SCCARA-GRAM

Santa Clara County
Amateur Radio Association

Volume 28, Number 4 April 2012

President's Prose

I'm not what you would call a Contester, but there is no easier way to get a handle on how well you are getting out, than participating in a contest. Don't take the signal strength reports too seriously, however, since everyone is "5 by 9" no matter how many times the other station asks them to repeat their call. The fact that the other station heard you well enough to continue the contact is proof enough that you're getting out.

The CQ WW WPX SSB Contest was held this past weekend (Mar. 24-25), and band conditions were outstanding. If you've been considering operating on HF and haven't gotten around to it yet, you had better get motivated. This sunspot cycle won't last forever and the next one will probably be 11 years away.

I was on the road from Butte to Saratoga that weekend so I had the opportunity to do some 20-meter mobile operating from Montana and Nevada. The station in my car is a Yaesu FT-857 with a Hamstick-clone antenna. My first contact was a station in Hawaii and my best DX was Estonia (near Finland). My greatest moment was hearing "you have a great signal for a mobile."

A project that I had in mind as I was preparing to leave for Butte was to try a couple of different antennas there while operating from different locations using my mobile installation. Both involved using full-size self-supporting quarter wavelength vertical antennas on 40 meters and operating from a park or parking lot, or even roadside. I had the hardware packed to take with me, and more on order to be delivered there. Unfortunately, the weather didn't cooperate and I didn't want to try the experiment bad enough to deal with the snow and low temperatures. Maybe I'll try again this summer.

EchoLink® is a software scheme that allows licensed Amateur Radio stations to communicate with one another over the internet. I used it to connect to the K6SA 440 repeater in Saratoga from Butte, and then from the K6SA repeaters to Bay-Area hams via 2-meters and 440. That was the first time I'd ever had any interest in trying it, and I must say I was impressed. I was able to plug a headset into my laptop and talk through the repeaters as though I was on my HT in Saratoga. The process was fairly painless: download and install the software, go through a license verification process, and fiddle with some local router settings using information available in the help files. I'm not sure, but it might not be possible to operate through an internet connection where you can't change some of the local router settings.

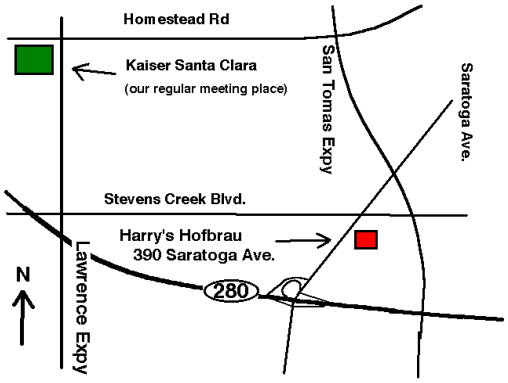
That's it for this month. Join Don and Wally on our

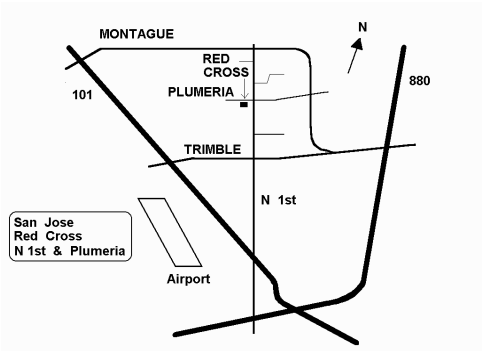
Calendar

4/9 **SCCARA General Meeting**–dinner meeting!
4/14 **DeAnza electronic flea market**
4/16 **SCCARA Board Meeting**--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting

Day: Monday, Apriil 9, 2012
Time: 6:30 PM
Place: Harry's Hofbrau 390 Saratoga Ave.
Featuring: **dinner meeting**





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The deadline for articles is 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.

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(all officers are also directors)

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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 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 Village, K6PBQ. On ten meters, 28.385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00 PM. Net control: Wally Britten, KA6YMD. Visitors welcome.

N0ARY PACKET BBS

SCCARA hosts the packet BBS N0ARY (Mt Umunhum). User ports: 144.93 (1200 baud), 433.37 (9600 baud), telnet sun.n0ary.org (login "bbs"). Sysop: Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU (packet info: www.n0ary.org/ncpa)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

2-meter and 10-meter nets.

73, Don – AE6PM

NVIS

Our SCCARA guest speaker for March was John Rosica (KA2FND), a life long ham since the age of 12. His lecture was about near vertical incidence sky waves, a propagation technique used by the military, industry and to my surprise amateur radio operators. I won't repeat his lecture, except to say that NVIS has been around for a long time, the Germans having used it in WWII. My interest was piqued when he said the military simply bends their jeep mounted whip antennas back across the ground and the signal goes straight up. With some luck, it bounces off the f2 layer and comes straight back down. Given the right conditions, the energy returns in a four hundred mile circle, or roughly a two hundred mile radius around the jeep.

John Rosica, KA2FND, speaker at the March meeting tells us about NVIS (near vertical incidence sky waves)

Some of the equipment used in John's talk.

I found this extremely intriguing as back in 1964 I was the

VII Corps HF signal officer, part of the Seventh US Army in Germany . I can honestly say, I had never heard of NVIS, nor had the generals who depended on our AN/ GRC -26 HF radio huts mounted on 2&1/2 ton 6X6 trucks. Inside were BC-610 transmitters, some R-390A receivers and associated Voice, CW and teletype equipment. The generals had such contempt for the pathetic performance of our Angry 26's that they all had Collins S-Line installed in their staff cars. Beautiful KWM-2A radios that worked every time. In their defense, I will say the Angry 26's were toasty warm inside during the snow bound winter exercises!

So now that I have been introduced to NVIS, I thought I would give it a try. I have an ICOM 706MKIIG driving an ICOM AH-4 tuner which in turns drives an ICOM AH-2b whip antenna. The antenna plugs into my U-Haul aftermarket trailer hitch, much like the bicycle carriers you see on the back of cars and SUV's. It didn't take long to realize that my Toyota Camry has the same potential for NVIS as a military jeep. Googling the subject produced a plethora of advice and the most repeated theme was to add some wire, bend the whip over and stretch the antenna horizontally about five feet off the ground. This seemed to agree with John Rosica's statements.

So off to the Home Depot where I bought a "Split Bolt Connector," a device which essentially allows you to clamp two wires together. It has the advantage that it can be used over and over again, being essentially a bolt with a nut, the threaded portion slotted to accept the two wires. Home Depot also had the 12 gauge, multi strand copper wire in a bright yellow jacket. Bright yellow to prevent people from walking into a guillotine. All this allows me to extend my whip to the suggested 33 total feet for the 40 meter band. Over to Clark's (KE6KXO) house for a test. There is no level ground anywhere around my house and Clark lives in the flatlands (flood plane) of the lower San Francisco Bay.

At 1PM on Sunday, March 18, with my NVIS setup in place in Clark 's front yard, I gave John (W6JPP) across town a call. Signal strength came back a solid S9! Remembering Gary's (WB6YRU) admonition against false claims, I thought I best do a controlled experiment. So off came 30 feet of horizontal wire, the 9' whip snapped back into its vertical orientation and I pinged John a second time. S5 and not nearly as readable!

Next morning I repeated the experiment with the Rhubarb Net at 9:30AM . Booming reports from everyone, +20 and better from as far as Visalia (KG6UDW). Then off with the extra wire and back to the naked whip and no one could hear me at all! Bob (W6OOY) net control was sure my radio was not working properly, however Clark , not 50 feet away had to engage both attenuators for -30db and I still pegged his needle. The near vertical was working and the low take off was not. I rest my case.

That's my story and I'm sticking to it!

Goetz K. Brandt

Work in Progress

6 M portable antenna

Gary (WB6YRU) is working on a portable 6 M antenna for doing field tests or for Field Day. It's a full-size vertical, made from 1/2" copper water pipe with radials. To make it portable, there are four sections with threaded adapters on the pipe ends. The radials are made from #10 screw size threaded rods. The support base is a tripod made from 2" PVC pipe.

The idea behind the threaded parts is to facilitate take down, the vertical sections and radials unscrewing one from the other. Fully assembled, the structure is roughly 15 feet tall. After some tweaking on the length (including the radials), it seems to be working well. The SWR match is nearly perfect.

During testing there was a little wind, but not too bad. Still the antenna flexed excessively. A piece of polyester cord tied from the mid-point section to the top of the PVC mount structure seemed to solve that problem.

Disassembly didn't go as smoothly as expected, as some of the threaded vertical parts needed a pipe wrench. The problem is that the antenna is made from copper, which is a relatively soft metal. It turns out that just raising and lowering the assembled antenna and wobbling in the wind was enough to bend the threaded sections out of round, making them nearly impossible to disassemble.

The lesson here is that having threaded pieces on a copper antenna isn't a good idea. Revision 2 will be made with telescoping pipes and clamps. Unfortunately copper pipe isn't made in the right diameters for putting together telescoping sections, so this is going to take more thinking and tweaking than expected.

It's still a work in progress.

Joe (W6SNV) has made incremental progress on his tower mounted beam antenna project. He has selected the Force12 C-3 SS beam which is trapless and has a silhouette he hopes will please the neighbors. While attempting to attach the saddle to the bottom of the tubular tower, Joe discovered that the ears were to close together, or possibly the tower diameter to great. In any case, some heat from a torch and a jack screw described as akin to a turn buckle was used to spread them apart and now things fit as required. The rotator selection is all that remains and Hy-Gain seems to be favored over Yaesu. Watching this project I am reminded of the cathedrals in Europe that took centuries to complete.

Clark (KE6KXO) has moved on from the demise of his Mosley antenna and mounted a Butternut Butterfly on top of his tower. This is the two element beam destined for the Red Cross building on First Street . Lou (WA6QYS) and Greg (KF6FNA) had rebuilt this antenna and successfully tuned it, something that Eham Reviews says is the ultimate challenge. So Clark was dismayed when his Icom 781 reported a 4:1 SWR. When he sniffed up the coax with his MFJ-259 he got 1:1. Once again Lou and Greg came to the rescue, starting at the antenna and working toward the 781. Would you believe an antenna switch that stood in the way? A new switch and the 781 is reporting 1:1.

Realizing that his butterfly is going to migrate to the Red Cross, Clark has moved on to the restoration of his KLM TA-34 antenna. Step one was sledge hammering a 2 inch galvanized steel pipe deep into his front lawn. The three inch diameter boom was attached and the Lou/Greg team attached the four elements. The heavily discounted rebuild kit is expected any day. The trick now is to figure out how to disassemble the elements that have fused together over the years. Clark will accept any advice given.

John (W6JPP) took medical leave for an esophagus refurb and this has delayed the antenna party that was going to rebuild his Cushcraft A3S antenna. He has obtained a twin to his misbehaving antenna and this may be the object of the next antenna party. His exceptionally speedy recovery is favoring a sooner than later gathering of the clan.

Goetz, K6GKB

Luck of the Irish

A bunch of the boys went to Fresno to participate in the M2 open house on Saturday, March 17. Joe (W6 SNV), Greg (KF6FNA), Clark (KE6KSO) and Goetz (K6GKB) were met by Jim (KG6UDW). The trip down for Greg and I was an experience,

Clark demonstrating his new VW GTI. Can't tell you how many gadgets this car has, but the self activation of the wipers by rain drops on the windshield gives you an idea.

We listened to a lecture on quickly deployable antennas as well as one on tropospheric ducting by Gordon West. Yaesu was there in full force. The flea market had the usual spring shack cleaning flavor. The lunch was free, which made the hot dogs, hamburgers, beans and drinks taste that much better.

But the highlight was the raffle which had a Saint Patrick's Day flavor. I say that because Clark (a Murphy) bought a winning ticket. I should point out that the purpose of the trip was to get an upgrade kit for Clark's KLM KT-34 antenna. KLM just happens to be the present day M2.

Would you believe that Clark 's winning ticket was for a $150 M2 coupon? Didn't take much thought to apply that to the rebuild kit he came down to check out. Within a week a package should arrive on Clark's doorstep with the deeply discounted parts.

Way to go Clark! Be nice to the little people!

Goetz, K6GKB

Secretary Says

Request for QSL card examples

In a weird coincidence, the board meeting had a discussion about the club having a special event station and needing event QSL cards, right after I had received a QSL card from my first ever unsupervised DX contact from my home station (!) made the weekend before. It was such a nice gesture that someone I'd never met or spoken with before, took the time to fill out the details of our contact and add a personal note. (Or maybe he really needs Sunnyvale CA for some reason and is hoping I'll send him a confirmation). However, it did get me thinking that I need a better solution for these folks than writing QSO details on the back of postcards of the Sunnyvale Libby's water tower.

So I would like to ask a favor: If people have examples of nice, clear, interesting, or unusual QSL cards they send out or have received, would you bring them to the dinner meeting (or any other get-together) so I could look at them to get ideas for my own? Also if anyone has hints about making them on a home computer, like what kind of paper to get, whether you can print photos, etc., that would be helpful too. Drawing all the grids and labels by hand on the back of postcards is getting old real fast, and I can see how something like the Worked All States award is going to require a lot of these things...

Thanks! Viki KI6WDS

Dumpster Diving pays off

As hams we acquire equipment in many strange ways and this is the story behind my dummy load. I maintain a boat in Los Angeles Harbor in the back waters called Poo Poo Lagoon. Needless to say, those are not champagne corks floating in the water. There is a subculture of less fortunate hangers on who live on boats as a last resort. Most depend on bilge pumps to keep out water from below and blue tarps to keep out water from above. Their boats are the equivalent of the homeless street people's overfull shopping carts.

One of these Nobel Prize winners is Bobby the dumpster diver, the mother of all rumors. One day as I went to my car in the parking lot, Bobby came to me and excitedly pointed out what was plain to see. A Great Blue Heron had dumped a week's worth of fishing onto my car, a whitewashing that even got the tires. Bobby then went on to explain the concept of omens and how this penultimate example was an opportunity not to be missed. I should buy a lottery ticket immediately, time was passing, the window of opportunity was closing. Don't wash the car until you have bought the ticket! He was pleading and would have contributed some money had I been smart enough to understand my good fortune.

Bobby has a dilapidated bicycle that he rides from one dumpster to another. He has a pair of trash collector's tongs that can reach down into the corners and retrieve almost anything. The great huge whip antenna on the back of my car has tipped him off that I am a ham and he gives me the first right of refusal on any electronic items he finds. One day he presented me with a Heathkit HM-2103 dummy load which I accepted. I disassembled and cleaned it up which made it look brand new and it has been working flawlessly ever since. I don't know how many years it has taken or how many hands it has gone through before trickle down economics delivered this jewel to me, but freebees like this always give me a warm feeling.

Goetz, K6GKB

How to lower a tower

A phone call from Clark (KE6KXO) informed me (K6GKB) that his three element beam had been savaged by the high winds associated with the recent storm. He wanted to know if there was a name for antenna polarization that was half way between horizontal and vertical. Well, you get the picture. Things had slipped and by the time I got there, things looked even worse. One of the boom clamp's u-bolts was shattered completely and the second one was about to go. Just a god awful sight, the Mosley TA34 beam about to fledge the nest! So we carefully collapsed the tubular tower sections and rotated the fragile beam to what looked like a good landing angle. All the time we were hiding beneath the eve of his house, a poor substitute for the safety helmets we were supposed to be wearing.

I digress when I explain that the last time I helped Clark with this tilt over tower, I got up to speed in a real hurry. There is an old saying that God gives the exam first and the lesson afterwards. Clark's entire tubular tower rotates and is attached to the bottom mounted rotor with some very serious hardware. The zero backlash axel, bearing and slip joint are all heavy gauge mil spec. What escaped my attention was the slip joint which allow the rotor to be detached from the tower allowing the tower freedom to tilt over. Talk about the immovable object and the irresistible force. With every degree of tower deflection from the vertical, the irresistible force gained strength. The immovable object, namely the connections to the rotor, began to strain under the load. Finally the tower saddle with its axel distorted like a pretzel and became the hinge necessary to bring the tower to the ground. Just amazing how Clark was able to control himself. My guess is he no longer believes I graduated with an engineering degree.

Back to now and the lowering of our current errant beam. The tower sits next to a concrete based gin pole. The gin pole has a boat trailer winch of its own and its cable has a u-bolt with a clevis pin which simply needs to be attached to the tilt over tower. Looking back, neither Clark nor I can recall the reasoning behind our choice of a mild steel hook as the attach point instead of the welded thimble on the mast. This hook had something to do holding a flower pot, who knows. So, hiding beneath the eve of the porch we began to lower the tower. I can't really say which came first, the thud we felt in our feet or the sound of everything hitting the ground. One thing we could agree on, it didn't take many turns of the winch to get the job done. Clark's scar tissue

from our previous collaboration seems to have tempered his expectations. He simply turned to me and said "It's down." I kept my distance when he inspected what used to be a hook but was now almost straight.

I'm writing this from the safety of my home. Can't say if I will ever hear from Clark again? The beam now has a lot of non matching curved elements. The boom is broken in the middle. Whether electrons will ever wander through this wreckage again is hard to say. As for myself, I can now confidently assert that I have worked out all the kinks associated with raising and lowering antenna towers and stand ready to assist anyone in need.

Goetz, K6GKB

SCCARA Beacon?

SCCARA sponsors a 2 M repeater, a 70 cm repeater, and a packet BBS. Would the club be interested in sponsoring any beacons? A beacon is a much simpler and cheaper device–I even have some of the equipment.

The beacon(s) I had in mind for SCCARA would be in the lower VHF band, on 2 M and/or 6 M, but others are possible too. Automatic beacons are allowed in 50.06-50.08 MHz, 144.275-144.300 MHz, 222.05-222.06 MHz, and 432.30-432.40 MHz.

Some of you may have heard the talks at Pacificon about ducting where communication is possible between Hawaii and California on 2 M or even 70 cm. There is one old beacon in Hawaii used to determine when that phenomenon is active.

You also may be aware that the 6 M band sometimes opens up for long distance QSO's. Beacons allows people to determine when that band is open.

Beacons also allow people to know when meter scatter is active on 2 M and especially 6 M.

There are a number of beacons on HF operating in a coordinated network, see www.ncdxf.org/pages/beacons.html for information about those and on beacons in general. One of those operates at Mt. Umunhum–right next to N0ARY BBS.

73, Gary WB6YRU

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, March 29, 2012

NTIA: NO OBJECTION TO ADDITIONAL DATA MODES ON 60 METERS

In response to requests for clarification from the ARRL, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has confirmed that it has no objection to the use of a broader range of data emissions by amateurs on the five 5 MHz frequencies on 60 meters. ARRL's original understanding was that the NTIA preferred that the use of 2K80J2D emission be limited to Pactor III. The NTIA now says that that is not the case.

In an e-mail response to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, Karl Nebbia, Associate Administrator of the NTIA Office of Spectrum Management, stated, "NTIA has no interest in limiting the types of emission used by the amateurs as long as the data emission does not exceed the 2.8 kHz bandwidth generated by the upper sideband transmitter." Nebbia referred all further inquiries to the FCC, which "sets the conditions for use of the five 5 MHz frequencies by the amateurs."

The requirement of only one signal per channel remains, as well as the prohibition against automatic operation. The FCC continues to require that all digital transmissions be centered on the channel-center frequencies, which the Report and Order defines as being 1.5 kHz above the suppressed carrier frequency of a transceiver operated in the Upper Sideband (USB) mode. This is typically the frequency shown on the frequency display.

Ch	USB (kHz)	Center (kHz)
1	5330.5	5332.0
2	5346.5	5348.0
3	5357.0	5358.5
4	5371.5	5373.0
5	5403.5	5405.0

The ARRL advises amateurs to operate with care when using digital modes in consideration of the fact that hams are secondary users on these frequencies. See the revised 60-Meter FAQ page (www.arrl.org/60-meter-faq), as well as the revised ARRL 60-Meter Recommended Practices document, (www.arrl.org/files/file/Regulatory/Recommended_Practices_Version_6_5.pdf).

ONLINE DXCC APPLICATION TO DEBUT APRIL 2

Beginning April 2 at 12:01 AM EDT (0401 UTC), the ARRL's new Online DXCC tool will be ready to accept applications, allowing hams to supply the data from traditional paper QSLs in a digital form to apply for a new DXCC award or endorsement. Submitting a DXCC application using Online DXCC is easier than making a paper application, saving both time and money. Read more at www.arrl.org/news/online-dxcc-application-to-debut-april-2.

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, March 12, 2012

Minutes of SCCARA General Meeting, Kaiser Hospital, 710 Lawrence Expressway, Santa Clara CA 95051 Status: Unreviewed

Fred AE6QL (Vice President) opened the SCCARA General Membership Meeting at 19:37, announcing that Don AE6PM (President) would not be here.

Introductions of members and guests were made.

Announcements:
Don K6PBQ announced that the station will be open for operation March 31, the last Saturday of the month. Also, the MS Walk will be Saturday April 28, and another operator is needed for the sag wagon; Wally KA6YMD volunteered. John Felix KI6ANW is getting together a study group for the General license; if anyone is interested, please let him know.

Lou WA6QYS has gotten the schedule of the electronics flea markets; ours is June 9th. ALso the next SVECS quarterly breakfast is April 28th at the Santa Clara Senior Center; breakfast is 9am, the presentation at 10am will be by the Mounted Search and Rescue Division of the San Mateo Sheriffs.

Gregg KF6FNA announced Field Day is June 22, 23, and 24; he passed around a signup sheet for people to volunteer. Please let him know if you can be there to help.

Gwen KF6OTD announced the April dinner meeting is tentatively at Harry's Hofbrau, at 6:30pm.

John W6JPP announced the Western Country Cousins Annual Picnic, which has a writeup in the March newsletter. Also he reported both he and Bob N3FAW will be in hospitals for surgeries on March 14th; Clark KE6KX0 is coordinating contact. Also John won the grand prize at RadioFest, a Yaesu 8800!

Fred AE6QL introduced the speaker John Rosica KA2FND, speaking on NVIS (Near Vertical Incidence Skywave) communication. This is a technique for highly-predictable communication between a network of sites over local to medium distances of 0-250 miles, using a horizontal antenna to send 2-10 MHz signals nearly straight up and bounce them off the ionosphere (F2 layer) at an acute angle. John had viewgraphs of antennas used on both sides in WWII, on vehicles and for D-Day coordination: horizontal or inverted V dipoles, and Shirley and Jamaica antennas. He also showed equipment from his company which automates the link establishment: an AFSK protocol continually scans and tests sets of frequencies for reaching each other station, and keeps track of successful frequencies and times in a table. Then when a user wants to call one or more other stations, he picks up a handset and "dials" another station on a Nokia-cell-phone-like handset. The handset then looks up the latest successful frequency for the time of day, and establishes a link to the destination station. The destination station is constantly scanning the frequency set, without human monitoring, and automatically handshakes with the calling station, so the user only hears his handset ring, and simply answers the "call". John demoed this system with live calls to a station in Coulterville, using a 7500$ radio similar to the ones the UN uses worldwide, and an antenna strung up between buildings outside the meeting room at Kaiser hospital. The system also handles text messages and emails. After a Q&A session, people came up to look at the equipment.

Viki Moldenhauer, Secretary KI6WDS

Board Meeting, March 19, 2012

Minutes of SCCARA Board Meeting, Red Cross Building, 2731 N 1st St, San Jose CA Status: Unreviewed

The SCCARA Board Meeting was called to order by Viki KI6WDS at 19:40.

Attendance:
Secretary: Viki Moldenhauer KI6WDS; Treasurer: Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Trustee: Don Village K6PBQ; Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Gregg Lane KF6FNA, Gary Mitchell WB6YRU; Wally Britten KA6YMD; Visitors: David Paul AE6MV (RACES liaison), Clark Murphy KE6KXO Absent: President Don AE6PM, Vice President Fred AE6QL, Director John Glass NU6P.

Announcements: Viki KI6WDS announced the SCCARA-gram inputs are due to Gary no later than March 26, 2012.

David AE6MV as Emergency Coordinator for Santa Clara County requested use of the club repeater for the Santa Clara County Emergency Communications quarterly exercise on the first Saturday of the month in May (May 5) for a few hours. Gregg KF6FNA moved to approve permission, Gary WB6YRU seconded; all were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Goetz K6GKB reported balances: checking = $5046.20; savings = $500.07; cash = $195.45. Gregg KF6FNA asked whether we had paid for the flea market: not yet. Lou WA6QYS moved to pay ASVARO the 1625$ fee; Don K6PBQ seconded; all were in favor. Lou will send the invoice to Gregg.

Secretary's Report: The February Board and March General meeting minutes were reviewed. Gary WB6YRU moved to approve as published; Lou WA6QYS seconded; all were in favor.

There was no Vice President's report.

Next month's meeting is the dinner meeting, now set for Harry's Hofbrau at 6:30pm. Harry's Hofbrau is on Saratoga between Stevens Creek and Kiely.

Discussion Topics:
- PayPal for membership on the website: this was tabled until Fred is back.

- Welcome Packet, VE session handout: Gary WB6YRU will email these out to the Board, and also make paper copies for handing out.

- 2 M repeater: discussion was tabled until Don AE6PM and John NU6P are present.

- 2 M repeater antenna: The antenna is working at the repeater site: it survived the storm without guy wires. The cabinet however took out a downspout on its way downwind. The wheels will be removed.

- MOU return: discussion was deferred until Don AE6PM is back.

- 2012 Field Day: Gregg KF6FNA will go get the new generator (Honda EU2000 for ~ 1200$) after the next board meeting, so that the warranty overlaps Field Day (just in case). He reported not a lot of people signed up at the last general meeting, so he and Lou may do a phone bank. As a backup in case not enough people are going to set up at Mount Madonna, Gregg and Clark KE6KXO are looking out for local sites (such as a lot in Alviso near the trailer). We would need to cancel Mt. Madonna far enough ahead to register with the ARRL and get the location announced. There would be additional expenses such as a Port-a-potty. People are encouraged to think of alternate locations, possibly for next year, as the distance seems to be more of an issue lately.

- Santa Clara University Radio Club? - Goetz K6GKB had sent an email inviting the interested people to our general meeting, and got no response; Clark KE6KXO and Lou WA6QYS also followed up. Goetz and Clark will help with contacting the physics professor who is a ham.

- Lou WA6QYS asked the club to commit to having an HF station at the Stanford PowWow on Saturday May 12. He will write an article for the newsletter to encourage interest.

- Goetz K6GKB suggested the club could have a special events station: we come up with some reason, apply for a 1x1 call sign with the ARRL, and set up for 8 hours of operation. Don K6PBQ has the form to advertise in QST. We would incur cost of QSL cards or certificates. Various events/locations were discussed: 25th anniversary of Loma Prieta Earthquake, Parkfield (earthquake capital), Alviso (capital of CA once), Angel Island (Ellis Island of the west, once), Mission Santa Clara, etc. We could also ask Bob Vallio to give a talk about his DXpedition. Don K6PBQ will help Goetz K6GKB identify details.

- Gary WB6YRU asked if the club would be interested in setting up a beacon (such as the beacon in Hawaii that everyone listens to, to see if the tropospheric duct to Hawaii is open). He may pull together some information to share.

Miscellaneous Reports and Announcements:
Station Trustee's Report: Don K6PBQ will have the station open on March 31st for the last Saturday of the month. He has sent some QSL cards out for states that we need; the club is trying to get the Worked All States award. Don brought the second license renewal for Wally to sign, which Wally did, and Don will send it in again.

Editor's Report: Gary WB6RYU reported the mailing list number is down, which saves the club money. The newsletter is going fine.

N0ARY BBS Report: Gary WB6YRU reports the BBS is running fine.

Repeater Chairman's Report: Wally KA6YMD submitted the "no changes" report to NARCC to renew coordination for another 2 years. Gary WB6YRU mentioned that there is a small group putting digital repeaters near packet frequencies (breaking away from the NARCC coordination). Some EMCOMM people are about to file interference complaints. People should be on the lookout for such interference.

Web Masters Report: Wally KA6YMD has not yet gotten an answer to how much space the web site could use (for putting up back issues of the newsletter).Wally also mentioned we are close to needing to renew the domain names; he will check with Jim Turansky who owns the forwarding id's to update the ownership of the other 2 sites. Goetz will look up last year's contribution to qsl.net (which gives us the main id).

Adjourned at 21:17.

Viki Moldenhauer, Secretary KI6WDS

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

==========
Date: 8 Apr 2010 00:12
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Chat Room

When my son Jared began spending lots of time in the Internet chat rooms, I worried that his grades would suffer. I made him promise to do schoolwork until I returned home at 5p.m.

One day at 4:30 I decided to check up on him. Using my office computer, I went on-line and entered his favorite chat room. To my dismay I saw Jared's name among the list of current participants and immediately decided to teach him a lesson in front of his cyber friends.

"Jared," I typed, "this is your mother, and you are grounded for two weeks!"

"Hi, Mrs. Beyeler," came a reply. "This is David. Jared's doing homework right now, and he said I could use his computer. But I'll be sure to let him know that he's been grounded."

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, W6JPP, K6PBQ, WB6YRU
Lightning protection, grounding: WB6YRU
Station set-up, equipment: K6PBQ, W6JPP
TVI/RFI: WB6YRU
Homebrew projects, construction: KD6FJI, WB6YRU
Computers: older IBM PC: WB6YRU
Packet Network (BBS, forwarding): WB6YRU
Code operating and installations: WB6EMR, K6PBQ
DX (long distance/propagation): WB6EMR
Emergency operating/preparedness: WA6QYS
HF operating techniques (SSB, CW): WB6EMR, K6PBQ
Legal/FCC rules: WB6YRU
SCCARA (club inner workings): K6PBQ, WB6YRU, WA6QYS
EchoLink: KK6MX

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

W6JPP, John Parks, (408) 309-8709
e-mail: w6jpp@arrl.net

K6PBQ, Don Village, (408) 263-2789
e-mail: donvillage7@yahoo.com

WA6QYS, Lou Steirer, (408) 241-7999
e-mail: wa6qys@arrl.net

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

Newsletter Notes

The club owns an electric stapler, it's part of the editor's supplies. We never use it, it's almost new.

This is one of the better consumer power staplers, made by Stanley-Boshtitch, model Boshtitch B8E. It takes STCRP 2115 1/4 and STCR 2115 3/8 staples and is rated at 45 sheets of paper.

A quick look on the internet shows prices between $45 and $63 new. We're asking $25 or best offer, that's half what we paid.

If interested, drop me a line: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

SCCARA
Santa **C**lara **C**ounty **A**mateur **R**adio **A**ssociation
PO Box 106
SAN JOSE CA 95103-0106

Affiliate of the ARRL,
American Radio Relay League

FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SCCARA Membership Form for 2012

If none of your info has changed, fill in name and call only

Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: E A G 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