

# SCCARA-GRAM

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Assn. (SCCARA)  
Volume 7 Number 9

Organized in 1921  
September 1990

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Well here it is, September already! Summer will soon be gone and Pacificon is just around the corner. Shorty will be needing our participation in the convention as either attendees, helpers or (preferably) both. Herb, KB6ABG, has been named Personnel Coordinator again, so you will probably be hearing from him. Please help in whatever way you can.

On Sept. 9th, Frank, AA6LL will be promoting Pacificon '90 at the Foothill Flea Market. The plans are to display posters and have plenty of brochures available for all who are interested. Be sure to look for the SCCARA tower which should be evident from anywhere on the parking lot.

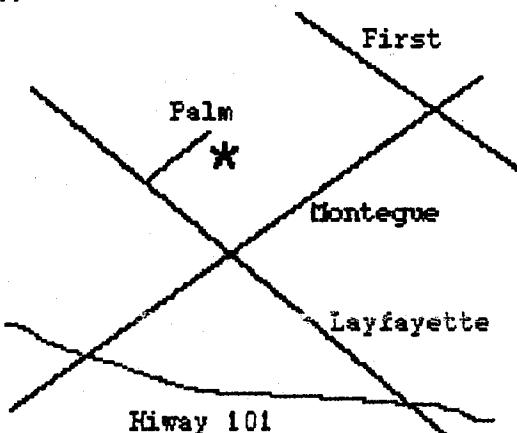
Our September meeting will be back at the Agnew Facility. The bulk of our business meeting should be taken up by matters pertaining to Pacificon '90. In addition, we will be discussing the following:

- Should SCCARA offer to do the Pacific Division Convention again in 1991?
  - If we do, should we consider changing the date and venue?
  - How does the Club feel about our Field Day Activities? Should we try something new or different? What do we want from it?

## NEXT MEETING

Date: Monday 09/10/90  
Time: 1930- 2200 approx.  
Place: Agnews Facility. Located on  
Palm Avenue just a bit East of  
the intersection of Montague  
and Layfayette.

Map 5



# We are back at Agnews

This is perhaps our most important meeting of the year. Pacificon is just around the corner and we need your inputs and help to make this "another" quality

# Pacific Convention.



Last meeting was held at the Campbell Union School District.

And when you see him, please be sure to offer congratulations to Herb, KB6ABG, who recently upgraded to Technician.

73, de George, WA6O.

TREASURER'S COLUMN FOR SEPTEMBER  
de Kathy KB6ICQ

Well I do have good news finally. We only have one last step and all the stock will be history. AT&T finally agreed to reissue the original certificates so now all that is left is the relatively easy (I hope) task of selling the stock.

I want to encourage all of you to send in your Pacificon '90 registrations NOW (you don't want Shorty to send his henchmen for it do you??) so SCCARA can pay for all the wonderful "dividends" (can't say the other word or the Post Office won't let us send this non-profit bulk mail) that will be available to attendees.

The Last Flea

This Saturday 09/08/90 is the last 1990 Foothill Flea Market. In addition Frank AA6LL plans to have the SCCARA trailer out there.

This is a good time to "help out" by either loading flea market items the day before, helping sell at the flea market, helping with the move, install and removal of the trailer, generator and antennas etc.

**SCCARA NEEDS YOU**

**ATTENTION NON-MEMBERS OF SCCARA**

This complimentary copy of the SCCARAGRAM is our invitation to join SCCARA. Please send your check for dues and your mailing label on the back page to SCCARA, PO Box 6, San Jose, CA, 95112. Be sure to make any corrections needed and add your phone #, license class, and ARRL membership status. Also list the same info along with their name(s) and call(s) of any family members wishing to join with you. The yearly dues are \$5.00 for students under 18, \$15.00 for individuals and \$20.00 for families (hams living at the same address). The dues are 1/2 the yearly amount from July thru December. Let us also encourage you to come to a meeting or class (you need not be a member to attend). Our hotline at 408-249-6909 has more info on time and place.

73 de SCCARA

WELCOME & CONGRATULATIONS  
de Kathy KB6ICQ

We have three new members this month. First we welcome and (congratulate on her new novice call) Patti McNulty, KC6LJD. She is the mother of Sean, N6XVS and the XYL of Mike, N6XUY.

Also joining SCCARA this month is Rich Arthur WA6TJP from San Martin. (We sometimes get new members in the

most round-about ways. Rich got a copy of the Join SCCARA form in the last newsletter from another club's editor who receives a complimentary copy for his club.) Rich says he wants to work on his code speed up so he can upgrade to general. Looks like JD may have another student.



Michael Habib WA2JDO

Now for all the congratulations this month. SCCARA members have been studying hard this last month as I have five upgrades to report.

First is Herb Himmelfarb, KB6ABG. He is no longer a novice, as he upgraded to tech at one of Shorty's test sessions and this means he will be able to really keep in touch with his volunteer crew at Pacificon'90. (Please see Herb's article about assignments at the convention elsewhere in this issue.)

Also upgrading this month are Jim Grant with his new tech call of N6ZRK and Renie Malsack with his new tech call of KC6NBS. (No that is not a typo, as FCC has finally run out of N6 type calls and is now issuing all novice, tech and general calls from the KC6 group.) Jack Stutz, KC6JYS has gone from novice to tech and Gil Thomas KC6LFX from novice to general. Finally Don Apte ex-N6YBX has finally received his advanced call of KK6MX.

Congratulations to all of you!! (And if you have upgraded or changed your call, please let me know so we can all pass on our congratulations.)

The third new member may seem like an old member to some. Mike Habib, WA2JDO has been coming to SCCARA meetings for the last year and finally made up his mind that SCCARA was OK and joined. SCCARA welcomes all three of you!!

## Volunteers Needed

Well here it is September already. Pacificon will be here in 47 days (as I write this); Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 12,13,14 October 1990. We're going to need some volunteers to help SCCARA put on the Convention. volunteers work two hour shifts at the Exhibit Hall, the Registration Desk, the Forum Rooms, the Hospitality Suite, and a few more volunteers as "floaters." No one works hard, except for the Registrars: they have to ask for money and issue the appropriate badges, prize tickets etc. Other volunteers will examine Pacificon identification of the attendees at the door to their assignment, perhaps even introduce the speaker, and enjoy the lecture.

I'll be telephoning in a few days to set up a tentative schedule. Final calls will be made early in October. If you have a special time, or task you desire, let me know when I call. I'll try my best to keep everyone happy.

73 de Herb KB6ABG

### REPEATER COMMITTEE REPORT

8/30/90

de WA6VJY

This month's report will be good news for those of you who have been waiting for some improvement in the performance of our repeater. By the time you read this, we will be well on the way to relocating repeater to a location near Alum Rock Park at about 700 feet elevation. The 440 repeater will be on its own at Alexian Brother's Hospital and will no longer be linked to the 2m repeater (RF linking of the two is a task for the future).

A temporary antenna will be used until such time as permanent antenna installation details can be worked out at the repeater site. At that time, the antenna the club has bought will be installed. We will be looking for volunteers then for an antenna raising party.

A final decision has not been made on the "open" phone patch or "emergency only" use of the phone line. So far, very few people have voiced an opinion

on this topic. If you have something to say on the matter, get in touch with me. I personally think an open patch with annual dues is something we should offer to users. The dues should offset the cost associated with the phone line.

CTCSS access ("PL") will not be used unless the ducting problem we have had with the Santa Maria repeater gets significantly worse than it is now. If used, the tone will be 100.0 Hz. Other CTCSS tones can be arranged if needed.

73 de Stan WA6VJY

#### "A Real Ham"

By Doc Gmelin W6ZRJ  
Part 1: "Rigs" or "Radios"

At a recent club meeting, a newcomer and member of our code class, introduced himself and said, "I haven't got a number yet."

I was kind of shocked by this statement, because the individual was in the SCCARA code class and I assumed that he already was familiar with our "ham radio" language. I quickly said,

"Call! Call!  
It's call, not  
number!"

I suspect that some members present were a little annoyed at my making a correction in terminology, and I must admit that I was a little abrupt, but that was the way it was when I first joined the club and didn't have a call yet, somebody was always there to correct us newcomers and "help" us with

terminology. And we wanted the help because to be a member of an "elite" group you have to know the proper language. I consider being a radio amateur being a part of an elite group because you have to "work" to get your license. Some people want to eliminate the work (code test for instance) for obtaining a license, but I suspect that being a ham will mean a lot less when you don't have to work for the privilege.

Any way, the term "my number" is understandable on the part of a newcomer, at least until someone points out that there is after all only one number in our call signs, and at least three letters and in most cases four or five.

My call, W6ZRJ, for example, is a one number and four letter call. It might be proper to say "call letters" or perhaps just "letters" since there are more letters than numbers in our radio identification, although "call" or "call sign" is better.

Sometimes newcomers don't understand why some of us "oldtimers" are disturbed by the misuse of what we consider proper ham



language. As an example, the term "radio", instead of "rig". The term "radio" has come into major usage by hams to describe their equipment. Why wasn't it that way all along?

Not so long ago (at least to some of us) there wasn't any TV.

No TV? Then what did we do for home entertainment in those dark and distant years?

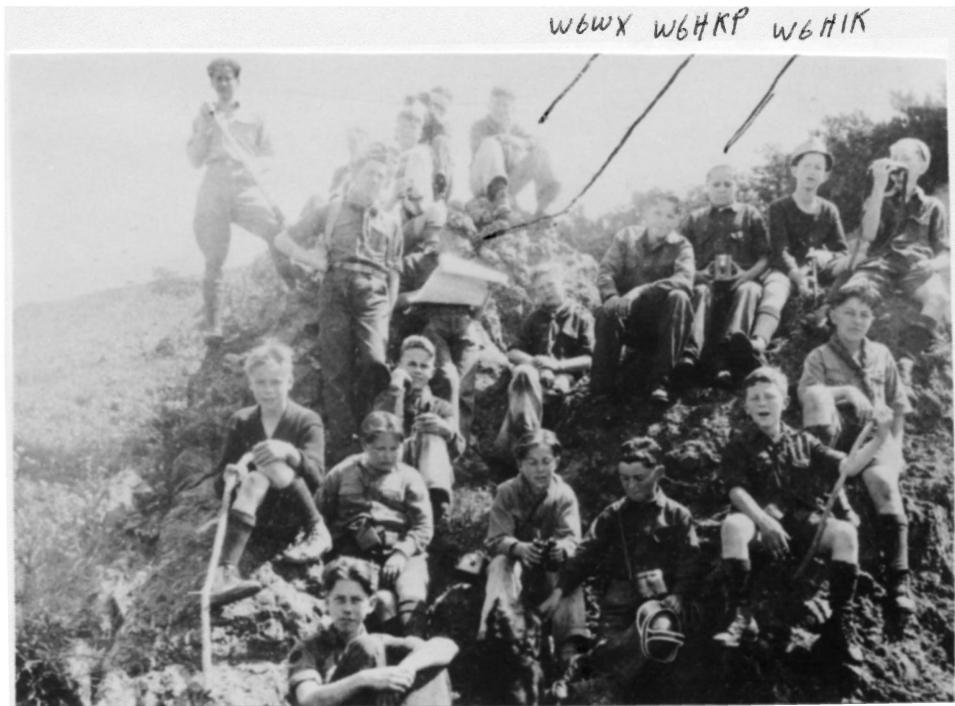
We listened to the radio. And the only broadcast radio we could listen to was on the AM radio band, 550 to 1610 KHz (KC in those days) because there was no FM band.

Since the general population listened to the "radio," which was a broadcast band device, we called our equipment "rigs" as opposed to the term "radio" for listening to AM broadcast stations. My folks owned a "radio" but I owned a ham "rig".

In those days the "rig" probably consisted of a commercial receiver, and for most of us a "home brew" transmitter or "rig".

On the bands in those days you would hear, "The rig here is a pair of 813s running 800 watts modulated by a pair of 811s. The receiver is an SX25."

Everybody knew that an SX25 was made by Hallicrafter. Most of us cut our ham radio teeth on an inexpensive Hallicrafter receiver. The rig of course was "modulated" if you were on phone, and that meant AM phone. When many of us started out in ham radio there was no SSB, and even when SSB came into general use, it was resisted by most AM operators. We called it "Donald Duck" radio.



This photo was quite faded but was taken in 1932. The pix is of scout troop 31 from Berkeley hiking up Mount Diablo. One of the three is a current (and active) member of SCCARA.  
HINT.... He likes Chili Dogs.

Of course today most people think of TV as being our main electronic media and newcomers have applied the term "radio" to our ham radio gear, especially in a day when most of us use commercial transceivers and have little or no idea of what is inside.

In those AM days, acquiring parts to build your own rig was a major part of the hobby, especially if you were a poor starving college student as many of us were. And right after WWII, some parts were hard to get, at least at a good price.

As an example, it was especially hard to find good "plate" and "modulation" transformers. The plate transformer was used in the power supply for the final amplifier, and for a good KW rig had to be between 2 and 3 thousand volts (KV to the uninitiated) center tapped. This meant that there would be 4 to 6 thousand volts across the entire secondary. The transformer needed to be able to produce 4 or 5 hundred milliamps (we said "mils") of current.

The modulation transformer, which

was used to amplitude modulate the "rig", had to be capable of handling the direct current voltage and current of the plate of the final amplifier through its secondary. The modulation transformer did not produce any 60 cycle alternating current like the place transformer did, but rather handled high audio frequency currents and voltages. Both items cost many dollars, and that was many dollars more than most of us younger hams had available at the time. Needless to say that to start with, most of us did not have KW stations. In fact my first station ran 25 watts, although I had a 500 watt rig on the air within a couple of years.

Well anyway, all of the above is an introduction to a story about one of the local hams I knew, Jim Clemens, W6WNM. In retrospect, I realize that Jim was a "real ham", and like many others did much to teach us newcomers about ham radio. He helped us solve many problems we had in trying to get on the air.

For the "rest of the story" read next month's SCCARAGRAM.

#### THOUGHTS OF CORDLESS PHONES

BY BOB KAY

From The Scanning Report  
Monitoring Times Magazine

Reprinted By: John Johnson, KWVBBP  
of The Hotline MBBS

Dear Cordless Phone Owner:

On a map of your town, draw a one mile radius circle around your home. Did you know that anyone who lives within that circle and who owns a scanner can listen to your phone calls? If you live in an urban area, there could be hundreds of people listening to your every word. The fact is that the one mile radius is rather conservative. Cordless phone signals have been monitored at distances greater than two miles. To the average person, the idea of cordless signals traveling a distance

#### Holiday Reservation Form

Monday December 10, 1990

Time 7:00PM

AT

Le Baron Hotel  
1350 N First Street  
San Jose, Ca. 95112

#### Menu

*Le Baron Salad*

*London Broil with Anna Potatoes*

*or*

*Filet of Sole with Rice*

*Fresh seasonal Vegetables*

*Rolls and Butter*

*Carrot Cake for Dessert*

*Coffee, Tea, Decaf*

**Cost is \$20 per person**

I have \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_ Dinners

\_\_\_\_\_ Each London Broil.

\_\_\_\_\_ Each Filet of Sole

Mail To:

Scarra Holiday Dinner

% Don Village K6PBO

3290 Woody Lane

San Jose, Ca. 95132

of two miles seems rather ridiculous. After all, the advertised operating range of a cordless phone is approximately 1500 feet. And if you're a cordless owner, you know from first hand experience that your phone won't work beyond the limits of your back yard. So how can someone with a scanner radio, living several miles away, monitor your cordless phone? To answer that question you need to understand that the cordless telephone is actually a two way radio. Most people are surprised to learn that the cordless phone is nothing more than an FM walkie talkie that

# Remembrances of 'PACIFICON 89'



Registration



Handing out Awards



Youth Forum



Tech Session



Transmitter Hunt



Drawing on Sunday Afternoon

It takes considerable effort to "pull off" a good convention. As was noted in Herbs column, your help is urgently needed for our 1990 Pacificon. Please make a spot on your calendar for our next meeting and be sure to sign up for the convention.

flings you telephone conversations in all directions. If atmospheric conditions are favorable, cordless phone signals can travel for miles.

The scanner radio that we use has the unique ability to capture, receive, and amplify a variety of weak signals. Its sensitivity to low power signals, like the ones coming out of your cordless phone, is further enhanced by the addition of an outside antenna. With the proper equipment, it's easy to monitor an entire neighborhood of low power cordless phones.

Hobbyists who monitor the cordless bands quickly learn to match voices with specific frequencies. Local cordless frequencies can be cataloged in the same manner as regular phone numbers. For example: If a cordless phone is monitored on 46.610 megahertz, that particular frequency and the name of the person using it can be logged and retained in a cordless frequency book.

It then becomes as easy to "tap" into a neighbor's cordless phone as it is to "punch up" his or her frequency on a scanner radio.

By now you're probably wondering if it's legal to monitor cordless phones. The answer is yes. A few months ago, the Supreme Court ruled that users of cordless phones have "No justifiable expectation of privacy." Shortly

thereafter, the Iowa Civil Liberties union stated that "Consumers are purchasing cordless phones at the expense of their constitutional rights."

To protect yourself from uninvited eavesdroppers, it's necessary to throw your cordless phone into the closet. You only need to realize that the cordless phone should be utilized as a convenience, and not as a tool. If the phone rings when you're out in the garden, it's okay to answer that call on a cordless phone. But don't discuss personal or financial matters.

Simply ask the calling party to hold until you can get to a wire connected phone. However, there's more to protecting your privacy than most people realize.

If you call your neighbor on a standard wire connected phone, and they answer on a cordless phone, your right of privacy doesn't exist. Why? Because your neighbor's phone is broadcasting both sides of the conversation into the air!

For total protection against uninvited listeners, use a standard wire connected phone and don't forget to ask the second party to do the same. In today's high tech society, it's the only guaranteed way of protecting your telephone privacy....

Reprinted By: The Hotline MBBS

Individual	\$15.00
Student >18	5.00
Family	20.00

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Join SCCARA

First	Last	Call	Class
Address	City	St	Zip
Home Ph.	Arrl Member? yes no	Serve as Officer? yes no	
Family Names, Calls and License Classes			
Interests and Other Hobbies			

Mail To: Scara Dues, P.O. Box 6  
San Jose, Ca. 95103

## TRAGEDY AT MY SHACK

BY JOHN J. SLONZ

Now give a listen you O M or Y L.  
My tale of woe I am about to tell.  
It occurred at my shack a short time ago,  
And here's the story so you all will know.

Struggle after struggle brought no DXCC .  
That my efforts were futile anyone could see.  
T'was at a DX forum where I could only sulk  
It occurred to me that I must consult.

Well who's better to ask than Ole K 6 R Q.  
Without hesitation he said "Here's my clue:  
The cause of your trouble is plain to be seen.  
You don't get out 'cause you lack a beam."

My course was clear for the master had spoken,  
But the trouble I had was a pocketbook broken.  
Surprised I was upon consulting my bride;  
She said: "get a small one to restore your pride."

I proceeded at once beam catalogs to collect  
With visions of future log entries to beget.  
Soft-Shoed salesmen were naught but a bore;  
Too eager for commissions or profit for the store.

With spousal guidance my budget was set,  
And with counsel from R Q I knew what to get.  
All plans and specs the inspectors did approve;  
Clearing my way on parts ordering to move.

I ordered myself a nice little tower  
And a rotary beam that could handle the power.  
In reasonable time all parts were on hand,  
And time had come the tower to stand.

The hole was dug and the footing was set.  
The rest was assembled with the concrete wet.  
R Q came over to help me align.  
With a little adjusting the VISWAR was fine.

The antenna party arrived at eleven  
R Q said: "Give them a big EIGHT OH SEVEN;  
And for Carla, coffee like mud or a little white wine  
Is the way to persuade her to pull hard on a line."

After much struggle it stood against the sky.  
Held shakily in place by three top guys.  
The beam turned and loaded; the band was hot.  
Give it a whirl?-- We said: "Why not?"

A DX-Pedition was heard on an isle.  
The calling signals made a huge pile.  
Carla took the mike to give a try.  
An answer at once almost made me cry.

She lined us all up for our own Kyoo Ess Ell.  
Not quite fair, but then-- Oh Well!  
Whether accent or Girl, I wasn't sure at all;  
But when she took the mike-- they would call..

We sat at the rig making call after call.  
S'pose you could say: we were having a ball.  
Then words from Carla panicked us a lot:  
She said, "I must go put Ed's beans in the pot."

We forgot completely while having fun,  
There still was a lot of work to be done.  
We secured it, we thought, so it would stay  
Until we could finish the job next day.

The wife took one look and had a fright.  
"My God!" she screamed "it won't last the night.  
I'll stay at mother's until the day,  
You fix that thing and it's safe to stay."

Before too long events proved her right.  
For tower and beam crashed down in the night.  
Secure it was against the Westerlies that prevail.  
Alas-- an Easterly came up with force of a gale

Not bad John. John lives in Poverty Flats, Ca.  
and obviously has a bit of Poets Wit. Thanks

JOIN/RENEW FOR ARRL

SCCARA invites you to join or renew ARRL through the club. This is the ONLY way that SCCARA will receive the commission due the club. We will NOT receive our commission if you send your check directly to ARRL. Please fill in the form below or attach your renewal notice or QST mailing label and send along with a check made payable to SCCARA to:

SCCARA  
PO Box 6  
San Jose, CA 95103-0006

American Radio Relay League  
New Member/Renewal Application

[ ] New member [ ] Previous member [ ] Renewal

Class of License \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Membership  
Class [ ] Regular [ ] Family  
[ ] Blind [ ] 65 or older

	<u>Regular</u> RATE	<u>Family/Blind</u> RATE	<u>Senior</u> RATE
[ ] 1 yr	\$30.00	\$ 4.00	\$24.00
[ ] 2 yr	\$57.00	\$ 8.00	\$45.00
[ ] 3 yr	\$80.00	\$12.00	\$65.00

A member of the immediate family of a League member, living at the same address, may become a League member without QST at the special rate of \$4.00 per year. Family membership must run concurrently with that of the member receiving QST. Blind amateurs may join without QST for \$4.00 per year.

Persons who are age 65 or older may upon request apply for League membership at the reduced rates shown. Proof of age, in the form of a copy of a driver's license or birth certificate is required.

PLEASE SAVE THIS PAGE AND USE FOR YOUR  
ARRL RENEWAL IF YOU ARE ALREADY A MEMBER.

**PACIFICON 90 - OCTOBER 12, 13, 14, 1990 IN SAN JOSE, CA**  
**THE ARRL PACIFIC DIVISION CONVENTION**

**TO ALL SCCARA MEMBERS:**

This year the convention committee has undertaken an ambitious task. We have made a mailing to every household with a radio amateur in the division, except for parts of Nevada and the Pacific Islands. The idea has been to make an attempt to have a very large convention. Hopefully to bulge the hotel to its limit. This was discussed and approved at the July membership meeting.

The purpose of an amateur convention is to promote personal communications between amateurs to supplement their on-the-air contacts, to impart some technical or operating knowledge to the amateur community, and to exchange ideas and

knowledge between amateur community leaders and the rank and file of the hobby.

SCCARA has long been the leader in conventions in the division. They are not the great money makers that many think. They require a lot of sacrifice by the convention promoters. I constantly hear the complaint: "I want to attend a convention some time." Well our new director is making a strong effort to find another club fdr next year. Here's hoping!

Now! Our advertising expenses have been double previous years. We are short of cash until the pre-reg's come in. We must ask your assistance by following the old "Old SCCARA Custom" by registering early.

**PACIFICON 90 481 FENLEY AVE., SAN JOSE, CA 95117 TEL 408-243-8349**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CALL(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ APT. \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

ea PRE-REGISTRATIONS @ \$12.00/ea (NOTE: \$15.00/EA AFTER 10/10) .....	\$ .00
ea YOUTH REGISTRATIONS (NOTE: YOUTH = 18 YEARS OR UNDER) .....	FREE
ea FILET OF SOLE BANQUETS @ \$22.00/EA .....	\$ .00
ea LONDON BROIL BANQUETS @ \$22.00/EA .....	\$ .00
ea SPOUSE SHOPPING TRIPS @ \$19.00/EA .....	\$ .00
ea NASA TOURS @ \$9.00 BUS FARE .....	\$ .00
ea GASLIGHTER THEATER TICKETS @ \$10.00/EA .....	\$ .00
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED.....\$ .00</b>	

**LOCATION: LE BARON HOTEL 1350 N. FIRST ST., SAN JOSE, CA**  
ROOM RATES: \$57.00/NIGHT 1 OR 2 OCCUPANTS --\$10.00/EA FOR UP TO 2 ADDITIONAL OCCUPANTS  
CALL: INSIDE CA 800-662-9896 OUTSIDE CA 800-538-6818 ASK FOR CONVENTION SPECIAL

# SANTA CLARA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

## CLUB OFFICERS

President	George Allan	WA6O	927-9921
Vice President	Jim O'Keefe	WE6V	264-4987
Secretary	Don Village	K6PBQ	263-2789
Treasurer	Kathy Getsla	KB6ICQ	275-0735
477 Pamilar Ave. San Jose, CA 95126			

## DIRECTORS

Herb Himmelfarb	KB6ABG
Bob Forster	N6PCQ
Shorty Freitas	AE6Z
Ed Rawlinson	WD6CHD
Lou Steirerr	WA6QYS

## REPEATER COMMITTEE

Wally Britten	KA6YMD
Keith Butts	KN6K
Stan Getsla	WA6VJY
Trish Gibbons	WA6UBE
Ed Mangan	KB6DLB
Ron Bardarson	N6UW

## SCCARA STAFF

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Facilities	Lou Steirerr	WA6QYS	
Good + Welfare	Herb Himmelfarb	KB6ABG	
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Data Base	Joe Quirantes	WA6DXP	371-0959
Mailman	Tony Sanchez	K6MOB	296-6676

## REPEATER INFO

Call	W6UU
2 Meter	146.385+
440	442.425+ (PL) 107.2

Nets are held every Monday evening at 1930 sharp,  
except for the second Monday which is our meeting  
night.

## STATION TRUSTEE

Jean "Doc" Gmelin W6ZRJ

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**SCCARA HOTLINE 408-249-6909**

**ARRL VEC HOTLINE 408-984-8353**

## SANTA CLARA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Affiliate of

American Radio Relay League  
P.O. Box 6, San Jose, CA 95103

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