SCCARA-GRAM

Santa Clara County
Amateur Radio Association

Volume 25, Number 8 **August 2009**

President's Prose

Field Day at Mt. Madonna is always well attended, but we're considering identifying a second site in the local area and perhaps alternating between the two. Realistically, in an emergency, we would not be going to Mt. Madonna to provide communication for the San Jose area. Additionally, we have limited public visibility at Mt. Madonna and therefore can't do very much to promote ham radio as part of Field Day. Finding an alternate site is problematic since most municipalities discourage camping, generators, activities at night, etc. We will need to identify a location and make a decision by December.

The annual picnic will be on August 15. This is a local event where family members are encouraged to attend. See this issue for more information or contact Don Village, K6PBQ, or listen on the Monday night two-meter net.

A modern replacement for the failed 30+ year old Motorola Micor 440 repeater is being considered. Our plan in July, 2007, was to purchase a Kenwood UHF FM repeater. Unfortunately, Kenwood stopped shipping the units to the United States. They resumed shipping months later, but by that time we were ready to install the used Motorola Micor unit. John Glass (NU6P) is investigating the current availability of the Kenwood repeater.

We've been trying for several years now to document the relationship between the City of San Jose and SCCARA relative to the utilization of the W6UU repeater. Specifically, who owns what, and who does what, in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding or MOU. A document of this type is traditionally drawn up anytime more than one organization shares a resource or shares responsibilities. The latest MOU was finalized by the SCCARA Board in March 2007, and submitted to the City of San Jose for their concurrence. We have now heard that "they" don't want to accept the proposed MOU. We have received no written response, or any suggested changes.

Don't forget the 2-meter FM net on Monday nights, and the 10-meter SSB net on Thursday nights.

73,
Don – AE6PM

Picnic

The SCCARA picnic this year will be on Saturday August 15th at 10 AM until 4 PM or so at Mary Gomez Park in Santa Clara. It's located the north-west corner of San Tomas

Calendar

8/8 **Electronic Flea Market**–De Anza College
8/10 **SCCARA General Meeting**
8/15 **SCCARA Picnic**–Mary Gomez Park
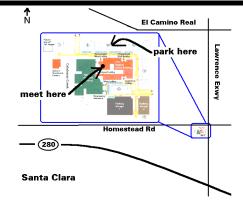8/17 **SCCARA Board Meeting**--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

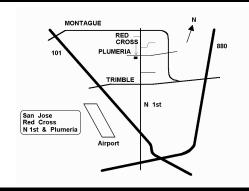## General Meeting

Day: Monday, Aug. 10, 2009
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Rm 196, 1
Featuring: Craig Anderson, N6YXK, will give a demo of APRS.

expressway and Forbes. Enter from the west side: go west on Forbes, north on Bucher, then right into the small parking lot.

We will have a HF set up again for a miniature Field Day operation. Gwen and Lou will be running our bingo game again with the help of Edward and Sheryl, so bring a gift or two for prizes.

The club will provide sodas, plates, utensils, condiments and charcoal. Please bring your own meat and a dish to share.

Don Village K6PBQ

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, July 31, 2009

FCC Expands ARRL's 500 kHz Experimental License

On July 28, the FCC approved a modification that expands the ARRL's 500 kHz experimental license WD2XSH <https://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/els/GetAtt.html?id=100140&x=.>. According to Experiment Coordinator Fritz Raab, W1FR, the expansion allows for more frequencies, more stations and portable operations. "We can now operate between 495-510 kHz," Raab said. "We were previously limited to 505-510 kHz. We will not be using 500 kHz itself so as to ensure that there is no conflict with the heritage stations on that frequency. The expansion also gives us the opportunity to expand the number of participating stations. We can now have 42 stations, where before we were limited to 23." Raab said that the expansion will now let participants operate within 50 km of their designated stations. This was not allowed under the previous terms of the experimental license. Some stations have reduced operating bands to ensure that they do not interfere with nearby non-directional beacons (NDB). The FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology granted the WD2XSH experimental license to the ARRL in September 2006 <http://www.arrl.org/news/ stories/2006/09/15/104/>. Find out more information on the ARRL's 500 kHz Experiment in the July/August 2007 issue of QEX <http://www.arrl.org/qex>.

N0ARY BBS

This will be the last part of articles about the N0ARY packet BBS. The previous parts have given you what you need to know for 90% of what you're likely to do with the BBS. This part will mention a few of the misc. commands or functions and how you can connect to the BBS through the internet.

WP database
The larger BBS's keep a database of packet BBS users and their addresses, called the White Pages database. If you use the command WP with your call sign, it will show your entry. This is how the BBS knows a user's address and allows you to send a message to them just by call sign alone. If their call sign has no entry, then you have to supply their home BBS too.

LOOKUP
This BBS has a database of call signs (although it hasn't been updated in some time). The Lookup command with a call sign gives info about that person. You can also use the Search command to look for the call sign of someone by name, QTH etc.

MOTD
Message of the Day. This message is displayed upon connection and is used to inform you of new features, and timely information. In this bbs once you have seen the message it will no longer be

displayed on each connect. You may recall the message by entering the READ MOTD command.

Whenever a sysop changes the contents of the MOTD he will issue a command that will reset each user so they will see the message on their next connect.

USERS
The USERS command will list the last 10 users to have connected to the BBS. Users 20 will list the last 20, (10 is the default).

Account settings
WHO
ME
Every user has an account on the BBS. You can see a user's settings with the who command, (who <call>). You can see your own settings with the me command (same as who with your call). You can set any of your account settings.
LNAME sets your last name
FNAME sets your first name
QTH sets your location.
ZIP sets your zip code.
EMAIL sets your email address.
EMAIL ON or EMAIL OFF turns your e-mail forwarding on or off. (NOTE: the e-mail port has been turned off because of spammers.)

2 M, 70 cm port
There are two RF ports on the BBS that use standard AX.25 from most TNC's::
144.93 MHz at 1200 baud and 433.37 MHz at 9600 baud.

EMAIL
There is an e-mail port which allows users to have the BBS forward your message to an e-mail address. And, once registered, a user can send packet messages by sending e-mail to the BBS. HOWEVER, unfortunately, spammers made this port unusable and it had to be shut off. There currently are no plans to turn it back on.

TELNET
This BBS has a telnet port. Anyone can work the BBS by telnet to sun.n0ary.org. This gets you to the operating system. Just use the login name "bbs" (without the quotes) and it hands you off to the BBS as if you just connected via RF. There is no password.

FILES
In addition to messages, the system also maintains a number of files. You can read them the same way you read a message, except you'd use the file name instead of a message number.
You can also add a file of your own with the WRITE command. The WRITE command works like the SEND command, except you use a file name instead of a packet address.
You can list the files in a directory with the LS command, it works like the old DOS DIR command. The CD command will change directory.

MACRO
A macro is similar to programmable function keys on your computer. They allow you to perform a list of commands by typing a single character. This bbs allows each user to specify up to 10 macros that can be invoked by simply typing the macro number and returning. The command list can be any number of commands up to a total of 80 characters per macro. Commands must be separated by a semi-colon (;). Macro 0 has a special meaning. It is executed automatically upon connection with the BBS, very similar to an autoexec.bat or hello file. ***NOTE*** make sure you DO NOT put the BYE command in your macro 0. You will no longer be able to login.

Issuing MACRO with no number will display all of your current macros. Supplying a macro number but no string will clear the macro, setting it to empty. Any string you enter after the macro number will be your command(s) for that macro.

HELP LEVEL
You can set your help level with the command HELP and a number from 0 to 4. Help level 0 is for another machine (i.e. forwarding between systems). Help level 1 is for experts who want the BBS to be terse. Help level 2 gives full prompting but not a lot else. Help level 3 is what most people want, the BBS gives full prompting and explanations.

There are other commands, you can list them all with the HELP command. HELP A lists all the commands starting with A, etc. If you're going to save a bunch of helps to disk, you might want to turn your lines off first. LINES 0 will prevent the read out from pausing. The default is LINES 20 (it gives you 20 lines at a time and pauses between).

Final thoughts
Some of you may be aware that the BBS network was all the rage during the late 1980's and mid 1990's, but has declined since then. Most blame the internet for competing with the BBS network. However, you could say the same thing about cell phones competing with repeaters, but we still use repeaters don't we? And the existence of the telephone doesn't stop us from working each other using HF.

Each BBS is installed and operated by someone like you, an amateur radio operator. There aren't as many BBS's around these days because there aren't as many users, but there are still some, N0ARY is one of the better ones in my opinion. If there are never any users, most sysop's will eventually pull the plug, so whether it's N0ARY or another one, go ahead and play around with your local BBS!

73, Gary WB6YRU

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, July 13, 2009

{No minutes were submitted by the deadline}

Board Meeting, July 20, 2009

Unapproved Minutes
July 20, 2009 Red Cross, 2731 North 1st Street, San Jose, CA

The meeting was called to order at 7:43pm. by Don Steinbach.

Attendance:
Board Members
Don Steinbach, AE6PM, President
Fred Townsend, AE6QL, Vice President
Ned Tufekcic, AC6YY, Treasurer
David Dippon, AE6YE, Secretary
Don Village, K6PBQ, Trustee
Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, Director
Wally Britten, KA6YMD, Director
Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, Director
John Parks, W6JPP, Director

Guests
Clark Murphy, KE6KXO
David Paul, AE6MV
Gwen Steirer, KF6OTD
Bill Lowell, KG6UXD

Excused Absences: John Glass, NU6P

Announcements

Don Steinbach asked the board members to review agenda. There were no changes. Lou Steirer announced the next SVECS breakfast will be this Saturday morning. The deadline for next edition of the SCCARA-GRAM is this coming Monday. John Parks announced that the old 2 meter cavities were removed from his house on July 3.

Vice President's Report
.Fred Townsend mentioned his participation in a PARRA event aboard the USS Hornet, this past weekend. He encouraged SCCARA to pursue a similar activity. Fred Townsend then mentioned jammers, who could be mobile. He stated his opinion that jammers be ignored. John Parks mentioned that the Official Observer is aware of these jammers. Fred Townsend also mentioned that SCCARA was offered new computers during the Field Day from Ray Allustiarti, These computers would be discarded computers from HP. Fred Townsend then asked David Paul who was present as our liaison with San Jose RACES for an update. David mentioned that the spare repeater controller has arrived. San Jose RACES in the process of programming it. Fred Townsend then announced that the outgoing emergency services director for the City of San Jose tried to push MOU. The plans for speakers and topics for upcoming general meetings are as follows:
  August---Craig Anderson, APRS demo
  September--- Software for antenna design
   October --- Bill Dale, Proposed Federal Legislation effecting Amateur Radio

Secretary's Report
The minutes from June's board meeting were reviewed. Lou Steirer moved that the minutes accepted as amended. John Parks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. An updated membership roster was sent to the board members on July 10.

Treasurer's Report
Ned Tufekcic reported that as of 6/30/2009 the following balances were $6923.13 checking, $3844.99 savings.

Trustee's Report
The club station was not open in June, due to Field Day. The club station will be open this Saturday after the SVECS breakfast. John Parks mentioned the jammers who are interfering with the SCCARA repeater.

Activities
John Parks announced that the trip to the USS Hornet is on hold. The Coast Guard Island trip has been cancelled, due to lack response from Coast Guard. A fall picnic is being planned. Clark Murphy mentioned a special events station will be operating from his QTH on August 1.

Newsletter
Gary Mitchell mentioned the photographs in the recent, past SCCARA-GRAM. He mentioned that it would be nice to publish in color. He was asked about the increased cost. He estimated it would double the cost There was discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of color printing. Don Steinbach suggested that pages with photos be printed color. It was pointed out that the on-line version is in color.

BBS
Gary Mitchell reported the BBS is running fine. There has been talk about using 6 meters for traffic forwarding as opposed to the Internet. It might require SCCARA buy additional antennas.

Repeater
Wally Britten reported that the 2 meter repeater is running fine.

Web Master
Wally Britten reported that the website is running well. Gary Mitchell mentioned some comments about difficulty downloading files from the web site.

Old Business

Field Day Wrap Up
        John Parks reported higher than expected fuel costs for towing the antenna trailer. He requested an additional ten dollars. Don Village moved to increase John's fuel reimbursement to $50.00. Ned T Tufekcic seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
        John Parks further mentioned it when well. Representatives from served agency were present, but some did not sign-in. The public service announcement was played over the broadcast airwaves.
        Fred Townsend stated that there were no bonus points, because they were not documented. He mentioned subtle rule changes. He did not believe any qualify public officials were present. He needs to submit our report to ARRL by July 31. There was discussion about the whereabouts of the sign-in sheets.
        Fred Townsend further mentioned that he is working on logs. The tentative point count for contacts is 1714.
        Don Village felt it was good event, and well attended.
        John Parks relayed a request from the safety officers that more water be made available. Fred Townsend read a list of items for bonus points. He further suggested that an antenna plan be make for future Field Days.
        John Parks advocated an antenna party to repair some of the dipoles. Gary Mitchell was concerned that at least one dipole was too close to the power lines. He felt that the free standing tower was guyed better than in past years. He also felt that the tower trailer could be done better.

MOU City of San Jose
Fred Townsend mentioned that the City of San Jose has a rejected the MOU. San Jose RACES will report to a Deputy Fire Chief. He further reported that Chris Swartout would push anything to the new OES director. Fred Townsend asked that we push the City to install a new antenna on the 2 meter repeater. It is believed that the antenna and feed line is about six years old. He asked it if was possible to measure the feed line. He is arranging a visit to the repeater site. Don Steinbach asked for clarification about MOU rejection. David Paul suggested we wait for the new OES director. Don Steinbach asked for a e-copy of the MOU. David Paul offered the continued cooperation of San Jose RACES.

New Business

Roster
Gary Mitchell distributed an updated roster based on the July 10.

Delinquent Members
Don Steinbach was asking about the process of notifying members who are delinquent in their membership dues. David Paul suggested delinquent member be notified via telephone. Lou Steirer asked about information packets for new members.

Picnic
Don Village mentioned last year the fall picnic was held on August 16, which also the date of the North America QSO party. He is

looking to set a date for an upcoming picnic. A number of other dates were discussed. Lou Steirer proposed August 15, Don Village seconded the motion. There were 4 ayes, 3 nays, 1 abstention. The motion was agreed to.

ARRL Mailing List
Fred Townsend mentioned that ARRL will provide mailing labels to ARRL members. Lou Steirer mentioned that in the past mailing listed have been used to send invitations to new hams to join SCCARA. Fred Townsend is going to make the request for mailing labels from ARRL. They will be reviewed and their use will be determined at a later date.

440 Repeater
There was a July 3 site visit to the 440 repeater for trouble shooting. Don Steinbach suspects a faulty power amplifier(PA) caused the recent outage. Another trouble shooting trip is being planned. Don Steinbach doesn't think the PA is drawing any current. It has been suggested SCCARA look into purchasing a new repeater. Funds had been allocated. John Glass has been asked to research new repeater hardware. Don Steinbach will make a proposal at a future board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
David Dippon, Secretary

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

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============================
     Date: 27 Jan 2007 22:20
     From: ZL3AI@ZL2BAU
       To: HUMOR@WW
  Subject: Even Steven
-------------------------------------------------------------
```

Will you lend me $20.00 and only give me ten of it? That way, you will owe me ten, and I'll owe you ten, and we'll be even!

73, David ZL3AI.
http://www.geocities.com/zl3ai

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.

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Antennas, feed-lines, tuners: WB6EMR, W6JPP, K6PBQ, WB6YRU
Lightning protection, grounding: WB6YRU
Station set-up, equipment: K6PBQ
TVI/RFI: WB6YRU
Homebrew projects, construction: KD6FJI, WB6YRU
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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):
HF operating techniques (SSB, CW): WB6EMR, K6PBQ
Classes/license upgrading: W6ACW
Legal/FCC rules: WB6YRU
SCCARA (club inner workings): K6PBQ, WB6YRU, WA6QYS
EchoLink:   KK6MX

W6ACW, Ed Hajny, (408) 739-6105

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

KD6FJI, Lloyd DeVaughns,
(408) 225-6769  e-mail: kd6fji@arrl.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
e-mail: donvillage7@yahoo.com
WA6QYS, Lou Steirer, (408) 241-7999
packet: home BBS NOARY

WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, (408) 269-2924
packet: home BBS NOARY
e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com
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Newsletter Notes

I've never been happy with the quality of photo reproduction in the newsletter, but it's hard to do better with most copy machines.
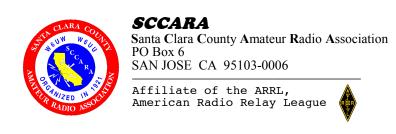
I wish I knew about this before printing the previous issue, with all the photos from Field Day... The copy center has the ability to take the master in digital form, either on a CD or memory stick. Then instead of copying optically from a paper master, it essentially prints each copy like a big printer. The result is each copy will be a master in terms of quality.

As if that weren't good enough, it turns out their color copiers have an option for copying some pages in color and others in black & white. So, one or two pages can be color while the rest are B&W.

Color copies are still considerably more expensive than B&W, but the gap isn't as huge as it used to be. We're going to try producing the *SCCARA-GRAM* with selected color pages when there are photos. You'll know immediately when that happens because the logos on the first page will also be in color.

Or, if you'd like to see color anytime there is any color on a page (including logos), just let me and your board members know. Of course, you can see full color issues of the *SCCARA-GRAM* now by downloading the PDF file version from the club web site.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

SCCARA

Santa **C**lara **C**ounty **A**mateur **R**adio **A**ssociation
PO Box 6
SAN JOSE CA 95103-0006
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Affiliate of the ARRL,
American Radio Relay League

FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SCCARA Membership Form for 2009
If none of your info has changed, fill in name and call only

Name: _____   Call: _____   Class: E A G T+ T N

Address: _____   Licensed since (yr): _____

City: _____   State: ____   Zip: _____ - _____   Licence Expiration
Date (mo/yr):

Telephone: (   ) _____   ☐ New Member   ☐ Renewal   _____
☐ I'm also a member of the ARRL

E-mail: _____

Memberships begin January 1 and expire December 31.
If renewing: annual membership dues (base rate) are: $20 Individual, $25 Family, $10 Student (under 18)
For new members:
  If joining in January: base rate
  If joining in February through October: base rate x (11 - month) x 10%   (e.g. for June, that would be: base rate x 50%)
  If joining in November or December: free for November and December if paying the base rate for the following year

  $ _____ **Dues payment** for: ☐ individual   ☐ family   ☐ student

For family memberships (at the same address), please include a separate form for each family member.

I want the newsletter by: ☐ U.S. Mail   ☐ internet (make sure your e-mail address is legible and correct)

Give this completed form (or copy) with payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or mail to the club address.   Rev. 6/16/2008