

SCCARA-GRAM

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association (SCCARA)
Volume 8 Number 2

Organized in 1921
February 1992

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was wonderful seeing a "full house" at our January meeting. I saw many new faces. That makes it doubly nice.

Just a reminder that we need to be out of the United Way Building by 2000. The facility also has an impressive audio/ visual system which we plan to use for future meetings.

Many thanks to Doug WN6U who did the January Show and Tell. I think that is a nice addition to the meeting. There will be an article elsewhere regarding this subject.

George WA6O gave a most interesting presentation regarding Digital Voice Communications. The group was attentive and there were many questions from the Floor.

I would like to express my congratulations to Rod Stafford, KB6ZV who is our newly elected ARRL First Vice President. Rod is a long standing SCCARA member and a "mover and shaker" in Ham Radio. Rod is our Guest Speaker at the February meeting.

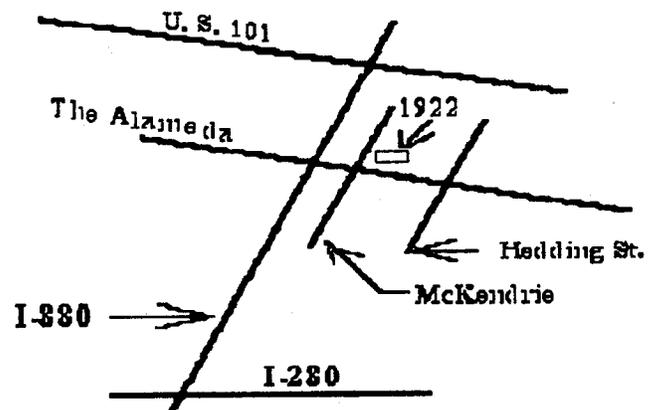
There is much going on in Newington these days, so this is a "don't miss" meeting. Brad Wyatt, K6WR, who is Vice Director for the Pacific Division, will also give us a few words.

Here we are in February and Stan WA6VJY says that we still have quite a few members who have not paid their dues. Nuff said....

Stan WA6VJY has completed the Elmer List and it will be published in this newsletter. It is our first try at this and we would

Next Meeting

Date: Monday 02/10/92
Time: 1930 - 2200 Approx.
Place: United Way Bldg.
1922 The Alameda.



Agenda

Our February Meeting will feature ARRL First Vice President, Rod Stafford, KB6ZV. Come hear what's happening at ARRL HQ! Also, Show & Tell time.

Important Dates

02/10 SCCARA Monthly Meeting
02/27 SCCARA Board Meeting
02/28 SCCARAGRAM Deadline.

like feedback. Thanks Stan, for your efforts in this area.

The club needs a QSL card. The card should contain the ARRL logo plus the SCCARA insignia but from there we would like a contest among the members to come up with a design. More info will be in this newsletter.

I'm sure you all noticed that our raffle drawing has changed. We received positive response to having fewer but better prizes plus making an incentive for people to buy \$2 in tickets instead of \$1.

The hamfest in Monterey was very nice. I believe half of SCCARA was down there. Don KK6MX had flea market stuff, Ed W6ACW was selling books and Randy KK6TQ was selling shirts. All in all, it was a well run affair. Good going to the Naval Post Grad Club...

One last thing. I will be bringing a SCCARA UPGRADE HONOR ROLL to the meetings and will add names of all that attend the meeting plus upgrade during the month. Newly licensed hams qualify.

73 to all. Mike KB6LCJ

SHOW AND TELL

Bill Brothers will demo his Alinco two meter mobile rig at the February meeting. I will keep updating this list for your reference. If you would be interested in giving a demo on some-thing of interest to the club, please let Bill, N6ZPC or myself, KB6LCJ know. It can be old or new ham gear, computer programs etc.

de Mike, KB6LCJ.

Flea Market Weekends are Great for SCCARA

SCCARA has been selling at the Foothill Flea Market since 1989. It's really nice to know that "your club" is out there and stopping by will always get you a friendly smile. It's not only a social function. Take a look at how well we have done monetarily:

| | <u>89</u> | <u>90</u> | <u>91</u> |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Income | 1200 | 2100 | 2200 |
| Expenses | 300 | 351 | 540 |
| Profit | 900 | 1749 | 1760 |

The proceeds from the flea market have had a direct influence on making our repeater the solid one it is. So what's our secret?

We have volunteers who can "beat the bushes" for flea market items, transport them to our locker, bring them to the flea market, sell, sell, sell and lastly transport them back to our locker. It is a fair amount of work for one or two but "a piece of cake" as a team. We have a team but can use YOUR HELP.

We need:

- * Volunteers. We especially need people with trucks.
 - * Donations. Our flea market stuff comes mostly by word of mouth. Many club members clean out their garages. We have handled estates. On occasion, we will sell on consignment. If you have something to donate or know someone who does, please call either Gary KA6YRU or Frank AA6LL or any of the board members. 73 Mike KB6LCJ
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JANUARY GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

January 13, 1992 General Meeting Minutes as transcribed in the meeting place at the United Way Building, 1992 The Alameda.

The meeting was called to order at Approximately 7:36 P.M. by President, Mike Hastings, KB6LCJ. Mike asked for a round of introductions by those present and this was completed.

Mike then asked George, WA6O to come forward and presented him a certificate for he and his wife to enjoy an evening at Mariani's with dinner, in appreciation for his work as president of the club. Afterwards, George started to walk away and saying, "I initially came up thinking this was going to be a "roast". Mike said, "Oh, wait a minute, George. Our Section Manager has an award for you." (I think I may be allowed to explain, here, that I don't remember QST misspelling any words before, but the January issue, page 148, Section News for Santa Clara Valley lists names of people and their jobs for ARRL by initials). Evidently, a new appointment, P.I.C., has been born! What is that?? Well the initials mean "Public Information Coordinator". But, the 1st word was misspelled, "Pubic". How may we expect George to perform in this respect??

Bill, N6ZPC then explains new thoughts on the "raffle" procedures. Want to give away nicer prizes. Two tickets for a dollar; five for two dollars. Things probably in the \$20 to \$30 price range.

At break time, Doug, WN6U demonstrated his Ten-Tec H.F. rig. (Sure wish I had one!).

On the table at the side were "club cards" & badges for those as appropriate. The club cards are NEW! Members were encouraged to pick these up and carry to events and offer to acquaintances. They

describe what our club does, the frequencies we use and telephone numbers to call for info.

George, WA6O came forward to give awards at this time, to people who were not at the Xmas party. Many were not present to receive their awards. Never-the-less, deserving of and recognized for their service to the club were; Don, KK6MX; "J.D.", K6YKG; Joe, N6PCR; Shorty, AE6Z; Trish, WA6UBE; Frank, K6RQ; Mike, K8ERL; Frank, AA6LL; Joe, WA6DXP; Ed, WD6CHD; Tony, K6MOB; and Carla, WO6X.

George, WA6O had the program for the night. "Digital Voice Communication". Possible? Yes, it was explained very well. I did have to think for awhile about B.C.D. (Binary Coded Decimal). Haven't needed it lately, but that's the key to extracting the intelligence from the system. Good show, George.

Started business meeting; minutes as reported in the **SCCARA-GRAM** were approved.

Treas: (by Stan) There are 205 members and about 110 have paid their dues to date. Nothing further to report at this time. **COMMITTEE REPORTS;**

Sunshine: Herb, KB6ABG reported Joe, WA6DXP and "J.D.", K6YKG were convalescing.

Technical: has had one meeting. Mike, K8ERL reported the Collins rig is in place; need to bring it on line as a 2nd operating position. The Red Cross is moving locations, but this should not hold up getting all planned installations; antennas, Transceivers, etc. Wally, KA6YMD was asked to form a work party to determine what we need to install the vertical antenna we have in the "trailer".

Repeater: Stan, WA6VJY reported about recent repeater situation; someone bringing up the repeater without any proper I.D. It will be

protected with the PL. Call Stan if you have an UNEXPECTED result with your normal procedure.

Ham Training: Frank, AA6LL reported that the license classes are continuing in good order.

Membership: Don, KK6MX is our Membership Chairman and stated that he is attempting to stimulate membership, welcoming visitors and providing incentives to the same. Club information supplied: (408)249-6909.

Flea Market: Gary, WB6YRU states: "John has some gear dated like 1979, but new looking. Talk to him".

Stan reported that "STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT" was operated by him at the Red Cross on 40 CW! (even if he was rusty?)

George will report later on "Special Club" status that he seeks.

Mike again encourages participation in the 10 meter Thurs. 8:00 P.M., 28.385 Net.

There was a motion by AA6LL and 2nd by WD6CHD to recognize Hal Silver, N6NDB with Honorary Life Membership: followed by a discussion. Followed by a motion by W6ZM to table for the present. So it stands.

Mike explained a "ADOPT A CLUB" idea which we might do. What, say Russian? One of the Commonwealth?

Inquiries to radio room at San Jose Red Cross may be directed to KB6UOO at (408)249-7083.

Move to close: 9:46 PM (whew!).
73 to all! W6LYG, Gene.

TREASURER'S REPORT

1/31/92

de WA6VJY

Dues are now due and payable! Remember, if you haven't paid by the end of March, you will be dropped from the mailing list. Look for delinquent member call-signs to be published next month (the March issue). A signup form is included elsewhere in this issue of the SCCARA-Gram and will be included in the March issue, also. Your dues pay for the normal operating costs of the club. These cost items include (but are not restricted to) publishing and postage costs of this newsletter, club liability insurance, fees for our meeting location, trailer registration, a safe-deposit box, the Post Office box we use, and more.

Currently we have 210 members. 132 of those have already paid for 1992. 94 members have signed up for AutoDial and 71 have signed up for AutoPatch on the repeater.

I will be publishing a roster for 1992 and will be sending it out during April. Please let me know if there is anything that needs to be corrected on the mailing label stuck on the last page of this SCCARA-Gram. If you have upgraded in the past year, joined ARRL, or changed your phone number, also let me know. (Phone numbers can be unlisted on the roster. I would like to have a phone number to reach you, should the need arise, however. This is particularly important if you have signed up for the phone patch on the repeater.)

73, Stan WA6VJY

1992 DUES

Name _____ Call _____ License Class _____
Address _____ Phone _____
ARRL member? Y N

For family memberships, please list other name(s) & call(s)

Dues Amounts are \$15.00 for Individual
\$20.00 for Family (hams at same address)
\$5.00 for students (under 18)

_____ I would like the 1992 Auto Dial Codes (no charge)

_____ I would like the 1992 Auto Patch Codes (\$10.00 for an individual and \$15.00 for a family)

DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE A COPY OF YOUR LICENSE IF YOU ARE REQUESTING REPEATER CODES FOR AUTOPATCH OR AUTODIAL !!!

_____ Please send my SCCARA-GRAM by First Class mail (\$3.50)

_____ SCCARA Badge(s) Please PRINT Badge info below:

First name or Nickname _____ Call _____

First name or Nickname _____ Call _____

_____ Total number of Badges @ \$3.00/ea = \$ _____

Membership Dues -----
Repeater Dues (with copy of license) -----
First class mailing of SCCARA GRAM -----
_____ SCCARA Badge(s) @ \$3.00/each -----

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED ----- \$ _____

Mail to: SCCARA Treasurer, POB 6, San Jose, CA 95103-0006

Please take a few minutes to read and complete the Elmer form on the reverse side. Thanks & 73 de WA6VJY

**Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association
1992 Elmer Survey**

The following list of topics covers most areas of interest in Amateur Radio these days. If you have a desire to help fellow SCCARA club members, please indicate those topics you have some knowledge about and return the form to the club mailing address. We will be putting together an "ELMER" list from the responses to be handed out to all members who want it.

- A = Antennas, construction and installation
- B = Homebrew projects and construction
- C = Contesting techniques
- D = DX interests
- E = Emergency operating/preparedness
- F = VHF/UHF FM operating (repeaters, etc.)
- G = TVI/RFI help
- H = HF operating techniques (SSB, CW)
- I = IBM/APPLE computers in the shack
- J = Mobile operating
- L = Lightning protection and grounding
- M = Morse operating and installations
- N = NTS and traffic handling
- O = Satellite operating (OSCAR, AMSAT)
- P = Packet (HF/VHF/UHF)
- Q = HF QRP (all modes)
- R = Other digital modes (AMTOR, RTTY, R/C)
- S = Study help for upgrading (theory or code)
- T = Television, fast and slow scan
- W = VHF/UHF weak signal operating (SSB, CW)
- X = Other areas not listed above (please describe below)

NAME: _____ CALLSIGN: _____

PHONE: _____ (DAYS) _____ (EVENINGS)

AREAS OF INTEREST (list by letter as shown above)

If you wish to share your knowledge with your fellow hams, please fill this in and return it to any club officer at a regular meeting or mail it to:

SCCARA Elmers
P.O.Box 6
San Jose, CA.
95103-0006

SCCARA "ELMER" CODES

de WA6VJY

1/31/92

The following table of "elmers" has been compiled from those forms returned by the members listed. The callsigns are of people who have indicated an interest in being an "elmer". An "X" in a column indicates that the person has an interest in helping club members in that area of interest. If you have any questions on that topic, contact the person(s) indicating interest/knowledge in that topic. For example: if you're interested in satellites and want further information, look under the "O" column, locate the X's and look to the left to see what the callsigns are of those people who have indicated interest in satellites. Those people are: WN6U, KC6YPM, and KD6AWD.

INDICATED INTEREST AREA(S)

(See Code Key on Page 8)

| <u>CALLSIGN</u> | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | W | X |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N6PCR | . | X | . | . | . | X | . | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | X | . | . | . |
| KA6TGE | . | . | . | . | X | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| WN6U | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | X | X | . | . | . | . | X | X | X | X | . | . | . | . |
| KB6LCJ | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| WA6VJY | . | . | . | X | X | . | . | X | . | X | . | . | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| W6ZRJ | . | . | . | X | . | . | X | X | . | . | X | X | . | X | . | . | X | . | . | . | . |
| N6KMQ | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | X |
| WB6WKM | . | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | X |
| N6TYI | X | X | . | . | . | . | X | . | X | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | X | . | . | . |
| K6PBQ | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | X | . | . | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| K6ZYY | . | . | . | X | X | . | . | X | X | . | . | . | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| KA6YMD | X | . | . | X | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | X | . | . | . |
| WA6O | X | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | X | . | . | . |
| N6VUW | X | . | X | . | . | . | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | X | . | . | . | X | . | . | . |
| KC6YPM | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| W6LYG | . | . | . | . | X | X | . | . | X | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | X | . | . | . |
| K6RQ | X | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | X | . | . | . |
| AA6LL | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| N6CMJ | . | . | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | X | . | . | X | . | X | . | X | . | . | . | . |
| WA6QYS | X | . | . | X | X | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| W6ZM | . | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | X | . | . | . |
| N6XGW | . | . | . | . | . | X | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| WB6YRU | X | X | . | . | . | X | . | X | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| AA6VB | . | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| W6VZT | X | X | . | . | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| N6NOY | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | X | . | . | . | . | . |
| KB6DLB | X | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| N6ZPC | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| AA6ON | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | X | . | . | . |
| KD6AWD | X | X | . | X | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | X | X | X | . | . | . | . | . |
| WA7OVU | X | X | . | . | X | . | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | X | . | . | X | . | . | . | . |
| WB6EMR | . | . | X | . | . | . | X | . | . | . | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |

The following is a list of areas of interest and the corresponding code letters as used in the matrix on the preceding page:

- A = Antennas, construction and installation
- B = Homebrew projects and construction
- C = Contesting techniques
- D = DX interests
- E = Emergency operating/preparedness
- F = VHF/UHF FM operating (repeaters, etc.)
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- R = Other digital modes (AMTOR, RTTY, R/C)
- S = Study help for upgrading (theory or code)
- T = Television, fast and slow scan
- W = VHF/UHF weak signal operating (SSB, CW)
- X = Other areas not listed above

I hope this will be of use to those of you who have always wanted information in a particular phase of amateur radio, but didn't know who to contact in our club regarding that information.
73, Stan WA6VJY



After countless hours of work, the World War II secret communications unit finally cracks the enemy's code.

This following item is taken from the February 1992 Issue of The DX'er, the official newsletter of the Northern California DX Club. Reprinted with Permission of the Northern California DX Club.

A Remarkable QSO

by Joe Döring, DL1RK

During WW2, I served as Lance Corporal in a special army signal corps unit in the Afrika Korps. We intercepted enemy tactical radio communications in the African war theater—we were Erwin Rommel's ears.

Late afternoon on May 7, 1943—five days before we surrendered Tunisia—our company commander asked if I would like to communicate with the enemy. "Sure I would," was my answer.

My first thought was that it was the surrender message, ending the fighting in Africa. But the message was about a target not to be bombed.

Since Allied bombers flew in from the west, the message had to be addressed to the British First Army, which operated in that area. Therefore I chose the headquarters radio net of British 1st Army, noted the frequency and callsigns, took the message and went to the transmitter van about one-half mile from our receiving site.

The British net was very busy that night so I had to wait a long time. While I waited, I practiced with the straight key, which I hadn't used for a year or so; my job sitting in front of a receiver copying enemy radio traffic didn't require sending.

Finally the net worked its last traffic and it was my turn. With the 80-Watt Lorenz transmitter carefully set to zero-beat and using a "borrowed" callsign, I hit the key: "QTC 1 QRK? K."

QRK 5 was the answer.

"DAH DI DAH DI DAH, TO HQ ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

IN AFRICA FROM HQ AXIS FORCES IN AFRICA."

Then the guy whose call I had borrowed came in:

"THATS NOT ME, ITS A PROPAGANDA MESSAGE FROM THE ENEMY."

But I broke in with: "ITS NOT PROPAGANDA, BUT LIFE OR DEATH FOR YOUR OWN PEOPLE." In the end, the HQ station told me to go ahead with my message.

I sent, "TWO SHIPS ARE IN THE HARBOR AT TUNIS. ONE IS A FREIGHTER WITH 600 ALLIED PRISONERS AND THE OTHER IS A HOSPITAL SHIP. DO NOT BOMB THOSE SHIPS AND SAVE THE LIVES OF YOUR OWN PEOPLE."

I received "QSL" for my message and said I would QRX tomorrow—same time, same frequency—for a possible reply, but no reply was received in the next five days.

The event faded in my memory during the years to follow, until 1950, when I bought a book about the war in Africa. In it I found the message I had sent and the reaction to it. General Alexander, the British 1st Army Commander, met captured German General von Arnim, and thanked him for the message that saved 600 of his soldiers. In return, he agreed to send 600 wounded German soldiers to Italy, on a hospital ship.

In a small way I had helped add a human touch in this cruel war. I call this my only really worthwhile QSO—ever!

—Focus, Winter 1991.
(submitted by W6CF)

SCCARA 10 Meter Net

Is you on it? Or is you not?

The 10 meter SCCARA net is held each Thursday at 2000 on 28.385. Many thanks to Wally KA6YMD who is the founder and net control. As you may know, Wally has been opening up the station at the Red Cross each Thursday for anyone who wants to operate. To expand the idea, he started doing the weekly net from there.

The net is informal and open to anyone who would like to check in. We would love to hear from you. Typically the net last about a half hour and get around a dozen checkins. Why not dust off that HF rig and join in. 73, Mike

REPEATER COMMITTEE REPORT

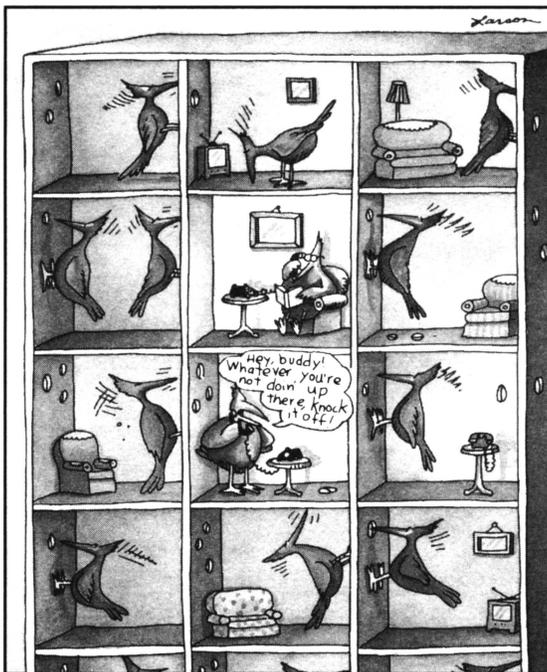
1/31/92

de WA6VJY

The week of 3 Feb. the new repeater code sheets were mailed out to those of you who signed up for either AUTOPATCH or AUTODIAL functions on the repeater. Look for those to show up in your mailbox in the near future, if they haven't already done so. The effective date of the new codes is indicated in the literature you have received. If you have any problems or questions using the information you have received, give me a call at the phone number listed on the back page of this SCCARA-Gram.

You need to have CTCSS encode capability in your 2 meter rig if you want to make use of any feature of the repeater other than simple carrier-access for "repeating". If you DO have CTCSS encode capability, program it to 100.0 Hz and set up the rig so that whenever you are on SCCARA's frequency, you automatically transmit that CTCSS tone. It is unfortunate that this extra requirement to access the phone patch is necessary. Requiring "PL" provides us a level of protection against "button pushers" that carrier-access didn't.

73, Stan WA6VJY (275-0735)



Woodpecker condos

SCCARA QSL CARD CONTEST

The SCCARA Board of Directors has decided that we need a Club QSL Card that will be used to confirm QSO's from W6UW and W6UU. Complete details will be published in next month's SCCARA-GRAM, along with artwork that can be used with your sample. It won't be necessary to be artistic - just imaginative. Our only requirements will be that the QSL include the SCCARA & ARRL insignias and that it characterize the Santa Clara Valley.

This article appeared in the January 1992 issue of "THE REPEATER" newsletter printed by SVECS. It also applies to our repeater - W6UU\R

REPEATER REPORT - WB6ADZ/R

de Bob Underwood, AA6BT

Repeater Technical Committee

All of the WB6ADZ\R CHP autodial numbers e.g. 10, 11, and 12 are now patched directly into the Vallejo CHP dispatch facility. This means that every call to those autodial slots results in a toll charge to the repeater phone bill.

This is important to the autodial user for reasons beyond the obvious cost impact to the repeater. The CHP dispatcher you are talking to is not from our area. He probably does not know about local landmarks and street anomalies. For example, don't report an incident at the intersection of Highway 280 and Stevens Creek or Highway 680 and Mission without more detail as there are several of each! It now becomes more important than ever to clearly state what you are reporting and the location. It becomes unimportant to worry about which jurisdiction to call; now they all go to the same place.

I would like all of us to think twice before calling any of the agencies: First, make sure that you have something to report. (a piece of debris not blocking traffic may not be justified, particularly during busy times when they have their hands full of much more pressing problems). Second, make very sure you know where you are and can communicate exactly where the problem is. If possible, give the freeway intersection that would give the emergency vehicles best access to the problem, e.g. Northbound 101 just North of Lawrence Expressway on ramp. It is very important to let the dispatcher control the interview; let them ask for the detail information they need in the order they need it after an initial brief statement of the report. One of the questions will almost certainly concern injuries; it is obviously important to send paramedics if needed and important not to waste their effort if not.

The least important piece of information is that you are an amateur radio operator; they don't really care. The fact that the autopatch only allows one or the other to talk at a given time is not a problem and will usually go unnoticed if you allow the dispatcher to ask the questions.

