - 0600
- B. 0600 - 0800
- C. 0800 - 1000
- D. 1000 - 1200
- E. 1200 - 1400

Let's join together and make the most of this exciting opportunity.

Lou WA6QYS

The group that runs the flea market now is ASVARO (Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Organizations). Their home web site is <http://www.ASVARO.org>, for complete directions see: <http://www.asvaro.org/fleamarket.shtml>. {- Editor }



Repeater Report

SCCARA's "realigned" repeater transmitting on 146.985 (-) PL 114.8 is now operating at the intended full power output and using the folded dipole array on the tower at the Eagle Rock site. The sanctioning process is under way and we are published in NARCC's pending 60 day comment status. This is where objections could be raised by any co-users that think interference could exist. The phone patch line level problems were resolved by Ben WB6FRM and the process of writing and issuing new use instructions are under way.

Wally KA6YMD, Repeater Chair.

Treasurer's Treatise

Summary Report 1/1/04 Through 4/20/04

Category Description	Checking	Savings	TOTAL
INCOME			
Interest Inc	0.00	5.84	5.84
Newsletter	-297.73	0.00	-297.73
TOTAL INCOME	-297.73	5.84	-291.89
EXPENSES			
Dues and Subscriptions	0.00	0.00	0.00
Insurance	326.40	0.00	326.40
Misc	95.00	0.00	95.00
Miscellaneous, Bus	1,100.00	0.00	1,100.00
Rent:			
FIELD DAY SITE	388.00	0.00	366.00
STORAGE	189.00	0.00	189.00
TOTAL Rent	555.00	0.00	555.00
Telephone 115.12	0.00	115.12	
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,191.52	0.00	2,191.52
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES	-2,489.25	5.84	-2,483.41
OVERALL TOTAL			
	-489.25	-1,994.16	-2,483.41

Lloyd, KD6FJI

Dit-dah-dah-dit-dah-dit is where it's at

By Mark Glassman
New York Times

The French say petit escargot; the Dutch call it a monkey's tail. On a qwerty keyboard, it's Shift-2. And next month, amateur radio enthusiasts will call it dit-dah-dah-dit-dah-dit.

That is when the symbol @ officially becomes the newest character in the Morse code.

"As far as we know, this is the first change to the code in at least 60 years," said Gary Fowlie, a spokesman for the International Telecommunications Union, the arm of the United Nations that will oversee the update, which is to become official May 3. "There is a need for it."

In 1844, Samuel F. B. Morse sent the first Morse code message over a long-distance telegraph. The phrase "what hath God wrought" traveled almost instantly from Washington to

Baltimore.

Later the code was used by the military to transmit messages over radio frequencies. Today, a handful of ham radio enthusiasts communicate in Morse code as a hobby and also use it during power failures.

"This is one of those technologies that never really dies completely," said Elliot Sivowitch, a museum specialist emeritus for the Smithsonian Institution who specializes in radio communications.

But with the rise of e-mail, Morse code must reckon with the @ symbol, which is essential to every e-mail address.

Ham radio hobbyists use Morse code to exchange e-mail addresses on the air so that they can trade files or lengthy Web addresses, said Rick Lindquist, the senior news editor at the American Radio Relay League, the largest association of amateur radio enthusiasts in the country. "Most of our members have e-mail capability," he added.

Until now, those ham operators had to spell out @ with two letters of code: "A," a dot followed by a dash, and "T," a dash. The resulting sound is "dit-dah-dah," which also translates to the letter "W."

Now the @ symbol is transmitted by combining the letters "A" and "C" and has a sound not shared by any other single character.

"The irony is that sending the word 'at' is shorter," Lindquist said.

By about half. Each dash is three times the duration of a dot, and within a single character, the space between sounds is one dot long. So, the word "at" takes nine beats, or dots; the @ symbol takes 17.

How radio hobbyists respond to that difference will determine the popularity of the symbol over the word. So far, the word appears to be winning.

"I think they designed it wrong," said Herb Sweet, the treasurer of an amateur radio club in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. "I have a hunch that people are more than likely to just go A-T - dit-dah-dah."

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NoARY BBS Report

NoARY BBS has been up and running...for the most part. You're all familiar with "spam," right? Well, it seems the BBS is not immune. The BBS's internet port is a frequent target. The BBS runs on an old Sun Sparc workstation under Sun OS (UNIX). As such, spammers not only often flood the BBS with spam, but commandeer its sendmail facility beyond this little machine's ability to cope.

So, if you try to check in and it doesn't seem to be working, try again some other time. As soon as I notice that it's clogged up again, I'll clear it. Typically this takes a day or two, longer if I have to run up to the site and do a power reset. (Yes, sometimes it gets so clogged I can't even log in remotely.)

Gary, WB6YRU

SCCARA supports MS Walk 2004

On behalf of the MS Society, we would like to thank SCCARA for their radio support of the Walk 2004. It is vital for safety and logistics to have communications at this event. I would like to thank the following members for volunteering their time and

talents for this event: Lloyd KD6FJI, Lou WA6QYS, Gwen KF6OTD, David AE6MV, Mike KB6LCJ, Tom KF6NEW, and Ralf Erickson WA6CQA from West Valley SVECS.

Thanks again for a job well done.

73, Don Village K6PBQ

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Dec. 20, 2003



Monthly Meeting, April 12, 2004, 19:30, Bldg K, Kaiser Santa Clara. Attendance: 18, including 16 members and 2 visitors.

Members present (in alphabetical order): Don Apte KK6MX, Barbara Britten KD6QEI, Wally Britten KA6YMD, Lloyd Devaughns KD6FJI, Joan Hastings KB6LFZ, Mike Hastings KB6LCJ, Roy Metzger K6VIP, Virginia Metzger K6IUU, Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, Clark Murphy KE6KXO, David Paul AE6MV, Tom Root KF6NEW, Gwen Steirer KF6OTD, Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Don Village K6PBQ, El Wirt K6ZYY

Visitors present: Michael Wright K6MFW, Del Harbold KG6JPX

Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, opened the meeting at 19:33.
At Barbara's request, we introduced ourselves to each other.

Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, is tonight's presenter, with a presentation and live demonstration of Packet. Michael Wright will follow, to update us on Public Safety Radio Interoperability.

Gary first said that although most attendees were already aware of the basics of packet radio, he had aimed tonight's presentation at the new Hams in the club, who have no knowledge at all of packet radio [such as the club's Secretary].

Gary distributed a two-sided sheet showing the Northern California Packet Band Plan and listing the definitions of many packet terms. Packet radio uses a protocol named AX.25, which is an amateur radio variant of the commercial protocol X.25. As the name suggests, data is sent in packets. Each packet can be a Supervisory packet, an Information packet (addressed to a station), or an Unnumbered packet, aimed to all users. Packets can be numbered 0 through 7, so eight packets can be sent. Each packet consists of the CallSign, control bits, the data, then CRC bits. CRC = Cyclic Redundancy Check. TCP/IP can be used. The Space Station crew sometimes talks by voice on the Ham bands, but they have packet capability too. A feature of packet radio, APRDS, seem to be an answer in search of a problem to solve. With APRDS, a mobile station can transmit its position at intervals. (Interesting anecdote; a member knows of a Ham whose wife borrowed his car for a day of antique shopping in the Gold Country; that afternoon he received a phone call from his wife, who had become lost, and he was able to receive the information from the automatic transmissions, and tell his wife precisely where she was!) Most TNCs use, for the PTT line, the convention GND = XMT, Open = RCV. Many TNCs can be programmed for other options. Radios must be able to handle the bandwidth of the packet signal, which can be in the range 2KHz - 4 KHz - 5 KHz. Radios with tight filtering can be used with the deviation in the low end of that range, but with poorer results. TNCs also need to be told the XMT delay of the radio, TXD, so they can know when to start transmission. At this point, Gary showed a working packet station, and showed a few of us how to connect to another packet station,

and had a running packet-radio discussion with Chuck, N6VHF.

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Barbara KD6QEI reconvened the meeting at 20:31, to speak of Don Hayden. Don had a hearty attack and died 3/8/2004. An ambulance took him to the hospital, where he succumbed. A friend had not been able to reach him for three days, but was pretty sure he was at home, so on the third day, the friend drove up to Don's home and found him on the floor. There was no obituary in any of the local papers, Don's body was flown to Phoenix where it was cremated and the ashes interred near those of his parents. A number of members spoke of their memories of Don. Barbara said she would really miss him, at 6'6 or 6'7, a gentle giant. Clark spoke of Don's background: Don taught for many years at Lakeland College in Wisconsin (which, interestingly, was started and funded by Harley Davidson). Don's proper title was Dr. Hayden, but few knew he held his Ph.D., as was never aloof. Don was born and raised in Bonny Doon, then moved to Phoenix. A friend, Doug Eaton WN6U, liked to sail with Don; Don had a 26 foot sailboat at Redwood City. A moment of silence then followed for Don, beginning at 20:48:45.

Don was the club's Repeater Trustee; his successor is Don Village K6PBQ. Our Club calls, W6UU and W6UW, have been renewed, in Don's name. NARCC still lists Don Hayden as the Trustee. Roy Metzger, K6VIP, reported that he has spoken with NARCC, and learned that the Club's copy of the NARCC Newsletter is being mailed to Don Hayden's address. The current newsletter is, however, available from their website.

Michael Wright K6MFW spoke of his recent attendance at the Public Safety Interoperability Conference. Our area now has some better interoperability for Public Safety folks. Southern California ran out of spectrum. Michael gave a full copy of the information from the Conference to Barbara, in case anyone want to review the information.

- Clark Murphy KE6KXO spoke of Field Day, which will be June 26-27 this year. Clark has ordered a copy of the Rules & Regulations.

- Lou Steirer, WA6QYS reminded us that the next SVECS Breakfast will be 4/24 at 09:00. The speaker will be Steve Walker from the USGS. The USGS will soon celebrate fifty years at its Menlo park location.

- Our turn at the Flea market will be June 12. Mark your calendars! We will need everyone's help to staff the food booth.

- We have a raffle for a 25V 0.5W Solar Cell; the winner was our visitor Del Harbold KG6JPX.

- Don Apte KK6MX warned members that he just had a \$900 loss at the recent Flea Market. He had some original Software for sale, in its original packaging. Someone, while he looked away, broke the CDs in half, still in their packaging. He thinks he knows who it was, a guy who had just asked to be given the software free, but he has no proof.

- Elmer Alert - Our visitor Del Harbold KG6JPX, asked if anyone knows all the bells and whistles available on an ICOM IC-8000. He has the unit and the programming software, but needs help understanding all the capabilities. No further New Business was heard. Clark Murphy moved that the meeting be closed, the motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 21:33.

After the meeting concluded, Del Harbold, KG6JPX, submitted his Membership Application and paid his dues for 2004. Welcome, Del!

David Paul, AE6MV

Board Meeting, April 19, 2004



The meeting was called to order at 19:35 by the President, Barbara Britten, KD6QEI. A quorum was present.

Attendees: Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, President, Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI, Treasurer, Clark Murphy, KE6KXO, Director, Don Apte, KK6MX, Director, Don Village, K6PBQ, Director, Wally Britten, KA6YMD, Director, Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, Director, Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, Editor, Gwen Steirer, KF60TD, XYL and David Paul, AE6MV, Secretary,

President Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, thanked Gary Mitchell for his presentation of Packet Radio at last week's Meeting. There is no new news from Don Hayden's brother. One of Barbara's friends who lives in Morgan Hill might be willing to allow the Trailer to be stored on his land; Barbara will ask. We might be able to get the same person who moved the trailer last time to move it again, and offer him \$50 in gratitude. Or perhaps we might need to rent a truck to move the trailer. The President's Prose is ready; perhaps it could include an inquiry if any member owns a truck.

DeVaughns, KD6FJI, Treasurer, called in to the Net to advise us that he is ill and will not be able to attend tonight's meeting.

Secretary David Paul, AE6MV, presented the minutes. Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, pointed out that he had dropped by the room before last month's meeting, but was no present for the meeting, and requested that the minutes be revised (done: MV). No other revisions were suggested.

Repeater Chairman Wally Britten, KA6YMD, reported that the repeater is working well. He and Barbara have been at a Red Cross First Aid class, so he has not had the time to prepare the repeater code document for distribution. He will have it ready for the May meeting. VIP has talked with OPO, the head of NARCC. They need a person's home address for SCCARA. NARCC has had problems with Club P.O. Boxes that are checked only once per Month. After discussion, the decision was for Wally to provide his address.

Don Village, K6PBQ, reported that the Club call signs have been renewed, and displayed the new licenses for W6UW and W6UU-R. Don provided copies for Gary Mitchell to have laminated, then to be posted at the Club Station, at Regional Medical Center (70 cm) and at Kaiser Santa Teresa (non-operating 2M). The 2M repeater is sited in a secure location, and so does not require a posted certificate for identification.

Editor Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, spoke of the Newsletter. The newsletter has a major lack of Club news and Local News. The 2M-repeater inversion should have been covered in advance. The Flea Market location change should have been covered in advance. If we have any extra equipment, or a spare tower, we should advertise it in the newsletter. Various persons agreed to provide articles for the next newsletter.

Director Clark Murphy, KE6KXO, suggested that the newsletter might serve as a better reminder of the next meeting if it were to arrive at members' homes closer to the date of the next meeting. Clark moved that the deadline and mailing dates for the newsletter be moved forward one week, setting the new newsletter deadline on the last Monday of the month. Director, Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Gary Mitchell spoke of the BBS. It is running most of the time.

It crashes once in a while. It runs on Sun OS, and older version of SendMail. Spammers can gain control of it, and use it to pass Spam. It then becomes overloaded and clogs. It then reboots to something like a "Safe Mode". We might be able to prevent this by utilizing a radio link instead of a telephone link for the Internet connection.

Treasurer Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI, was absent.

Old Business

Director Clark Murphy, KE6KXO, spoke of Field Day. Field Day will be June 26-27 this year. We need to have a "Trailer Party" at Clark's house (the current location of the Club Trailer). Clark moved and Lou Steirer seconded, that we spend up to \$100 for tools and new ropes for Field Day. After discussion, the motion was approved unanimously. KA6PBQ recommended that the ropes be Dacron; KXO countered that Dacron is too sensitive to UV, and Kevlar is the current best choice. I was pointed out that last year, we invited Los Cumbres to share Field Day: all agreed we should do so again this year.

Director Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, moved (Don Village seconded) that we purchase a two-burner white gas stove. After discussion, the motion passed with one Nay.

After discussion, I was decided that we would leave both towers on the trailer, in case we have use for both during Field Day.

While Don Village has graciously agreed to replace our Silent Key Don Hayden as our Club Station Trustee, he has yet to be elected. Don Apte moved, and Clark Murphy seconded, that Don be named the replacement Trustee. The motion passed unanimously.

The "New HAM" letter was brought up. Gary brought a copy for discussion last month, but it was never discussed, and no one knows where it is. The topic was tabled until next month.

Director, Don Village, K6PBQ, reported that Hungry Hunter has changed names, but that it will keep the current menu, so we have reserved the date Saturday 12/18/2004.

Director, Don Apte, KK6MX, brought a cable (actually, we had to choose from one of two) that will fill the need that prevented last week's presentation form being presented on the overhead display at Kaiser Santa Clara. A motion was presented (Steirer/Village), and passed unanimously, that MX be repaid \$15 for the "Cable for the projector at Kaiser Santa Clara".

Lou Steirer had three items to present:

- 1) Lou passed around a sign-up sheet for all of us to sign up to help at the Flea Market in June. Also, the SVECS will host the Flea Market in September, and will need our help then, too.
- 2) The SVECS Breakfast is this coming Saturday, Breakfast 09:00, Presentation 10:00, topic Menlo Park Geodetic Survey's 50th Anniversary.
- 3) Bob Forster recently had a heart attack. Lou passed around a card for everyone to sign; the Secretary will post it. (done: MV).

New Business

Don Apte pointed out that our Club Business Cards have an incorrect frequency and an incorrect phone number. It was moved by Clark Murphy, seconded by Don Apte, and passed unanimously that Gary Mitchell arrange for 500 or 1000 new cards, with the Club logo and ARRL Logo in color, with the correct 2M frequency, and with the current last line (Shorty's phone number)

omitted.

Lou Steirer suggested that we arrange for a handout to be distributed at the Flea Market and SVECS Breakfast, advertising SCCARA.

The President, Barbara Britten, KD6QEI asked for any other items of business, new or old.

Clark Murphy moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Barbara agreed. The meeting was adjourned at 21:43.

Upcoming Meetings:

- The May General Meeting, will be held Monday May 10 at 19:30, in Bldg K, Kaiser Santa Clara. Field Day, and Repeater Codes, will be discussed.

- The next Board Meeting will be May 17 at 19:30 at the San Jose Red Cross HQ.

David Paul, AE6MV, Secretary

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 9, 2004

ARRL CALLS INTERFERENCE TO ATTENTION OF BPL TRIAL COMMUNITY'S MAYOR

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, has written Penn Yan, New York, Mayor Doug Marchionda Jr to call the mayor's attention to documented radio interference from the town's small BPL field trial. He accompanied his April 1 e-mail with a report from ARRL member Dave Hallidy, K2DH, who visited Penn Yan after a recent Wall Street Journal article suggested that BPL interference issues in Penn Yan had been resolved.

"I understand that your village is considering entering into a long-term agreement with a firm to offer BPL service," Sumner wrote Marchionda. "Please be aware that a large-scale deployment of BPL is bound to cause harmful interference to radio communications across a wide area."

According to news accounts, the Western New York community of about 5200 residents will consider approval of a 10-year agreement with Data Ventures (DVI) to offer BPL service in Penn Yan. The village reportedly would get 10 percent of the generated revenue.

In his March 23 article "In This Power Play, High-Wire Act Riles Ham-Radio Fans," Wall Street Journal reporter Ken Brown described a "firestorm" of protest from amateurs when Penn Yan approved the BPL test plan.

Hallidy said he found during his visit that BPL noise "appears to start in earnest around the bottom of the 17 meter band (18 MHz) and continues upwards." He said that once he tuned above 18 MHz, there were no frequencies where the BPL noise was not observed. "The signals were pretty uniform from 18 to 30 MHz," he said.

Sumner told Marchionda that DVI cannot guarantee reliable service delivery via BPL because FCC Part 15 rules stipulate that its operation "is subject to the conditions that no harmful interference is caused and that interference must be accepted that

may be caused by the operation of an authorized radio station." Sumner noted that newly proposed FCC rules would impose additional requirements on BPL systems to better address interference problems that arise.

The sort of interference Hallidy described in his report suggests "severe interference on a broad range of radio frequencies" in violation of FCC rules--specifically §15.5(b)--and a complaint has been filed with the FCC, Sumner noted.

Sumner offered to demonstrate to Marchionda the extent of the BPL interference in Penn Yan before the community proceeds any further with its BPL plans and "to explain why a full-scale deployment is not possible within the FCC rules." Such a demonstration, Sumner concluded, would provide Penn Yan with "a factual basis" to make its decision on BPL.

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 16, 2004

FCC PROPOSES WIDE-RANGING CHANGES TO AMATEUR SERVICE RULES

The FCC has released an "omnibus" Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) that seeks comments on a wide range of proposed Amateur Service (Part 97) rule changes. The FCC also denied several petitions for rule making aimed at altering portions of the Amateur Radio regulatory landscape and ordered minor changes in Part 97. The NPRM is a result of a dozen petitions for rule making, some filed more than a year ago and a few dating back as far as 2001. Comments on the proposals put forth in WT Docket 04-140 are due by Tuesday, June 15, with reply comments by Wednesday, June 30. Among other changes, the FCC has recommended adopting the ARRL's "Novice refarming" plan <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/refarm/>>.

"Because the ARRL petition addresses the operating privileges of all classes of licensees on these Amateur Service bands, we believe that the ARRL petition provides a basis for a comprehensive restructuring of operating privileges," the FCC said in its NPRM. "We note that, as proposed, no licensees would lose any spectrum privileges and that General, Advanced, and Amateur Extra Class licensees would gain spectrum for phone emissions, one of the most popular operating modes on the HF bands."

The ARRL referenced its Novice refarming proposal in its recent Petition for Rule Making, RM-10867 <http://gulfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6516083735>, which, along with three other petitions (see "FCC Invites Comments on Amateur Radio Restructuring Plans," <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/03/24/2/>>) remains open for comment until April 23.

The FCC also has proposed essentially eliminating its rules prohibiting manufacture or marketing of Amateur Radio Service power amplifiers capable of operating between 24 and 35 MHz. Originally put on the books in 1978 to keep high-powered amateur amplifiers out of the hands of Cbers, the rules now "impose unnecessary restrictions on manufacturers of Amateur Radio equipment and are inconsistent with the experimental nature of the Amateur Service," the FCC said.

The FCC additionally proposed a rule change that would make Kenwood's Sky Command system legal for operation within the US. The proposed amendment to §97.201(b) of the rules would permit auxiliary operation on 2 meters above 144.5 MHz--with the

exception of the satellite subband 145.8 to 146.0 MHz--in addition to frequency segments already authorized. The Sky Command system permits the user to operate certain Kenwood equipment remotely via a VHF/UHF handheld transceiver.

In response to an ARRL petition, the FCC proposed extending the bands available for spread spectrum experimentation and use to include 222-225 MHz. On its own initiative, it also recommended including 6 and 2 meters as well. Current rules limit SS emissions to frequencies above 420 MHz.

Among other changes, the FCC also proposed to prohibit acceptance of more than one application per applicant per vanity call sign; permit retransmission of communications between a manned spacecraft and its associated Earth stations, including the International Space Station; allow current amateurs to designate a specific Amateur Radio club to acquire their call sign in memoriam; eliminate §97.509(a) of the rules, which requires a public announcement of volunteer examiner test locations and times; and add to §97.505(a) to provide Element 1 (5 WPM Morse) credit to any applicant holding a Technician license granted after February 14, 1991, and who can document having passed a telegraphy examination element.

The Commission ordered some changes in Part 97 without requesting comment. It ordered, among others, the revision of the definition of an "amateur operator" in §97.3(a)(1) to reflect that entry in the FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS), not a license document, determines whether a person is an Amateur Radio operator.

The FCC also adopted a technical change--in line with a recent amendment to the international Radio Regulations--to specify that the mean power of any spurious emission from a new amateur station transmitter or amplifier operating below 30 MHz be at least 43 dB below the mean power of the fundamental emission, 3 dB greater than the current requirement.

The FCC turned down a petition would have established distinct CW and phone segments in the 160-meter band. Although a majority of commenters supported the proposal, the Commission said the current voluntary band plan "adequately accommodates the operating interests of all licensees who use the 160-meter band because it was based on input from those who use this spectrum."

Among several others, the FCC turned down petitions that would have imposed restrictions on the time, length or transmission frequencies of bulletins or informational transmissions directed at the amateur community. Also denied was an ARRL request to add to the special event call sign system certain call sign blocks that designate territories and possessions that have no specified mailing addresses. The FCC suggested using self-assigned indicators instead.

The FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-79A1.doc> in WT Docket 04-140 is available on the FCC Web site.

As soon as the document has been posted, comments on the NPRM may be filed via the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>. Click on "Submit a filing." To view filed comments, click on "Search for filed comments." In either case enter the NPRM number in the "Proceeding" field as "04-140" (without the quotation marks).

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 23, 2004

UTILITY DRAWS "LINE THE SAND" ON BPL INTERFERENCE ABATEMENT

In an e-mail this week to the FCC, an electric utility testing broadband over power line (BPL) systems in the Raleigh, North Carolina, area has drawn a virtual line in the sand on how far it plans to go to mitigate interference to Amateur Radio. Responding this week to the FCC about BPL interference complaints from hams, Progress Energy Corp (PEC) told the FCC that his company has eliminated any harmful interference from its BPL trial site and now complies with FCC rules.

"It is PEC's position and interpretation of the FCC's rules with regard to 'harmful interference' that any interference that may still exist is not 'harmful' as that term is defined by the FCC's rules," Len Anthony, PEC's attorney for regulatory affairs, told James Burtle, chief of the FCC's Experimental License Branch. "This level of interference does not seriously degrade ham radio operation or transmissions or cause repeated interruptions." Some, but not all, of PEC's BPL field trials are covered by an FCC Part 5 experimental license.

The FCC defines as "harmful" any interference that "seriously degrades, obstructs or repeatedly interrupts a radiocommunication service operating in accordance with the Radio Regulations."

Anthony claimed that since PEC can modify its Amperion BPL system to totally eliminate interference to fixed stations, "the only impact of any kind upon ham operations is upon mobile operators." PEC concluded that since BPL interference to mobiles would be "very short lived," the company is not causing harmful interference and is in "full compliance" with FCC Part 15 rules.

ARRL North Carolina Public Information Officer Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, suggests PEC has a bit more work to do. He is among local amateurs closely monitoring BPL deployment in the test zones and cooperating with PEC and Amperion to work out any interference issues. Pearce says interference remains on the top end of 20 meters in an overhead-line field trial neighborhood where PEC recently had tweaked its system.

"Nothing had changed," he told ARRL after visiting the neighborhood in the wake of Anthony's e-mail. "They were still covering up the top end of the 20-meter band." Interference to 17 and 12 meters had been notched out, but beyond that, BPL interference persisted from 14.290 to nearly 17 MHz, he said, and "fringe" carriers still encroached some 100 kHz into the bottom of 15 meters. Interference had not been mitigated at all in neighborhoods with underground power service, he said.

Progress Energy has been operating its "Phase II" trial in three neighborhoods south of Raleigh since early January. The area, in Wake County, is largely rural or lightly settled.

No hams live in the underground-wired neighborhood, so none complained, Pearce said. The handful of BPL interference complaints eventually lodged with the FCC came from amateurs living closer to the overhead-wired neighborhood, and some were from mobile operators.

Pearce said PEC's stance regarding mobile stations "sets a new bar" in interpreting harmful interference. "Hams have never been asked to accept that level of interference before," he said, noting that mobiles driving by a power line can hear the signal for "a mile or so."

The ARRL's BPL strategy calls for the League to seek a radiated emission limit sufficient to protect the estimated 70,000 Amateur Radio mobile stations in the US. ARRL field observations using typical amateur equipment have documented BPL interference to mobile stations located hundreds of meters from BPL interference sources.

Pearce says the North Carolina hams will respond to Progress Energy and the FCC to disagree with its interpretation of "harmful interference" and its conclusion regarding interference to mobiles.

While he maintains that controlling BPL in a small trial area like his should not be that difficult, "having BPL buzzing across all the power lines in a large city is another story entirely, and that's what we're worried about."

ARRL CEO David Sumner framed the situation another way. "If BPL emissions block weak signals that otherwise would be usable, that is harmful interference and they must remedy it," he said. "Progress Energy has as much as admitted that they can't. The only thing left for them to do is to shut their system down and get back to their basic business of supplying electrical energy."

Additional information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/bpl/>>.

FCC OKAYS RF IDENTIFICATION TAGS AT 433.5 TO 434.5 MHZ

The FCC has adopted a somewhat limited version of its earlier proposal to permit deployment of RF Identification (RFID) tags in a segment of the 70 cm band at much greater duty cycles than current Part 15 rules permit for such devices and at higher field strengths. Among other applications, RFID tags are used to track shipments and packing containers. A Third Report and Order (R&O) in ET Docket 01-278 <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-98A1.doc> released this week follows a 2000 petition by SAVI Technology to revise FCC Part 15 rules to accommodate such devices in the vicinity of 433 MHz. The ARRL has consistently opposed the proposal, but FCC just as unflinching has tried to accommodate it. FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) Chief Ed Thomas said RFIDs provide important public benefits.

"This item is designed to increase homeland security at ports, rail yards and warehouses," Thomas told the FCC open meeting. "It will foster the development of more powerful and advanced RFID systems that can identify the contents of shipping containers and determine whether tampering has occurred during shipment." Thomas said the devices also would increase efficiency in shipping operations and inventory control.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said SAVI has been raising the issue of homeland security in association with this proceeding for several months now. "This is the first time the FCC has acknowledged the argument," Imlay said, "but it helps the Commission justify the complete abandonment of its periodic radiator rules, and helps justify its abandonment of its custodial role of a natural resource."

In requesting Commission adoption, OET's Hugh van Tuyl provided the broad strokes of the Part 15 rule changes, which, he said, would apply specifically to commercial shipping containers "in commercial and industrial areas." In certain cases, he asserted, current Part 15 requirements aimed at preventing interference to licensed services "may unnecessarily constrain the operational

range of RFID systems as well as the speed and quantity of data that can be transmitted."

The Third R&O not only would increase the maximum radiated field strength permitted for such devices but their maximum permissible transmission period as well--from one second to one minute. "While the maximum [emission] level would be greater than currently allowed," van Tuyl said, "it would still be only one-half of the level permitted for devices such as garage door openers, which also operate in this band." The longer authorized transmission period would allow an RFID to transmit the contents of an entire shipping container, he pointed out.

"We therefore believe there will be no significant increase in the potential for interference to authorized services," van Tuyl concluded.

The FCC made peace with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) on the RFID tag issue. In 2002, the NTIA--citing the likelihood of interference to critical government radars--expressed "grave concerns" about the proposal to permit deployment of the RFIDs.

The Third R&O reflects certain accommodations that SAVI had offered in response to the 2002 NTIA study. It limits the operating band for such RFID tags to 433.5 to 434.5 MHz, instead of the 425 to 435 MHz SAVI originally wanted. It further would prohibit operation of RFID tag systems within 40 km (about 25 miles) of five government radar sites. Manufacturers of 433 MHz RFID systems would have to register the locations of their system base stations to assist in resolving interference complaints.

Since SAVI first approached the FCC in 2000, ARRL has maintained that the RFID tags the company proposed represented a significant source of potential interference to sensitive receivers. Operating near-continuous duty Part 15 in the vicinity of 433 MHz "is fundamentally incompatible with incumbent amateur operation," the ARRL told the FCC.

More than 130 amateurs filed comments in opposition to SAVI Technology's RFID tags proposal, and most supported the ARRL's position that the proposed rules were flawed and should not be adopted.

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the packet network:

=====

Date: 26 Jun 2000 05:26

From: AB7RG@AB7RG

To: FARCE@USA

Subject: The Blonde & The Bus...

A blonde, a red head, and a brunette sign up with a tourist group and chartered a double-decker bus to go to London.

There are only two seats left on the bottom of the bus and only one seat in the top of the bus available when they board. They decided to take turns riding in the top and flipped a coin to see who got the first turn. The blonde won the toss.

A couple of hours later it's the red head's turn so she walks

up the stairs and sees the blonde sitting there scared half to death. She's clutching the seat in front of her so hard that her knuckles are white.

"What's goin' on?" the red head asks. We're havin' a grand old time down below." The blonde replies, "Yeah, but you've got a driver."

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

=====
Date: 26 Jun 2000 05:26
From: AB7RG@AB7RG
To: FARCE@WW
Subject: Ice Fishing...

There were two southern boys who loved to fish and decided they wanted to do some ice fishing. They had heard about people up in Canada that did it, so off they went for Canada.

The lake was frozen nicely. They stopped just before they got to the lake at a little bait shop and got all their tackle. One of them said, "We're going to need an ice pick." So they purchased an ice pick and proceeded on.

In about two hours, one of them was back at the shop and said, "We're going to need another dozen ice picks."

Well, the fellow in the shop wanted to ask some questions, but he didn't. He sold him the picks and the man left.

In about an hour, the man was back. "We're going to need all the ice picks you've got."

The bait man couldn't stand it any longer. "By the way," he asked, "how are you fellows doing?"

"Not very well at all," the man answered. "We don't even have the boat in the water yet."

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

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 fill out an Elmer form from the club secretary.

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):
K6PBQ, WA6VJY, WB6YRU, WA6QYS
Children's Discovery Museum, volunteer operator:
K6PBQ
EchoLink: KK6MX

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
e-mail: lloyddevaughns@sbcglobal.net

KK6MX, Don Apte, (408) 629-0725
e-mail: kk6mx@aol.com

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

K6PBQ, Don Village, (408) 263-2789

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

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
e-mail: wb6yru@aenet.net

Newsletter Notes

The deadline for articles is now the last Monday of the month. (formerly, *next* to the last Monday).

At the April board meeting, the board voted to move the publishing and deadline date forward one week. The idea is to have the newsletter arrive in mailboxes closer to our monthly meetings and thereby be more useful as a reminder.

This was tried once before, but there were problems. Back when we used bulk mail, this wouldn't work for everyone. Sometimes pieces for zip codes other than 950xx or 951xx would take a week or two to show up. Now that we're using first class postage, this isn't a problem any more. And, apparently, a few people need a reminder that the meeting is coming up.

If anyone has any comments, please let me know. We especially need to hear from you if you ever receive the newsletter after the meeting. We don't want that, obviously.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

Join SCCARA for Field Day 2004!

2004 Field Day contest weekend is June 26 & 27. Mark your calendars!

Field Day is one of the biggest amateur radio contests of the year, involving the U.S. and Canada. 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, at the Manzanita group camp site. **SCCARA pays your camping fee!** Just show up. You don't need to stop at the park entrance station (just stay to the left and drive on past), but if you do stop, just tell them you're with the SCCARA radio club at the Manzanita group camp area.

You are encouraged to join the set-up group going up on Friday, June 25 and stay through Sunday, helping with both setup and tear-down. The set-up group plans to meet for lunch on Friday, June 25 around 1 PM at Carl's Jr. at Branham and Almaden (north west corner). 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 146.985(-), switching to simplex once we get into the mountains. Anyone may join the set-up group. If you don't go up with us in the convoy (but you should), we'll show up at the Manzanita group camp area around 3 PM. Monitor the repeater output (146.985) in the mountains.

Clark Mruphy KE6KXO is SCCARA's Field Day 2004 Committee Chairman. If you would like to get more involved, contact Clark: 262-9334. There'll be an "antenna party" (checking out our antenna trailer) some time early or mid June.

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

The club will be serving a BBQ dinner at 2:00 PM on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday morning. All other meals are pot-luck (nobody goes hungry) or fend for yourself if you wish. (For the pot-luck, rumor has it Barbara will be bringing her CDF Chili again...very popular.)

The BBQ Saturday dinner will be your choice of steak or chicken, all the "fix'ns" are included. Please indicate your choice(s) below. The cost of the dinner is \$11 per person and the Sunday breakfast is \$5 per person. You must let us know in advance so we'll know how much food to buy--**Monday, June 21 is the cutoff date** (Board meeting).

Field Day BBQ/Breakfast Sign-Up

Name _____	Call _____
_____ Saturday steak dinner(s) (\$11.00 per person):	\$ _____
_____ Saturday chicken dinner(s) (\$11.00 per person):	\$ _____
_____ Sunday breakfast(s) (\$5.00 per 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

If you decide you want to get in on the BBQ, but there isn't time to get the money in, just tell Barbara. We can collect the money later.

Questions? About food: Barbara KD6QEI at 408 293-3847. About Field Day: Clark at 408 262-9334.

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

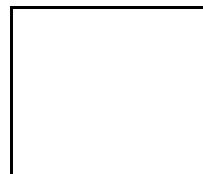
Give this completed form (or copy) with payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or mail to the return address below.

====> 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**