SCCARA-GRAM

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Assn. (SCCARA) Organized in 1921
Volume 7 Number 11 November 1991

Happy Thanksgiving

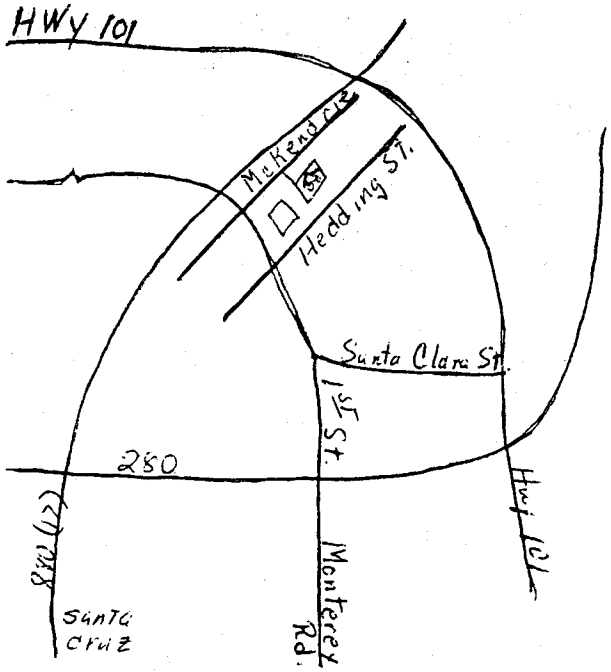
THE PREZ SEZ....

For those of you who weren't able to make the October meeting, our new meeting place was very impressive. It's a comfortable room in a nice location, with very nice accommodations. You also missed a good program from Doug, WN6U, who spoke on the subject of AMTOR. I found it both interesting and informative.

Our November meeting will be the election of officers and (possibly) a report from **Steve Wilson, KA6S,** ARRL Section Manager for the Santa

Next Meeting

Date: Monday 11/11/91
Time: 1930- 2200 approx.
Place: **United Way** located at 1922 The Alameda.



Agenda

Our November speaker is Steve KA6S who will speak on the ARRL and his role as the Santa Clara Valley ARRL Section Manager

Important Dates

11/11 Monthly SCCARA
11/21 SCCARA Board Meeting
11/28 Thanksgiving
12/13 SCCARA Annual Christmas Dinner
12/25 Christmas
12/26 SCCARA Board Meeting

Clara Valley Section. This assumes that Steve's schedule will permit him to be here.

The Board decided that SCCARA needs a Club QSL card that can be used for QSL'ing contacts made from W6UW, our Club Station. So we will soon kick off a contest to come up with a design for it. Stay tuned for details.

By the time you read this, the ARRL Division Elections should be history. And, if things go as we expect them to, our fellow club member, Brad Wyatt, K6WR will be our new Vice Director. I, for one, expect the election to go that way.

Don't forget to sign up for the Christmas/Holiday Party. This year we will not have a gift exchange. Instead, we ask that voluntary contributions be made to the Food Bank the same as we did last year.

This is the month that our Board meeting is on the 3rd Thursday. That's to avoid the conflict with the Thanksgiving Holiday. For those of you who are unable to make this meeting, let me take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Thanksgiving.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

73, George, WA6O.

Minutes

of Oct. 14, 1991 SCCARA meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM by President George Allan WA6O at our new meeting location at the United way. Attendance was 40.

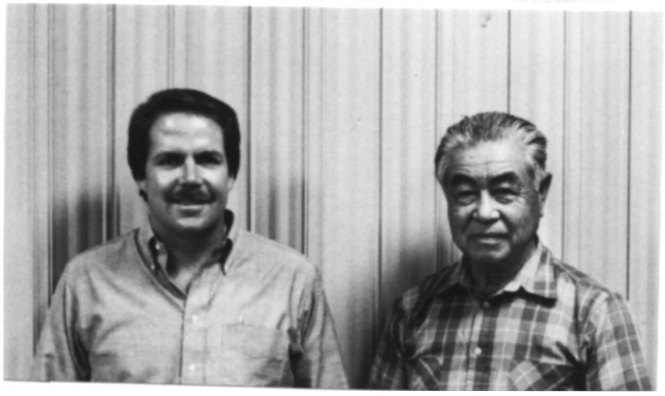
Brad Wyatt K6WR gave us an update on his campaign for Vice-Director of the ARRL Pacific Division. He's visited 23 clubs so far. Our program this month was by Doug Eaton WN6U. Doug gave us a talk on Amtor. An interesting mode of communications similar to RTTY.

The club is delighted with our new location at the United Way building on The Alameda.

Herb KB6ABG is working hard trying to fill our slate of officers for 1992.

For the Scouting Jamboree-on-the-AirJim WE6V will be heading up our club station at the Red Cross on Sat. Oct. 19. Don K6PBQ and Mike KB6LCJ will be running the Jamboree-on- the-Air at the Childrens Discovery Museum.

Our Holiday Dinner will be at Renzo's on Friday December 13th. See your SCCARA-GRAM for a sign-up sheet. The cut-off for sign-ups will be Dec. 1st.



New members: l-r Ed Sliger KC6WAR and Pat Itatani KC6TDK.

Secretary minutes for the Sept. meeting were approved as written in the SCCARA-GRAM.

The next Board meeting will be on Oct. 24th at the Red Cross Communications Center at 7:30 PM.

This months Raffle winners were: WD6CHD, K6WR, AA6LL, N6YJD, AE6M, KC6WMM, and K6MOB. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM. **Don Village K6PBQ, Secretary.**

REPEATER COMMITTEE REPORT

11/2/91 **de WA6VJY**

The AutoPatch and AutoDial codes will be changing February First of next year. Please fill in and return your club membership renewal form (included elsewhere in this issue) with the appropriate information to the club P.O. box. The codes will be mailed around the middle of January to all who have signed up for AutoPatch and/or AutoDial.

The club officer and board member elections this month will be most interesting. I look forward to seeing who will take "the reins" from George WA6O's hands.

Club members enjoyed the luxurious facilities during the October meeting. Our new location is the United Way building. Pictured is Doug WN6U who gave a talk on AMTOR.

The current meeting location of the United Way building at 1922 The Alameda is really nice! We don't have to wait for every plane which takes off from the airport to fly by before continuing the meeting. Coffee is provided and the facilities are really first class! I hope to see you all there on the 11th.

If any of you have adopted the SVECS DC power connector standard over the past few years, please see the information sheet included elsewhere in this SCCARA-Gram. It is very important that you conform to the new ARRL standard if you wish your equipment to be compatible others here in the area. The ARRL did adopt the SVECS standard, but with only one little difference. They reversed the locations of the positive and negative pins. If you still have your connectors oriented with the SVECS standard and try to mate them with some equipment oriented with the ARRL standard, the power pins will be crossed. This will connect the power supply positive to the negative terminal on your equipment (and supply negative to equipment positive). If your equipment is properly protected with fuses and diode "reverse-power protection", no damage should be done other than to the fuse. Unprotected equipment may burn up.

The "ARRL Power Connector Standard" and the article by AA6BT on its reverse side are reprinted from "The Repeater" (the SVECS newsletter) by permission of the editor of "The Repeater".

Radio Shack carries a package which contains both male and female pins and connector shells. Its part number is: #274-222. Quement's sells the MOLEX connectors in a pack which includes both pins and shells also. The proper part number to look for is: 1545PRT and has the name WALDOM on the package. It is orange and white, contains parts for 3 complete connector pairs, and sells for around $5.00.

73 and CUL,
Stan WA6VJY

HOIDAY DINNER INFORMATION

10/5/91 de KB6ICQ/WA6VJY

The club is planning once again to have a holiday dinner. This year the dinner will be on December 13. The location will be RENZO'S CONTINENTAL CUISINE Restaurant at 1700 W.Campbell Avenue. The restaurant is on the south side of Campbell Ave. and is next to a Nob Hill market. The cost is

$15.00 per person and will include the following: fresh tossed green salad, choice of Beef Brochette or Chicken Saute Sec, Tortellini Supreme, potatoes, fresh vegetables, coffee, and strawberry-cream Roulade. A no-host cocktail hour will start at 6:30pm with dinner to start at 7:30.

The deadline for getting your meal orders in is December 1st. The club secretary needs your order by that date to place the meal order with the restaurant.

We will again be requesting voluntary donations for the Food Bank in lieu of a member gift exchange. Last year we collected and sent $215 to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara County. You need not sign up for the dinner to donate to the Food Bank. The club renewal form has a place to enter your donation.

SCCARA PARTICIPATES IN THE J.O.T.A.!

by **Jim WE6V**

SCCARA's participation in the Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air took place on 19 October at the club station in the Red Cross building. For this first-time involvement, only the station in the Red Cross building was used. In addition to the HF station, **Stan WA6VJY** set up and demonstrated a packet station, which the older boys found interesting.

Ed Bacardi, assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 233, was the prime mover of the event, recruiting the boys and participating throughout the day. Several other BSA scoutmasters attended at various times throughout the day.

SCCARA volunteers included **Jim WE6V, Mike KC6WCP, George WA6O, and John WA6WST.** One drop-by was **Sam Lockett, KJ6OL** --we may hear from him again at a club meeting. **Larry, KB6HRN** also showed up.

Twelve boys participated. Six of them were Cubs, ranging from 9 to 11 years of age, and after a bit of mike fright, all participated. The older boys ranged up to Star Scout in rank and had no trouble learning how to QSO.

Mike, KC6WCP was one of the Control Operators at the Red Cross headquarters during the recent Scout Jamboree on the Air.

It became very clear as the day wore on that the room was too small for the numbers of people attending. One suggestion for next year was to use our portable station and tower somewhere outside of town, or in a park.

EDITORS NOTE... This is a real community service effort and Jim has some good points about setting up our trailer etc.

In this same area, both **Don K6PBQ and Mike KB6LCJ** worked at the Childrens Discovery Museum for J.O.T.A. There was minimal activity on Saturday but we did have a packet station set up to communicate with the Red Cross.

Many thanks to **Don K6PBQ** who did considerable pre-planning. Lets make next year a go-getter...

Field Day 91

Ever wonder how well we did on our Field Day. Well wait no longer because the November 91 issue of QST lists the outcome. We ran 2A (two transmitter club station). I compiled the list of the 2A category till I got to us.
To read ours.. we made 717 contacts, there were 38 people present and out total score was 3205. We incidentally placed 204 out of 546.

SJ State	W6YL	2010	12	6810
Saratoga ARC	N6RC	1491	18	5248
Emarc ARC	K6YA	1457	30	4770
Los Cumeres	K6FB	1569	35	4606
West Valley	W6PIY	1219	39	4394
Bob, Brian, Dara, Mark, Joe	AA6YD	1047	5	4078
SCCARA ARC	**W6UW**	**717**	**38**	**3204**

In the "big picture" we did pretty good but your editor wouldn't mind whupping West Valley just once.

IS IT 1004 OR QSL?

Part 1

By **Doc Gmelin, W6ZRJ**

The other day on one of the local repeaters, I heard an amateur start and end every transmission with "QSL".

It went something like this:

"QSL OM, yes I am using a 2220 transmitter. I've had it for seven years. Works good. QSL?"

The use of CW Q signals in phone work is not new. And I suppose that it's natural, since early ham radio started out with radio telegraph transmission only, and that lasted pretty much into the 1930,s. As phone came into more general use, amateurs who were used to using the International Morse code along with the Q signals that had been adopted by commercial operators, would just naturally transfer that usage into phone work.

ARRL says that using Q signals on phone is not correct. In fact so do the military services, or at least they did when I was a Navy Radioman 3rd Class.

Does it matter whether we do so or not? Probably in the long run it doesn't but it does lead to interesting improper usages. As an example, QSL means when used as a question, "Do you acknowledge receipt of my last radiogram?" When used as an affirmation, it means "I acknowledge receipt of your last radiogram."

Actually the proper term to be used at the start of this article would be "R" on CW. Transferred to phone and using the associated phonetic it is used as "ROGER". The "R" means receipt so as an affirmation it means "I acknowledge receipt of your last transmission" and as a query it means "Do you acknowledge receipt of my last transmission." In early Morse landline telegraphy, the proper term to use became "OK", now firmly in use in the English Language and probably everywhere in the world.

Incidently, the Morse Code for OK is "dit dit da-di-dah." That's not dit dit as in "I" but in Morse the letter "O" is dit (long space) dit. When I first

heard this used I thought that someone was saying "eek". But the addition of the long space makes it a Morse "O", so "OK".

But whether you use R or OK or perhaps QSL doesn't make much difference, I guess, but when you start using Q signals on phone you can get some pretty "goofy" statements.

QTH means "What is your location in longitude and latitude." Even if we use it to mean just "location", we get an interesting statement when we say, "What is your QTH?"

What we are really saying is, "What is your 'what is your location.'"

Another interesting one is QRX, which means "I will call you at _____time."

We use it to mean "wait" or "standby". Maybe it is just as easy to use "wait" or "standby" as it is to use "QRX one."

Of course we wanted to use the "ham language" when we come into ham radio and we all want to be "official" sounding so to speak, and in fact it's good to have our own "secret" language. That way we can at least impress our friends with our new knowledge.

And then there is the "TEN FOUR" of the CBers. Note in the title I said 1004 and not "TEN FOUR" as above.

What's the difference?

Well I'll talk about that in my next "message."

"QSL"?

Oakland Fire

Extracted from the October 25, 1995 edition of the San Jose Mercury News. I wonder if any Hams from SCCARA made it up there to help. I know that the local Ares repeater were busily recruiting volunteers and it sounded like Hams were really needed. If you have any experiences from the fire, please get them to be for addition into the SCCARAGRAM.

Ham radio operators pitched in to help

Following the example they set after the Loma Prieta earthquake, ham radio operators from Alameda, Contra Costa and Santa Clara counties seemed to be everywhere helping out in the chaotic first days of the Oakland hills fire.

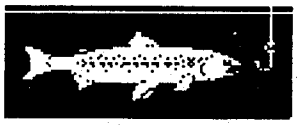
Armed with portable equipment, more than 150 volunteer ham radio operators worked with the Red Cross making communications possible for damage assessment teams and officials touring the burn site and for shelters trying to coordinate missing person searches.

Amateur radio operator George Washburn sent out requests for aid from other radio operators on Monday morning. Within an hour, 50 radio operators were heading to the fire. They worked around the clock, reuniting families, serving officials and keeping communication lines open.

SCCARA Scuttlebutt

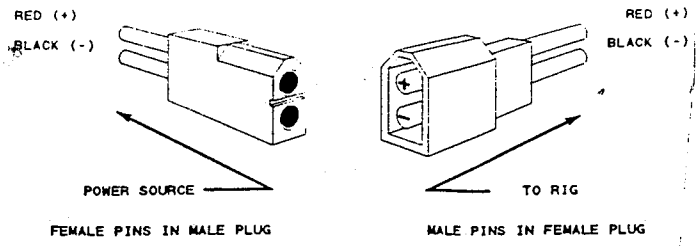
*** Jack Sputc KC6JYS has upgradedto general class. Congrats...**

*** Herb KB6ABG needs help in finding club officers. Can you help? We can use you. Pay's not too good but there some fine people on the board who would look forward to working with you. Why not give Herb a call and say "I'll help"....**



For Sale

Joe WA6DXP has the following for sale.
* XT clone. Loaded
* Crank up tower. (55 foot)
* TH6DX beam antenna + rotator
Joe can be reached at 408 371-0959 or after the Monday SCCARA net.



AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE POWER CONNECTOR STANDARD

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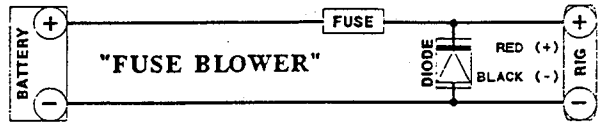

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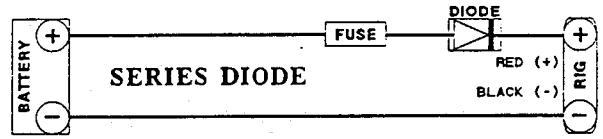

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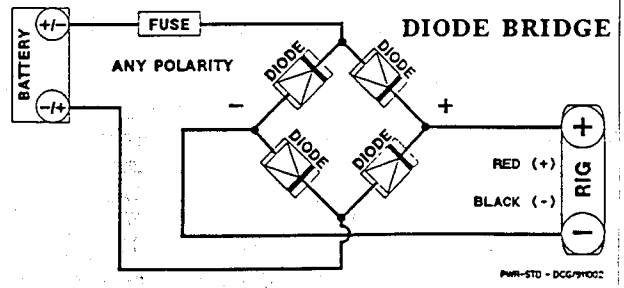

CHANGE - REVERSAL - TURNABOUT

B E W A R E ! ! !

de Bob Underwood, AA6BT
SVECS Director, Technical Committee

ARRL STANDARD POWER CONNECTOR DEFINED:

SVECS STANDARD AFFECTED!!!

See figures on opposite page.

As a result of a study commissioned by the ARRL's Volunteer Resources Committee, the Field Services Department is recommending the MOLEX Series 1545 (or equivalent) connector for use in promoting compatibility and interchangeability among personal VHF/UHF radio equipment at disaster and public event sites. Polarity should always be verified prior to connecting radios and power supplies.

The connector is rated at 25 volts, 8 amps. Wire size requirement is #18 AWG or greater. An in-line fuse between the power source and first connector is highly recommended. The connector is available at Radio Shack stores as part #274-222.

According to Steve, KA6S, ARRL Section Manager, the EC council voted to accept the new ARRL standard 12V DC power connector recommendation. This uses exactly the same hardware as the "SVECS connector", but with the polarity reversed. Several of the local Emergency Operations Centers have now converted to this standard, and hopefully soon all will.

Until the last of the old connectors is found and changed to the "standard" polarity, there is a chance that your radio may get plugged into the wrong polarity connector! This can permanently destroy your radio. It will happen only when you are in a hurry and don't have time to deal with a charred HT. It will be much faster to take a moment to check polarity. Even if you have already switched to the new standard, you may encounter an old battery that someone forgot to switch. In any case, it is in your best interests to protect your equipment against power-supply goofs.

Following is a brief discussion of several methods of protecting your valuable radio equipment from reverse-polarity damage:

1) POLARITY TESTER:

This really doesn't count as a solution, because if you have opposite polarity outlets and unprotected equipment, they will eventually find each other whether you test them or not. But you can build a tester by connecting a red and a green LED in parallel, anode to cathode, cathode to anode, then connect a 1K resistor from the green anode to what is supposed to be the positive. This will light up green on a properly connected outlet and red on a reversed one. If you want to get fancy, you can even use one of the red/green LEDs that already has both colors in the same package such as the Radio Shack 276-012.

2) DIODE "FUSE BLOWER":

Connect a diode across the "+" and "-" inputs of the radio. Put the cathode (banded end) at the "+" end. Install an inline fuse near the "+" connection to the battery. (This is especially important when working with gel cells or deep-cycle batteries.) If power is applied with the wrong polarity, then the diode conducts ALL of the power, draws enough current to blow the fuse, and protects the radio from being destroyed. Most modern equipment already includes a cheap power diode as a "fuse blower" directly across the 12V input, but it doesn't hurt to add another one in parallel. I like to use a 15V zener to get a little protection from overvoltage spikes at the same time; connect the cathode (banded) end to the plus 12V supply. You can depend on a 1N4745 to blow a 3 amp fuse. Don't forget to include the fuse! If you do not include a fuse, the "fuse blower" will short out the battery, causing an electrical fire.

3) SERIES DIODE:

Connect the anode to the source and the cathode (banded end) to the +12 volt input to the radio. This costs you a little bit of voltage drop in normal operation; 12 volts in will only give you about 11.3 volts under load, but most modern equipment won't even notice. If the polarity is reversed, your equipment doesn't work, but at least no damage is done. It's still a good idea to put a fuse in series with the battery, as close to the "+" output as possible.

4) DIODE BRIDGE:

You can buy a pre-packaged bridge rectifier, or you can build one out of 4 discrete diodes. If you connect the battery to the "AC" inputs of the bridge, and connect the radio to the "+" and "-" outputs of the bridge, then the radio works fine with EITHER polarity. You can't even tell the difference! The only disadvantage of using a bridge rectifier is that you lose about 1.4 volts off your source, so a 12.0 volt source provides only 10.6 volts to your radio. That may cost you a bit of power output, but probably not enough to worry about. Diodes are so cheap, it doesn't make sense to scrimp: use larger ones than you think you need. For example, use 1N4001s for a few hundred milliamperes. Any more than that, go for larger diodes as required. For higher powered loads like mobile transceivers, the fuse blower diode is the most practical solution.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

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REPEATER INFO

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CALL	W6UU
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440	442.425+ (PL) 107.2

Nets are held every Monday evening at 19:30 sharp. except for the second Monday which is our meeting night.

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