

# SCCARA-GRAM

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Assn. (SCCARA)  
Volume 7 Number 4

Organized in 1921  
April 1991

## Sccara is 70 Years Old !

### THE PREZ SEZ...

PACIFICON '91 is cancelled! You probably knew it already, but it bears repeating; SCCARA will not do the Pacific Division Convention this year. I'm sure there are those among us (I'm one of them) who will breathe a big sigh of relief at this news. We've hosted Pacificon for five straight years (I think that's a remarkable achievement) so, it's about time we took a break.

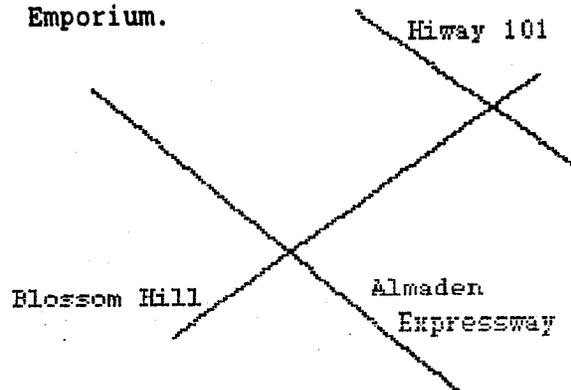
When the next Pacific Division Convention comes along, we'll (finally) be in a position to enjoy it. I'm advised that the Mount Diablo Club has already applied to do PACIFICON '92. Please note my reference to the Pacific Division Convention as "PACIFICON". This is a reversal of my previous position on this subject due to the following;

Back in 1985 the Convention Committee formed to host the 1986 Convention, felt we needed a catchy name that could be used on an ongoing basis to identify the event. The name, "PACIFICON" was arrived at by combining the word, "Pacific" with the first three letters in the word, "convention" and implies, "Pacific Division Convention". It wasn't necessarily a stroke of genius, but since Dan Dietz, WM6M and I coined it, I felt the ownership should stay with SCCARA.

## NEXT MEETING

Date: Monday 04/08/91  
Time: 1800-2200  
Place: Sizzler Restaurant

The Sizzler is located at 5353 Almaden Expressway in the Almaden Fashion Plaza. It is near the Emporium.

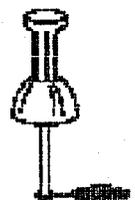


## Old Timers Night

SCCARA invites you to dinner and a show. Plan to have a video dating back to the mid twenties plus many reflections on SCCARAS rich history.

### Dates to Remember

April 8 SCCARA Meeting  
April 13 Foothill Flea Market  
April 25 Board Meeting  
May 13 SCCARA Meeting



But since the name implies the event, I now feel that the ARRL Pacific Division Convention should own the name and use it to signify the event - no matter who sponsors it. Therefore, I won't pursue the issue of copy-righting the name any further.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank "Shorty" Freitas, AE6Z for his very able leadership of the Convention Committee over the past six years. It wouldn't have been the same without you, Shorty. Thank you.

Our APRIL MEETING is at the Sizzler Restaurant at 5353 Almaden Expressway, next to the Emporium in the Almaden Fashion Plaza. I hope to see you then for "Oldtimers, Newcomers and Guests Night". 73 til then.

de George, WA60.

## REPEATER COMMITTEE REPORT

3/24/91

de WA6VJY

### ~~STOLEN HAM GEAR~~

These items were stolen from N6TUS, a member of the West Valley club:

Yaesu FT-33R-TTP s/n:7J020244

Yaesu FT-727RH s/n:7E150389

Alinco ALD-24T s/n:10201052.

Please contact him at (408)723-7123 if you see any of these radios. Also taken was a copy of the repeater control codes. The repeater committee for W6PIY has changed the codes for their repeater to prevent unauthorized use.

This points out what could happen if you lose the codes to our repeater. The same thing could happen to us. We would have to change all user codes and notify all autopatch/autodial users by mail of the new codes. Notify one of the Repeater Committee members if you think someone has had access to your copy of the codes.

Users of the autopatch/autodial feature of our repeater should be aware of their situation prior to initiating a phone call. If you don't think you

will be able to properly dial or hang up the phone, please ASK FOR HELP PRIOR TO PLACING THE CALL! (This could easily occur when you are mobile.)

Leaving the phone off-hook will eventually time out the repeater and will annoy all listeners when the phone company puts that 'hang-up-the-phone' screeching on the line.

Please note... The Autodial slot #17 (Allstate Towing) is no longer available.

I think there is a need for the club to list some "Elmer" types with their areas of expertise in the SCCARA-Gram. I have been approached at meetings by members with questions that might easily be answered over the phone. If you have technical or operating practice questions, you might get in touch with one of the "Elmer" types in the club. I can be reached at 275-0735 if you have questions regarding repeaters or packet. I'm sure I won't be able to answer all questions, but I might be able to steer you in the right direction. I'm sure, with a little looking, someone in the club will be able to answer just about any question on any phase of ham radio, from ATV to satellites to packet to computers (and anything else you might think of).

It seems that the FCC will most likely be reassigning the bottom 2MHz of the 220 band within the next 6 months or so and will be requiring any ham activity to vacate those frequencies. Any users who are interested in the band plan as NARCC sees it might want to attend the next NARCC meeting. It will be held the FIRST Saturday in April at Lockheed at 9A.M. See also the latest issue of QST for more information on their proposed 220 bandplan.

That's about it for this month. I look forward to seeing you at the next club meeting which will be at a Sizzler restaurant (a dinner-meeting). Look for details elsewhere in this SCCARA-Gram.

73 de Stan WA6VJY

## SCARRA'S OLDEST OLDTIMER

"Och" Otho Lawrence, K6CAY, is the only current member who also was a member in 1922 shortly after the club had been organized. At that time he was a young teenager with the call 6CWD. Och says that in those old spark days there was only one class of license. It required a short written exam plus a 10 wpm code send and receive test. Before the days of the FCC, licenses were issued by the Dept. of Commerce, and had to be renewed every year. An operator could have two different calls, one of which was dropped when the prefix W was



Och K6CAY at his home QTH

instigated in the early 30's

Since that time, Och has served the club in various offices - secretaries, director and V.P. He worked for Pacific Telephone & Telegraph in almost every capacity from 1928 to retirement in 1972.

Like all early hams, Och had to build all his equipment and still enjoys puttering around with the soldering iron. Today though, his gear, like most of ours, is modern, sophisticated. factory made hardware. His HF rig inventory includes two KENWOOD transceivers - 430s and 520s - feeding R.F. into a HEATHKIT 1200 watt linear, through a home built tuner, up a ladder line to a Zepp antenna. For VHF and UHF, there are an AZDEN PCS-3000, ICOM IC 27A, all mode IC-245

and his latest toy, a tiny IC-24AT HT.

He occasionally works DX, but spends more time with domestic contacts on SSB. Besides belonging to several organizations including Quarter Century Wireless Association and Shriner's Islam ARC (which links hospitals world-wide to assist in providing major medical care for children), Och is also very busy checking into a multitude of 2 M repeater nets.

If not at home, he and his XYL are traveling (preferably by boat) and/or playing golf.

Editors note...Thanks for the fine article Bob KB6OHO and thanks to Och K6CAY for providing insights into the clubs early days.

## GOOD AND WELFARE de Herb KB6ABG

3/28/91

Virginia and Roy Metzger celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary during March. My brother and his wife celebrate their 50th in June, so Cynthia and I won't be here the first two weeks in June.

### FOOD FOR FIELD DAYS

It's not too early to call in your reservations for food for Field Day (June 22 and 23); the actual days are 21, 22, 23 June, but food will be served on the 22nd and 23rd only. Just as in previous years, the menu consists of steak, chicken, both green and baked beans, baked potatoes, salad, and garlic bread. Main meal will be served at about 1:00 P.M. Saturday. Sunday breakfast will be eggs, turkey ham, cereal, etc. Cost is still \$10.00 per person.

When you call us at 226-2919, tell us (if we are home) or our machine what you want, and your call. Name too, please. We'll be travelling a lot in the first two weeks of June; to New York for my brother's 50th and then to Detroit to see our son and daughter-in-law. Because of this, the cutoff date for reservations is 30 May. Please don't call after that date.

Come to Field Days and bring along a hearty appetite.

# SCCARA

## 1921-1991

The roster shown is from the mid 1920 period. Och K6CAY loaned it to us for copying. There is a total of 56 people listed with twenty not showing calls. I wonder what the significance of the "no calls is"?

The club call is listed as NU6SV. I don't see anyone listed plus it is not listed in the current Ham directory. Anyone have insights??

Bob KB6OHO interviewed Och K6CAY. Och is listed as 6CWD in the roster. It appears that he joined SCCARA in 1922 which is one year after the club started up.

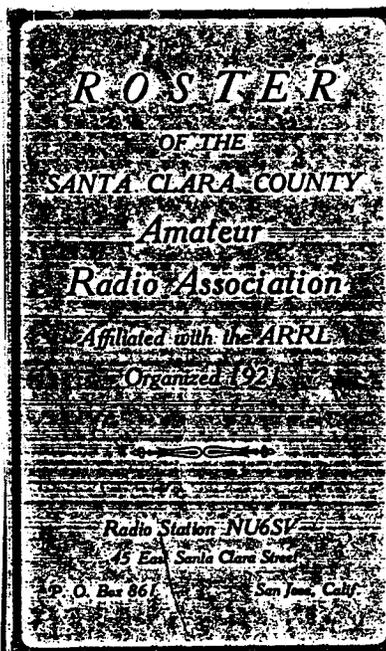
Bob KB6OHO also interviewed Russ Estep 6BRD (now W6AUC). Russ lives in the Burlingame area. Both he and Och are still active in the Ham community.

Also of note is Frank Quement 6NX, 6AZF. Frank later got the call of W6NX. Does anyone know why Frank had two calls listed by his name.

Another person of note is Harry Engwicht 6HC, 6ZAJ. Doc W6ZRJ mentioned that Harry was the first SCCARA president and that the meetings were held in his barn.

Do you know the whereabouts of anyone else in the roster? Do you have insights (preferably first hand) into SCCARAS beginnings? If so please pass the info along to Bob KB6OHO or myself KB6LCJ.

Our club has a long and interesting history. Lets see what develops.



CLUTE, IRVING  
115 S. 34th

CORMACK, A. N.  
845 Plaza Drive  
6BV

CREVER, WILLIS  
14 Broadway

DeLaCRUZ, GEO.  
1114 McKendrie St.  
6CSX

DEVINE, GEO.  
912 W. San Fernando  
6BLV

DUNCAN, JOHN  
R 1, Box 3, Campbell  
6CUK

DRESBACH, WM.  
998 S. 7th

EATON, MEADE  
801 W. San Fernando  
6AJZ

EDMONDS, STANLEY  
57 Sunol

EITEL, WM.  
Box 182, Knowles, Calif.  
6UF, 6ZAT

ELLIS, A. W.  
285 S. 21st  
6BKT

ENGWICHT, HARRY  
405 N. 3d  
6HC, 6ZAJ

LAWRENCE OTHO  
907 Emory St., Santa Clara  
6CWD

MADERA, ALBERT  
806 S. 6

MALLETTE, E. L.  
Box 269 Saratoga, Calif.  
6ARV

NELSON, RAYMOND  
716 E. Santa Clara St.

NEWBY, RAY  
1065 Bird Avenue  
6HV

PERRY, JOS. F.  
135 N. 31st

QUEMENT, F. J.  
51 Pleasant Ave.  
6NX, 6AZF

RENOLDS, F. T.  
377 S. 1st

SCHUELER, WALTER  
586 Anita St.  
6DCR

ANDERSON, IRA  
80 N. 11th  
AUBREY, ALBERT  
220 N. 13

BESSEY, E. H.  
Sunnyvale  
6DFE

BESSEY, A. E.  
Sunnyvale, Calif.

BOOTH, K.  
140 N. 18th

BROWN, ORRIN  
399 S. 14th  
6CKV, 6HB

BALDWIN, ROBERT  
261 E. St. James  
6BRI

BOCK, ROLLIN  
635 E. St. James

BLAKELY, GEO. O.  
445 S. 3

CALL, GEO. H.  
COOPER, MILES M.  
92 Grant St., San Jose

CAMP C. J.  
318 Hawthorne Ave., Palo Alto  
6BMW

CHAPMAN, CHAS. S.  
P. O. Box 457  
6COY

CLARK, PAUL  
898 S. 8th  
6CO

ESTEP, H.  
246 S. 3d  
6BEU

ESTEP, RUSSELL  
246 S. 3d  
6BDR

FOSTER, CLAIR  
Carmel, Calif.  
6HM

GOULD, GORDON  
Los Gatos

GREENQUIST, E.  
466 W. San Carlos  
6TZ

HAMILTON, AUSTIN  
Johnson Ave., Campbell

HANSON, TERRY  
1016 McKendrie  
6KG

HART, ARTHUR  
Millbrae, Calif.  
6CW

HUMBURG, ARMAND  
195 Santa Theresa  
6BON

LANGLOIS, ARTHUR  
247 N. 5th  
6CBP

SCOFIELD, PHILIP  
430 Kingsley St., Palo Alto  
6JK

SEBIRE, ED.  
R. D. Box 329, San Jose

SMITH, MEDER  
315 S. 17th

STONE, BRUCE  
R 2 Box 124, San Jose  
6AMM

SOUTHWICK, DUDLY  
270 N. 15th

TAYLOR, JOHN  
Box 365, Sunnyvale, Calif.  
6CTE

TAYLOR, ORMSBY  
Box 366, Sunnyvale, Calif.

THOMAS, RAY  
Los Gatos, Calif.  
6BHH, 6CLB

THOMPSON, W. J.  
Box 102, Sunnyvale, Calif.  
6CZL

WENTWORTH  
Box 1220, Stanford University, Cal.  
6OI

WRIGHT, E. A.  
378 Gifford Ave., San Jose, Cal.

# Good Speakers



Mike Maneris, K8ERL, discusses satellite communications at the February meeting.



Jan Froom, K6VLE (left) describes how his small, home built earthquake detector works during his presentation on Amateur Seismology at the March meeting.

It is refreshing to start out 1991 with some quality speakers as the photos portray. Doug WN6U is our Vice President and responsible for the slate of speakers. Please let Doug know if you have a topic to speak on or have ideas that the club might be interested in.

## Field Day

Planning for Field Day is in full swing. Be sure you have set aside the weekend of June 22 and 23 for this gala event. Field Day offers an exciting opportunity for every ham, regardless of interest. Novice and Technicians can operate the Novice station. Contest operators can see how fast they can add up the QSO's.

Computer hobbyists can try their hand at packet, RTTY or AMTOR. We will have a station making contacts via satellite and a solar powered station. Come and share your ideas in your field of expertise.

Field Day, besides providing operating opportunities, is also a social occasion. Come meet new friends.

SCARRA will again hold Field Day at Mt. Madonna County Park on Highway 152 west of Gilroy. Camping in the sylvan (dictionary time) park refreshes ones spirits and unity in a common effort engenders ( wow.. might want to look this one up too) friendliness.

If you have suggestions and or would like to get involved with planning for Field Day please give me a call at (408)-241-7999.

De. Lou WA6QYS

## THEN AND NOW

By Doc Gmelin, W6ZRJ

It's pretty easy to get an amateur radio license today. Even with 5 WPM CW speed it's easy, and if you don't have to learn the code, it's almost a give-away.

And after you get the license, getting on the air is easy and relatively speaking, almost free.

Why do I say all of this? Well because when I started out in amateur radio in 1943 to 1947, it was a lot harder in every way, especially for those of us who had little money and even if we had money, ham radio equipment wasn't quite so available. Oh yes, there was commercial equipment, and most of us bought a receiver, but in most cases, we built our own transmitters.

The dates 1943 to 1947 represent how long it took me to learn the code, although the really concentrated effort at learning the code came in late 1946 to early 1947. Of course one problem was that the lowest class

license, Class B, required 13 WPM.  
That was in the days before the Novice



Frank, AA6LL and Jim, W6GV were part of the usual devoted crew at the Flea Market that help bring in money for the repeater fund.

#### License.

I got really interested in amateur radio after April of 1946 when I visited my first operating amateur station. Before that time two three of my friends had a more casual interest, gained because a friend's father owned a "short wave radio", and we could at least hear some short wave communications. World War II was in progress so we really didn't hear any real amateur radio operation.

Then my friend took me over to visit his cousin, Ralph Herndon, W6QLP. Amateur radio was off the air during the War, but by the spring of 1946 was in full swing on 10 meters. Ralph operated 10 meters and when I saw ham radio in action, I was "hooked" for life.

Ralph is a good example of how one got on the air just before and then after World War II. Ralph got his license in 1938, and like most of did in those years, he bought a receiver. His first receiver was a Hallicrafters, just as it was for many of us. Then Ralph built his own "rig" or transmitter, on the floor of his living room as he liked to tell us.

The rig consisted of a crystal oscillator using 160, 80/75 or 40 meter crystals, a series of doublers and drivers with a pair of Taylor T-40

in the "final". These tubes were amplitude modulated by a pair of Taylor TZ-40s. Ralph said he had to work overtime for a month to get enough money to afford these "high priced" state of the art tubes. (How many of today's amateurs have even heard of Taylor tubes. I have two Taylor tubes in my collection. They are now highly prized in some circles.) When I first saw that rig I was fascinated and for a long time I dreamed of owning a rig like that.

Another combination of tubes in a similar medium power rig was the RCA 811, 812 combination. The final was a pair of 812s and the modulator used the 811s. The rig ran about 300 watts input. I did finally get a similar rig using the 811s in the modulator, but I was fortunate to get a couple surplus 813s so I ran 500 watts input.

My first rig was a single 6L6 running about 10 watts and I operated a little 10 meter phone and a lot of 40 meter CW. At that time you could only use CW on 40 meters and my 10 watts went a long way on that band. I still have the many QSL cards from



Gary, WB6YRU, sets up "before the birds" at the flea market.

those days on 40.

It's not that our motivation for becoming radio amateurs was the same as it is with most newcomers to the amateur ranks today. We didn't have HTs, repeaters and our only digital communication was CW. There was no frequency shift teletype, sideband and packet radio hadn't been developed.



Wally, KA6YMD, mans the club station located at the San Jose Red Cross. Wally is operating the Yeasu FT-757 GXII plus automatic tuner. A Heathkit SB-2-- linear amplifier sits on the shelf above it. In back of Wally is the Rockwell- Collins Pro-Mark KWM-380 transceiver and a Nye Viking tuner which were donated by Frank Qument. Wally is available at the "shack" every Thursday from 1900-2100. Come on down and "get on the air".



New members: Top l-r Ben Vickers WB6FRM, Eric Lund N6YJD. Bottom l-r Scott Bickwell KC6GGE, Gary Mendenhall KC6GQP. Welcome...

### The Electronic Museum will Move

I guess the real fascination was in talking to someone a long way away. There was not satellite communication and most commercial communication was by CW, although radio teletype was coming into the picture on the commercial channels because of war time military needs. But in a day when a trip from San Jose to Cupertino might be a mornings ride by car for most of us, and it cost 55 or 60 cents to call from San Jose to Los Gatos, talking to someone all the way across the country by radio was nearly a miracle.

Perhaps the real difference is that ham radio is just a communications system for many amateurs today. Maybe a chance to talk with someone a long ways away just to get to know people better. To some who never do get a General or higher license it's just a VHF repeater communications system where you can talk to your friends and perhaps your XYL, just about like you can on the telephone.

To us youngsters starting out it WAS a miracle and more important a way that could lead us to learn radio and electronic skills that might lead to jobs and careers that would last us for a life time.

Too bad it isn't quite that way today.

Hey Doc.... Perhaps it's the "good old days" that we are experiencing right now.  
EDITOR

The Electronics Museum now housed at Foothill College in Los Alto Hills will be moved off the campus under a Santa Clara County Superior Court decision handed down Friday. The Foothill-DeAnza College District will pay \$775,000 to the museum trust so it can set the museum up in another location according to the judgment. The foundation has six months to move the collection off campus, according to the judgment. The collection, which also includes one of the first radio transmitters to broadcast in the U.S., has been described as second only to the Smithsonian collection. No mention was made as to where the collection will be moved to.

There are many implication regarding this judgement.

\* It may put the Foothill Ham Radio Flea Market in jeopardy.

\* The EMARC Radio Club has a station at the museum plus hold their monthly meetings there. It will be a traumatic time for them.

\* No mention was made as to where to place the collection.

Be assured that six months can fly bye. If you have ideas regarding where to move the club, the collection etc. please contact an EMARC member (I'd recommend Bob AA6BT located on N6IIU-1) Editor..



*Santa Clara County  
Amateur Radio Association*

*P.O. Box 6 • San Jose, California 95103*



March 13, 1991

Mr. Charles P. McConnell, W6DPD  
Director, ARRL Pacific Division  
1658 West Mesa Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93711

Dear Charles,

This is my official notification that the Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association (SCCARA) has decided to withdraw its application to host the Pacific Division Convention in 1991.

In 1986 SCCARA coined the name "PACIFICON" and proceeded to host five consecutive Pacific Division Conventions. We were planning to make it six, and had gone as far as reserving the last weekend of September with the hotel and coordinating those dates with ARRL Headquarters to avoid conflicts with other League events. The point is; we're not exactly new at hosting conventions. Since we've had considerable experience at it, we know how to plan and coordinate such events.

But despite our careful planning and coordination, we were notified that Headquarters decided to hold the National Computer Networking Conference, not only on the same dates, but in the same local area! In an effort to salvage the Convention, we (you and I) agreed that we (SCCARA) would explore the possibility of turning this conflict into a symbiotic relationship for both groups. Our Convention Chairman, Emmett "Shorty" Freitas, AE6Z, did exactly that. But he was soon convinced that the two events couldn't coexist. "Shorty" resigned from his position due to illness and it soon became clear to me that he was right.

The following facts became apparent during the course of assessing the situation;

1. The Computer Networking Conference operates on a similar schedule to the one we use for the convention.
2. The CONFERENCE program is similar to a scientific symposium where a series of technical papers are presented to an audience assembled in a large room. The room would have to be large enough to accommodate everyone attending the Conference, at any given time.
3. The Northern California Packet Association (NCPA) is the organization hosting the Conference.
4. They are expecting about 350 people to attend this year.
5. They didn't appear especially interested in combining the Conference with the Convention.

Based on these facts, we did some brainstorming and arrived at the following list of expected advantages and disadvantages;

#### Advantages

1. Larger crowd could attract more vendors for exhibits.
2. The high ratio of people coming from out of town and staying in the hotel could facilitate getting facilities either free or at a reduced rate.

#### Disadvantages

1. Facilities would be seriously overtaxed.
2. It would be almost impossible for anyone to attend both functions.
3. The two functions would be priced differently.
4. Attendees of one event (they couldn't really attend both) could be confused by the presence of the other event.
5. Two (Non-mixing) cultures.
6. The Conference would draw participants away from the Convention and vice versa.

To further compound matters, a new Chairperson would be required to both orchestrate the usual Convention activities and coordinate them with those of the Conference. Chairing this Convention would not be a matter of simply following familiar paths, but instead would be a journey into the unknown. The conclusion was obvious.

Due to the League's scheduling decision, our relatively secure Convention suddenly became a risky proposition. Therefore, pursuant to my recommendation, SCCARA voted to withdraw its application to host the Convention in 1991. We regret having to take this action, but the circumstances causing it were beyond our control.

I understand that another club in this area has applied to host the 1992 Convention. This news is gratifying, since it will enable us to attend a Convention and enjoy its activities. We do, however, look forward to that day in the future when SCCARA once again hosts the Pacific Division Convention.

Sincerely,



George Allan, WA60  
President

