

# SCCARA-GRAM

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 12, Number 5

May 1996

## President's Prose

It's hard to believe that tax time has already come and gone. We are into the second quarter of the year and things are happening fast. Well, except for the Red Cross, that is.

As you know, SCCARA is donating the use of a station to the World Radiosport Team Championships. This is coming about mainly by the hard work of Clark Murphy KE6KXO and Don Hayden KO6HH. They are re-lettering the antenna trailer which will be set up at Clark's house and working with the Team Championship people to get everything dialed in for the day of the contest. This is a really exceptional opportunity for our club to help further our great hobby as well as getting some recognition for ourselves in our 75<sup>th</sup> year.

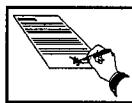
Another great opportunity of this year is our Special Event Station that we will be having on Saturday, August 17. Plans are in the works for a really great event, to celebrate 75 years of public service and fun with amateur radio. Don Village K6PBQ, with the help of several other members is doing a great job of getting this event under way for the club.

And let's not forget that SCCARA will be hosting the Foothill Flea Market in June. Be sure to see Lou Steirer WA6QYS to sign up to help.

Also Field Day is coming up. Dan Dietz WM6M is Field Day Chairman. Please see Dan if you can be of any help.

My step-son Chris Taylor KF6APP received a Radiogram from Brad Wyatt K6WR Director, ARRL Pacific Division congratulating him on earning his license. He was very impressed. Thanks Brad, that was cool.

Hugh, KD6EFL



## Thank You

Brad Wyatt, K6WR, the ARRL Pacific Division Director filled us in on the latest goings on from the ARRL's perspective at the April meeting.

Thanks Brad!

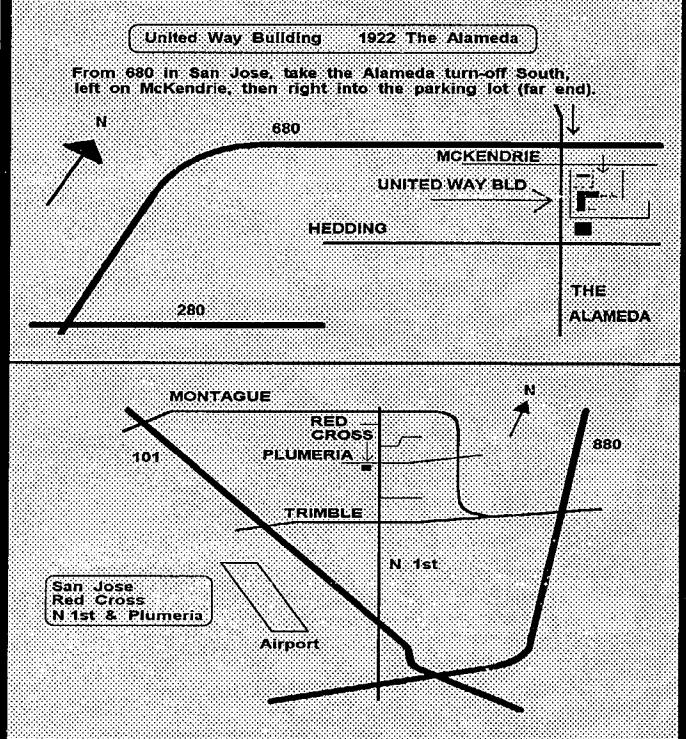


## Calendar

- 5/11 Foothill Flea Market  
5/13 SCCARA General Meeting  
5/20 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:00p, all are welcome)  
6/8 Foothill Flea Market--We Host!

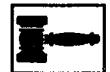
### Next General Meeting

Day: Monday, May 13, 1996  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Place: United Way Building  
Agenda: George Flammer, WB6RAL, will talk about Metricom's Ricochet packet system.



# Meeting Minutes

## General Meeting, April 8, 1996



The **SCCARA-GRAM** is published monthly by the SANTA CLARA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, PO Box 6, San Jose, CA 95103-0006. Permission to reprint articles is hereby granted, provided the source is properly credited.

SCCARA was formed as a general interest amateur radio club in 1921 and became a non-profit corporation in 1947. SCCARA is an affiliate and *Special Services Club* of the American Radio Relay League.

The club station, W6UW, is currently out of service.

Articles for the SCCARA-GRAM must be submitted to the editor a week before the last Monday of the month.

### OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

President	Hugh Collis, KD6EFL	246-9374
Vice President	Don Apte, KK6MX	629-0725
Secretary	Lloyd DeVauhns, KD6FJI	225-6769
Treasurer	Rex Skiver, N6BOU	263-5277
Station Trustee	Stan Getsla, WA6VJY	275-0735
Director	Clark Murphy, KE6KXO	262-9334
Director	Imre Takacs, KD6MZM	251-9686
Director	George Brady, AB6OZ	729-9012
Director	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	241-7999

### STAFF

Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	265-2336
Facilities	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
Historian	Jean "Doc" Gmelin, W6ZRJ	973-8583
Mailman	Tony Sanchez, K6MOB	296-6676
Photographer	Bob Keller, KB6OHQ	725-1034

### COMMITTEES

Repeater	Keith Butts, KN6K	248-3849
Youth Group	George Brady, AB6OZ	729-9012

### SCCARA REPEATERS

SCCARA owns and operates two repeaters under the call W6UU:

2 meter: 146.385 + PL 114.8 (none for basic use)  
70 cm: 442.425 + PL 107.2

Phone patch capability is available with a small subscription fee. The two meter repeater is located in the Mt. Hamilton foothills, Alum Rock area. The 70 cm repeater is located at the Alexian Brothers Hospital, North of 280 and 101.

### SCCARA NETS

On our two meter repeater: Mondays at 7:30 PM, (not the second monday—it's our meeting night). Net control: Joe WA6DXP.

On ten meters, 28.385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00 PM. Net control: Wally KA6YMD.

Visitors welcome to join in on the SCCARA nets.

### IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

SCCARA HOTLINE: 249-6909  
ARRL LICENSE (VEC) HOTLINE: 984-8353

7:34 p.m. Meeting called to order by Vice President Don Apte, KK6MX. Self Introductions followed as is our custom.

Speaker tonight is Brad Wyatt, K6WR, ARRL Pacific Div. Director. Brad talked about various things going on in amateur radio and within the FCC. The FCC publishes a newsletter and it is available on the World Wide Web.

Wally, WA6YMD: Field Day meal reservations must be received by June 17.

Don, K6PBQ: need suggestions for 75th anniversary Special Event on the air.

A video made by Ten-Tec was shown. The video told about Ten-Tec's products and its manufacturing process.

Don, KO6HH: the World Radio sport contest will be held this summer and SCCARA will lend our antenna, tower and trailer to the event. New decals will be put on the trailer.

Dan, WM6M, Field Day Chairman, proposed that SCCARA underwrite some type of transportation to get people to come to Field Day.

Rex, N6BOU, Treasurer: Assets \$16,454, \$5000 in the repeater fund.

Gary, WB6YRU: articles needed from members for SCCARA-GRAM.

Hugh, KD6EFL: Doc, W6ZRJ, donated some old radio equipment from the 30's. It is in Hugh's garage. Hugh wants ideas of what to do with it. Some of it may wind up in a San Jose museum.

Mike, KC6LCJ: there are 20 students in the class.

Lou, WA6QYS: the next SVECS breakfast will be held May 5, 1996.

9:50 PM Meeting adjourned.

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## Board Meeting, April 15, 1996



Present:

Gary, WB6YRU; Lou, WA6QYS; Don, K6PBQ; Imre,

KD6MZM; Hugh, KD6EFL; Lloyd, KD6FJI; George, AB6OZ; Clark, KE6KXO; Don Apte, KK6MX

7:37 p.m. Meeting called to order

Hugh, KD6EFL: wants someone to come over to his place and check out the items he got from Doc, W6ZRJ, to tell how much it will cost to refurbish it and identify what it is.

**Repeater Committee Report:**

The agreement between SCCARA and the city has been approved by the city. RACES has it now and they have to approve it.

George, AB6OZ: the youth group has received a donated transceiver which has a bad power supply and it is being worked on by Robert Forster, N6PCQ.

Gary, WB6YRU, Editor Report: we have 4 certificates for subscriptions to World Radio for SCCARA members who write articles for the SCCARA-GRAM.

Gary also renewals and some of the problems that we have had concerning them. [sic]

Don, K6PBQ, announced that reservations have been made for the La Recanada Country Club. The dinner will be held Tuesday December 17. We want dinner to start at 7:00 p.m. because it is a week night.

Lou, WA6QYS: needs sign-ups for the June Foothill Flea Market to help at the concession stand. There was a discussion about the conduct of the flea market. There was a discussion of the sales tax collection and our responsibilities with respect to notifying sellers that they had to collect it. We decided that the best thing to do was to hand a tax form to each person as he enters the flea market.

Clark, KE6KXO, said that a sport radio team checked out the site for noise.

Don, K6PBQ, Special event station, information sent to CQ, QST, WORLD RADIO, about the station. Discussion of where to locate the station. Some places mentioned, San Jose Historical Museum, Public Park, Great Mall.

Clark, KE6KXO, will investigate Cunningham Park for the Special event station.

Don, KK6MX, Suggest that we contact Brad Wyatt about special recognition for SCCARA for 75 years as a club.

Discussion of issuing certificate or QSL card.

Don, KK6MX, motion to print up special QSL certificates for SCCARA's 75th anniversary special event station including a color picture of the station. Passed unanimously.

Don KK6MX: move that we have our club picnic at the same time we have our special event station. Passed unanimously.

The Date for the special event station is August 17.

Don, K6PBQ: moved that club members who operate the special event station will get a similar certificate. Passed unanimously.

9:24 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Lloyd, KD6FJI, Secretary

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## **Introduction To Packet Radio**

**by**  
**Larry Kenney, WB9LOZ**  
**Part 12**

The National Traffic System, known as NTS, is the ARRL sponsored Amateur Radio message handling network. Packet radio is now playing a very important part in the network, so let's take a look at the system and give you some tips on handling NTS traffic by packet.

Handling third party traffic is the oldest tradition in amateur radio. Nationwide, the National Traffic System has hundreds of local and section nets meeting daily in order to facilitate the delivery and origination of such messages. More and more of this traffic is being originated, relayed, and delivered on packet. If you enjoy traffic handling, you can easily get involved in NTS via packet. If you're on packet but know nothing about NTS, this part of the series will get you off to a good start. At the end you'll also find some references for further information on NTS.

Local packet BBSs have to be checked daily for traffic that needs to be delivered or relayed. When you check into your local BBS, enter the LT command, meaning "List Traffic". The BBS will display a list of all NTS traffic awaiting delivery. It'll look similar to this example:

MSG#	STAT	SIZE	TO	FROM	BBBS	DATE/TIME	SUBJECT
37893	TN	486	60625	KB6XYZ	NTSIL	1227/0712	CHICAGO, IL 312-267
37802	TF	320	06234	WB6DOB	NTSCT	1227/0655	NEW HAVEN, CT
37854	TF	588	93432	KA4YEA		1227/0625	CRESTON, CA 93432
37839	TN	412	94114	KA8UHL		1227/0311	SAN FRANCISCO 415-821
37781	TF	298	94015	W1RPL		1226/2356	DALY CITY, CA 415-992

You might see traffic that is being relayed by your local BBS to some other part of the country as well as traffic for your local area. The "Subject" or "Title" column of the listing will show the destination of the traffic. If you see a message that is within your local area, help out and deliver it.

**RECEIVING A MESSAGE:** To take a message off of the Bulletin Board for telephone delivery, or for relay to a local NTS net, enter R followed by the message number. Using the list above, R 37839 would send you the message from KA8UHL for San Francisco. You'll find the message in a special NTS RADIOGRAM format, with a preamble, address, telephone number, text and signature, ready for delivery. After the message has been saved to your printer or disk, the message should be erased from the BBS. Use the K command, as you do for killing your own messages. To kill message 37839, for example, you'd enter: K 37839. This prevents the message from being delivered again by someone else.

**DELIVERING OR RELAYING A MESSAGE:** Once you have received the NTS Radiogram, it should, of course, be handled expeditiously. If it's for your immediate area, you should deliver the message by telephone. If you took the message for delivery to the local traffic net, you should make an effort to see that it gets relayed as quickly as possible. If you're unable to deliver the message, due to an incorrect phone number, no answer after several tries, or some other problem, send a return message to the originator advising him of the non-delivery, and why.

**SENDING MESSAGES:** Any amateur can originate a message on behalf of another individual, whether the person is a licensed amateur or not. It is the responsibility of the originating amateur, however, to see that the message is in proper form before it's transmitted. A special format is used for NTS traffic so that the messages are compatible across the entire network. Each message should contain the following components in the order given: number, precedence, handling instructions (optional), the station of origin, check, place of origin, time filed, date, address, telephone number, text and signature. The destination of all NTS traffic must be to a point in the US, its possessions, or Canada.

When the message is ready to be entered into your local BBS, you must use the ST command, which means "Send Traffic", followed by the zip code of the destination city, then @ NTS followed by the two letter state abbreviation. The form used is ST ZIPCODE @ NTSxx. A message being sent to Boston, MA 02109 would be entered as follows: ST 02109 @ NTSMA and a message for Iowa City, IA 52245 would be entered as ST 52245 @ NTSA. The message SUBJECT or TITLE should contain the destination city, state, and the telephone area code and exchange, if available. See the examples in the listing above. Only one NTS message should be included in each packet message (no "book" messages). The actual radiogram should be included entirely within the TEXT of the packet message, including all of the components listed above. End the message with the usual Control-Z or /ex.

**IN TIME OF EMERGENCY:** The National Traffic System functions on a daily basis as a public service for both your

fellow hams and the general public. It serves another function as well. The NTS provides a well oiled and trained national system of experienced traffic handlers able to handle large volumes of third party traffic accurately and efficiently during disasters. Your participation now will help prepare you for that time of emergency. Following the Loma Prieta Earthquake in October of 1989, over 7000 NTS messages were handled by packet BBSs in the San Francisco Bay Area. We needed and used all of the help we could get.

**REFERENCE MATERIAL:** The ARRL booklet "An Introduction to Operating an Amateur Radio Station" offers detailed information on handling and preparing NTS Radiograms. There are also many files with detailed information on NTS available for downloading from your local BBS. They give a complete rundown on how to prepare and send an NTS message on packet, how to deliver NTS messages, etc. Check your local BBS files section for them if you want to get involved. Your help will certainly be welcome!

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## Cushcraft's R5

Antenna Review by Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU

Cushcraft's R5 multi-band HF vertical will work on five bands: 10, 12, 15, 17, and 20 meters. It is a half-wave antenna which means there are no ground radials to worry about and its radiation angle is low (best for DX).

There were no problems with installation. The initial tuning (from the instructions) was very close and only a little touching up was required. Since it's basically just a big vertical spike and it was a calm day, the main effort getting it installed on the mast was only handling the weight, (at a little under ten pounds, that wasn't difficult).

My initial operation with the R5 was not satisfactory. On some bands, especially ten meters, my rig (Yaesu 757) basically went nuts! The frequency suddenly would move and sometimes the digital display would simply blank out. At first I thought this was due to a SWR mismatch, but tuning didn't help. I then installed a very good ground system--this helped, but only a little, (it's important to have a good ground system, so this was well worth the effort in any case). I even went so far as to put RFI toroids on all cables at the rig. Nothing really seemed to help very much.

It occurred to me that perhaps the antenna was simply radiating back into the rig. After all, the radiation angle is basically horizontal and the antenna was only mounted on one of those tripod roof mounts. The antenna was roughly twenty feet above and to the left of the rig. An AC voltage reading next to the rig (1/2 meter antenna) showed nine to ten volts RMS. Since the digital circuits in the rig operate at five volts, that would do it--the rig was sitting in a hot spot.

After installing the R5 on a forty foot telescoping mast (a "cheep-o" TV type), the problem went away! The RMS voltage reading near the rig dropped to under two volts worst case.

The instructions advise getting it up and in the clear, but then it goes on to say you can put it anywhere (porch, balcony, etc). While this may be true theoretically, don't count on it. When they say get it as high up and in the clear as possible--do it!

I've had my R5 for over five years now and it seems to work just fine. Just for the heck of it, after getting it tuned, I coated it with marine spar varnish, just to help protect it from the weather and corrosion, (a good idea if you live near the ocean, a bad idea if you know you'll be retuning it). My first contact with the R5 was someone in Hong Kong--and he was loud and clear. There has not been any detectable decrease in performance over the years. Despite being high up on a forty foot TV mast (fifty above the ground) and some strong winds in recent winters, there haven't been any mechanical problems either.

73, Gary WB6YRU

## Packet Pieces

### Downloaded from the packet network:

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Date: 30 Nov 95 00:36  
From: AA2AD@KB2OBB  
To: TEKTIP@ALLUS  
Subject: Parts & Info Resources

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#### TEKTIP.6 - Parts and info resources

Almost as soon as you begin to service equipment, you will be faced with the challenge of procuring information and parts. This tek tip is a non-exhaustive list of my favorite sources and strategies for service parts and information. There are many resources out there, and I don't even pretend that I have covered all bases.

#### SERVICE INFORMATION

Servicing at almost any level is made easier by service data published for the specific piece of gear in question. While many problems can be located and rectified without service literature, a simple schematic diagram causes a quantum jump in any technician's efficiency. Perhaps because of ham radio's very nature, ham manufacturers are more likely to include a schematic in the owner's manual than are consumer electronic manufacturers.

Schematics are useful, but it is also a good policy to buy full service manuals for all of your equipment. Service manuals often contain an informative "how-it-works" section, as well as step-by-step alignment procedures and troubleshooting guides. If you never open the manual yourself, you will still recoup its cost when you sell the rig. The first time that you use a manual, or even have it on hand for a professional technician's use, all of the money that you have spent on service manuals will be repaid. Procure those manuals as quickly as you can. As time progresses, it becomes more difficult to locate them.

The Howard W. Sams Company, in Indianapolis, at 215-725-6722, is a very good source for documentation. Although they don't publish ham rig service information, they do offer a photocopy service and list many ham radio rigs in that index.

#### TECHNICAL AND CROSS-REFERENCE INFORMATION

For general information, there is nothing even close to the ARRL Handbook. Many non-ham techs keep a recent copy on hand because of the excellent presentation of typical schematics and explanations of how things work. It is worth a lot more than it costs!

One of the biggest challenges of repair work is identifying semiconductors. My favorite cross-reference is the ECG Master Replacement Guide, which is also chock full of semiconductor data, in painful detail. It costs less than \$10 if you have to buy it, but can sometimes be had for free from distributors, if you can convince them that you will be a good customer. ECG is a division of North American Philips Corporation, and you can contact them at: Philips ECG 1025 Westminster Dr Williamsport PA 17701.

Incidentally, the ECG numbering system has been adopted by several generic parts suppliers.

Some technicians prefer the SK Replacement Cross-Reference Directory. Contact: Thomson Consumer Electronics 2000 Clements Bridge Rd Deptford NJ 09096-2088

Of course, Radio Shack also publishes a guide. It is available for sale or for in-store reference, and has some interesting features.

#### PARTS

It probably isn't necessary to talk about the many advantages of building up your junk box by diverting a few hamfest bucks away from pre-built toys. I may draw some flames for this, but the first place I look for parts is at the local Radio Shack. Don't expect technical assistance from the staff, especially at component level, but if you go in knowing what you want, you can get in and out unscathed. Take criticisms of the Shack's component quality with a grain of salt. You may get one or two defective new components in your life, no matter where you shop.

If your part is not at Radio Shack, I have found that the next best place to procure parts is: MCM Electronics

ph 800-543-4330 650 Congress Park Drive Ceterville OH 45459-4072. MCM offers a HUGE selection of parts, power supplies, tools, test equipment, computer accessories, and, of course, component parts. If you are with me, run to the phone \*now\* and call for their free catalog.

Here is a list of some other parts, tools and test equipment vendors. All offer free catalogs. It is well worth the effort to get them:

American Design Components 800-776-3700  
400 County Ave Secaucus NJ 07094

Black Box Corporation 412-746-5500  
P.O. Box 12800 Pittsburg PA 15241

Fox International 800-321-6993  
23600 Aurora Rd Bedford Heights OH 44146

Jameco 800-831-4242  
1355 Shoreway Rd Belmont CA 94002-4100

Jensen 800-426-1194  
7815 S. 46th St Phoenix AZ 85044-5399

Tucker Electronics and Computers  
800-527-4642 (Nat'l), 800-749-4642 (TX)  
1717 Reserve Street Garland TX 75042

If you have resources to add to this list, please DO take the time to post them. Until next time, when I think that we will discuss power supply repair,

73, Peter (AA2AD@KB2OBB.#WNY.NY.USA.NOAM)

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Date: 2 Apr 96 13:49  
From: W1AW@W1AW  
To: QST@ARL  
Subject: ARLB019 Bill seeks protection

QST de W1AW  
ARRL Bulletin 19, From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT April 2, 1996  
To all radio amateurs

Bill seeks protection

Rep. Bill Baker (R-California) has introduced a bill to protect ham volunteers in the Volunteer Examination program and the Amateur Auxiliary of the FCC from frivolous lawsuits while they are doing their volunteer jobs. The bill, HR 3207, would afford amateurs engaged in statutorily defined activities with the VE program and with the Amateur Auxiliary the same liability as federal workers under the Federal Tort Claims Act. When individuals who fall under such protection are sued for something they have done while performing their duties, the Federal

government steps in to protect them. Baker introduced the measure, the Amateur Radio Volunteer Services Act of 1996, March 29, 1996, as an amendment to the Communications Act.

While the bill would not afford absolute blanket immunity, it does offer a fairly rigorous body of legal protection from the kind of malicious litigation that tends to frighten volunteers away from these activities, said ARRL Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Steve Mansfield, N1MZA.

Baker said that Amateur Radio volunteers provide an invaluable service to all ham radio operators by assisting in licensing and monitoring activities, thus saving taxpayer dollars. Those savings would dry up if volunteers stay away for fear of lawsuits, Baker said in a letter to colleagues. The bill is a simplified version of legislation originally introduced in the 103rd Congress by Rep. Jim Slattery. Individuals and private organizations currently protected by the Federal Tort Claims Act include Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), the Peace Corps and the Job Corps.

Baker has enlisted members of both parties as original cosponsors of the bill. These include: Charles Wilson (D-TX); Bob Wise (D-WV); Edolphus Townes (D-NY); Mike Parker (R-MS); Toby Roth (R-WI); Charles Taylor (R-NC); Ron Dellums (D-CA); David Funderburk, K4TPJ, (R-NC); Ed Royce (R-CA); Norman Dicks (D-WA); Vern Ehlers (R-MI); Chris Cox (R-CA); Andrew Jacobs (D-IN); Harold Rogers (R-KY); Dennis Hastert (R-IL); Dave Weldon (R-FL); Anna Eshoo (D-CA); Ken Calvert (R-CA); Doug Bereuter (R-NE); Gene Green (D-TX); George E. Brown (D-CA); Eva Clayton (D-NC); and Sam Farr (D-CA).

ARRL members may want to write their own Congressional Representatives urging them to support HR 3207.

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Date: 22 Apr 96 16:54  
From: WA2RCB@KE3CZ  
To: DEBT@ALLUS  
Subject: CURRENT US-DEBT STATISTICS

On 4/20/96, as of 09:00 AM PST, the outstanding Public (US) Debt was: \$5,100,623,195,486 (...and 68 Cents)

That's Five Trillion, One Hundred Billion, Six Hundred Twenty Three Million, One Hundred Ninety Five Thousand, Four Hundred Eighty Six...and sixty eight cents!

The estimated population of the United States (excluding illegal aliens..) is: 264,669,005.

This figure equates to a share of \$19,271.71 for each man, woman and child in the USA. (.again, excluding illegal aliens, regardless if they came in spaceships or not.)

The US Debt is currently growing an average of \$653 Million each and every day.

Finally, the above figures do not take in debt owed by private individuals and corporations, nor do they factor in any \*interest\* owed on the principal. When you factor these in, the \*true\* debt owed on \*everything\* is a mind blowing: 33 T R I L I O N D O L L A R S. (That's more than \*all\* the money currently in circulation on the Planet...)

And they actually still ask you if you would like to "make a gift to reduce the public debt.." on your 1040 form... Who says those folks in Washington DC don't have a sense of humor!!

73 - George/wa2rcb@ke3cz

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## Need Help?

Amateurs have a long history of helping each other. An experienced amateur who helps another is traditionally called an "Elmer." If you have a question or problem, you are encouraged to ask one of SCCARA's Elmers. Below is a list of topics including who to contact for each.

If you consider yourself to be reasonably competent in at least one area of amateur radio and would be willing help others, please ask the club secretary for an Elmer survey form and fill it out.

### Antennas, feed-lines, tuners:

WB6EMR, AC6FU, K6PBQ, W6PHF, K6RQ, WB6YRU

Lightning protection, grounding: W6PHF, WB6YRU

Station set-up, equipment: AC6FU, K6PBQ, W6PHF, K6RQ

TVI/RFI: W6PHF, WB6YRU

Homebrew projects, construction: AC6FU, KD6FJI, W6PHF, WB6YRU

Computers: KB6NP; IBM PC: WN6U, WB6YRU

Packet Network (BBS, forwarding): WB6YRU

Other digital modes (AMTOR, RTTY): WN6U

### Code operating and installations:

WB6EMR, AC6FU, K6PBQ, W6PHF, K6RQ

Contesting & techniques: W6PHF, K6RQ

DX (long distance/propagation): W6PHF, WB6MER, K6RQ

Emergency operating/preparedness: W6PHF, WA6QYS

FM (VHF/UHF, repeaters): W6PHF, WA6VJY

HF operating techniques (SSB, CW):

WB6EMR, AC6FU, K6PBQ, W6PHF, K6RQ

Mobile operating: W6PHF, K6RQ, WN6U

NTS & traffic handling: W6PHF

QRP (HF low power, all modes): W6PHF, WN6U

TEN-TEN (10 M only): AC6FU

Classes/license upgrading: W6ACW, AC6FU, W6PHF

Legal/FCC rules: WB6YRU

SCCARA (club inner workings):

K06HH, K6PBQ, WA6VJY, WB6YRU, WA6QYS

Math applications: AC6FU

Children's Discovery Museum, volunteer operator: K6PBQ

W6ACW, Ed Hajny, (408) 739-6105

WB6EMR, James D. Armstrong, Jr.,  
day: (408) 995-0621, evening & msg: (408) 945-1202

KD6FJI, Lloyd DeVaughns,  
day: (408) 299-8933, evening: (408) 225-6769  
packet: home BBS KB6MER

AC6FU, Jack L. Ruckman, (408) 379-4846

K06HH, Don Hayden, (408) 867-4643  
packet: home BBS NOARY

KB6NP, Jon Dutra, day & msg (408) 428-2058  
evening (408) 867-8654  
packet: home BBS NOARY  
internet: jad@aol.com

K6PBQ, Don Village, (408) 263-2789

W6PHF, David Palmer, (415) 948-9527

WA6QYS, Lou Steirer, (408) 241-7999  
packet: home BBS NOARY

K6RQ, Frank Glass, (408) 356-1026

WN6U, Doug Eaton, (408) 377-3736  
packet: home BBS NOARY  
internet: deaton1@ix.netcom.com

WA6VJY, Stan Getsla, day: (408) 738-2888 x5929,  
evening & msg: (408) 275-0735

WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, msg (408) 265-2336  
also (408) 269-2924  
packet: home BBS NOARY

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## Newsletter Notes

Remember the offer of a one-year subscription to World Radio for the best article in each SCCARA-GRAM? Well, the articles haven't exactly been flooding in. The only thing received so far (except for regular columns and notices) is the dog photos from Mike.

I'm throwing in an article myself about my experience with Cushcraft's R5 antenna, just to provide an idea and start the ball rolling, (I'm excluding myself from the subscription prize).

Mike's pictorial is all well and good, it's nice to spice things up with photos. However, as nice as the puppy-dogs are, this isn't a pet newsletter; where are the amateur radio articles? At any rate, since there are no other contenders (disqualifying myself), he gets the prize for this month. Enjoy the subscription, Mike!

So, c'mon you guys; I know you can do better than this. Articles can be submitted via packet: WB6YRU@N0ARY, internet: wb6yru@arasmith.com, handed in on disk (IBM PC, ASCII text, no formatting), or even on paper. There's a lot of amateur radio experience in this club, please share it!

Gary WB6YRU, editor

## Dogs of the Foothill Flea Market



The March 1996 flea market had 20+ dogs and their masters. I believe the adage that "dogs are man's best friend" really holds true. Hope you enjoy the pix. — Mike KB6LCJ



# ARRL Pacific Division Update

May 1996

## Bill in Congress to protect OO's and VE's

On March 29, 1996, Congressman Bill Baker (R-CA 10<sup>th</sup> - East Bay Section) introduced "H.R. 3207, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to facilitate utilization of volunteer resources on behalf of the amateur radio service." This bill provides liability protection for amateurs engaged in statutory defined activities with the Volunteer Examination program and with the Amateur Auxiliary to the FCC. It does so by declaring that, when they are engaged in these activities, they are considered "federal employees" for the purposes of the Federal Tort Claims Act. The FTCA is the body of law that protects federal employees from frivolous lawsuits when they are doing their volunteer jobs.

Original cosponsors in the Pacific Division include Ron Dellums (D-CA 9th - East Bay Section), Sam Farr (D-CA 17th - Santa Clara Valley Section), and Anna Eshoo (D-CA 14th - also in SCV). David Funderburk (R-NC 2nd), the sole ham (K4TPJ) in Congress, currently is an original cosponsor. Several other Congressmen from around the U.S. are original cosponsors.

Please spread the word, and ask every Pacific Division ham to contact his/her Congressional Representatives urging them to sign on as cosponsors of the bill.

Passage of this bill is critical to the success of helping contain the interference problems in our bands!

## Law to Help Eliminate Jamming

The California Penal Code Section 653(t) effective January 1, 1995, is being used to combat jammers. The text follows:

*Section 653(t). Interfering with Citizen's Band Radio Channel.*

*(a) A person commits a public offense if the person knowingly and maliciously interrupts, disrupts, impedes, or otherwise interferes with the transmission of a communication of an amateur or a citizen's band radio channel, the purpose of which communication is to inform or inquire about an emergency.*

*(b) In the section, "emergency" means a condition or circumstance in which an individual is or is reasonably believed by the person transmitting the communication to be in imminent danger of serious bodily injury, in which property is or is reasonably believed by the person transmitting the communication to be in imminent danger of*

*extensive damage or destruction, or in which that injury or destruction has occurred and the person transmitting is attempting to summon assistance.*

*(c) A violation of this section is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by imprisonment in a county jail not to exceed six months, or both, unless, as a result of the commission of the offense, serious bodily injury or property loss in excess of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) occurs, in which event the offense is a felony.*

The repeater folks in Santa Barbara, working with the County Sheriff, have been using this part of the California Penal Code very successfully -- let's use it in the Pacific Division!

## Latest News from Washington DC

See pages 15-16 of the May QST for the latest news involving -- *Selling the Spectrum to Balance the Budget; Congressional Hearings on the FCC* (Senate hearing is described, the House hearings have not yet started but will shortly); *FCC Tries to Keep Ahead of the Wave*. See also the *ARRL Letter* for similar information between issues of QST.

## ARRL Files for Modification of PRB-1

The ARRL wants the FCC to take additional steps to compel state and local governments to make reasonable accommodation for Amateur Radio under PRB-1 and apply the least restrictive means to regulate amateur antennas and activity. In a Petition for Rulemaking filed February 7, 1996, the League calls on the FCC to amend Section 97.15(e) to say that any state or local ordinances restricting ham radio antennas to heights below 70 feet would be presumed unreasonable, unless the state or local authority could show its restrictions support a clearly defined health, safety or aesthetic objective. State and local governments also could not impose substantial application costs on amateur service licensees.

The League also wants the FCC to acknowledge that it has an interest in the effective performance of Amateur Radio stations in areas regulated by deed restrictions or restrictive covenants rather than by local zoning ordinances.

The League says clarifying the preemption policy (PRB-1) would help guide municipalities to enact provisions that make fair accommodation for amateurs and avoid highly divisive litigation between hams and localities.

See April QST p. 16 for more details.

## Pacific Division Home Page Update

Visit the Pacific Division Home Page (URL address <http://www.pdarl.org/>) for the latest news between Update issues. Currently, FCC Report 96-125, *Plan for Reallocated Spectrum*, released Mar 22, 1996, is being featured. This Report may cause us to lose the 2300-2310 MHz band, currently a favorite for weak signal, Earth-Moon-Earth

propagation and contest work.

You will find all the latest news as updated by our Pacific Division Webmaster, Randy Foutch, KE6HCI. Thanks, Randy!

## Vanity (Preferred) Call Signs

FCC 610-V - Amateur Station Vanity Call Sign Request - is now available, but the FCC is not yet accepting completed forms for filing. The FCC announced a further delay in opening dates for the first vanity call sign filing gate until sometime in mid-1996. More details can be found in April QST, p. 82. See also p. 85 of April QST for a related story on how to get assistance proving that you had a specific call in the past.

## FCC Reports on Amateur RF Fields

The FCC has issued a new report of RF field measurements at Amateur Radio stations and will use it to help decide how to implement newly revised guidelines for human exposure to RF energy.

The report, FCC/OET ASD-9601, is available from the National Technical Information Service, 800-553-6847, purchase number PB-96-145016.

See April QST p. 83 for more details and additional ordering information.

## Latest on Telecomm Act of 1996

In DC Currents on pages 15-16 of April QST is a summary of the provisions of the new Telecommunications Act of 1996 with comments on applicability in the Amateur Radio Service.

Related to this matter, FCC Chairman Reed Hundt says that telecommunications laws cannot be effectively overhauled and enforced without more money from Congress. Hundt apparently faces an uphill battle in Congress.

## FCC Preemptive Order for TV Dishes

FCC Docket 96-78 has just been released. Although details are not at hand yet, it appears to consist of a preemption order, similar to PRB-1, stating that owners may not be prevented from erecting small dishes required to receive Direct Broadcast TV signals. More details to come.

## Antennas, Towers, and Ordinances

The negotiations over these ordinances continue in Fresno and Sonoma counties. There is an indication that Contra Costa Co. will join in this effort to try to regulate cellular towers (unfortunately, we get caught up in the discussions). It seems likely that other counties will follow.

Please forward copies of all antenna, tower, and related ordinances or proposals to Phil Kane, N6SP, who is

collecting this data for the Pacific Division. Phil can be reached at PO Box 280192, San Francisco CA 94128-0192, (415) 369-7373 and commlaw@netcom.com.

## Scholarships and Awards

There are many awards and scholarships covering a wide range of situations available to licensed Amateurs. For example, the Foundation for Amateur Radio administers 57 scholarships -- applications may be requested prior to April 30, 1996, from FAR Scholarships, 6903 Rhode Island Ave, College Park, MD 20740; the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial (see the September 1995 edition of the ARRL Section Leader or contact the Field Services Dept. at ARRL HQ for details).

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) is now accepting applications for its 1996 college scholarships. Amateur Radio licensees graduating high school in 1996 are eligible for \$2000 scholarships.

Each year the DARA offers eight such scholarships. No specific field of college study is required. Winners will be announced around June 1, 1996.

Interested students should send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for an application to DARA Scholarships, 45 Cinnamon Court, Springboro, Ohio 45066.

Other organizations will be announcing their dates for applications for their 1996 scholarships. Watch QST and other amateur radio publications for details.

## Coming Events

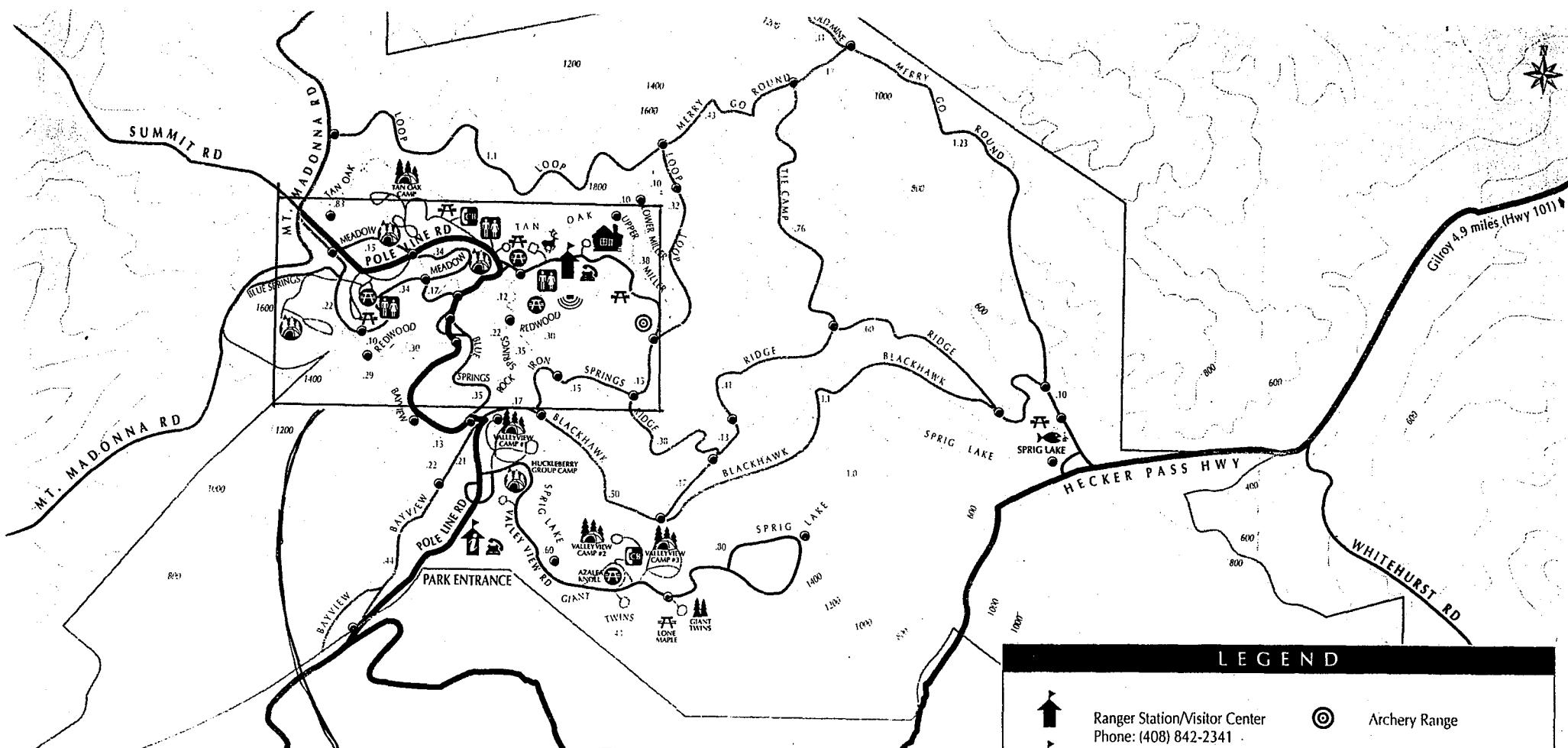
- Foothill Flea Market - 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month from March to September at Foothill College, Los Altos CA. Talk in on 145.23- PL 100Hz.
- Livermore Swap Meet - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month at Las Positas College in Livermore, CA, 7 AM to Noon, all year. Talk in 147.045 from west, 145.35 from the east. Contact Noel Anklam, KC6QZK, (510) 447-3857 eves.
- 1996 Emergency Response Institute will be held at the Sacramento Municipal Utility District Headquarters, 6201 S Street, Sacramento CA on May 18-19. See ERI on the WWW at <http://www.garlic.com/oes>. To register, send a check or money order for \$20 to ERI 1996, P. O. Box 301, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. Make checks payable to CESRA. No phone number for inquiry is available.

Brad Wyatt, K6WR  
Director, ARRL Pacific Division

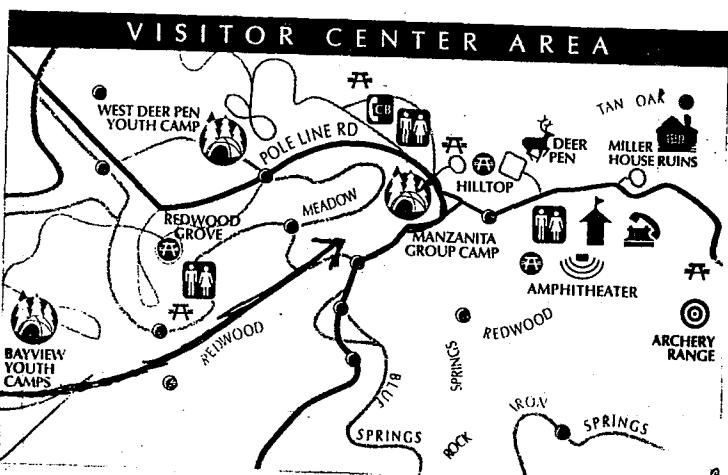
18400 Overlook Rd. #5  
Los Gatos CA 95030-5850  
(408) 395-2501 (voice & fax)

Packet: K6WR @ N0ARY.#NOCAL.CA.USA.NOAM  
Internet: k6wr@arrl.org





#### LEGEND



Enter the Manzanita camp area at the upper right.

WE WILL BE HERE

	Ranger Station/Visitor Center Phone: (408) 842-2341		Archery Range
	Park Entrance Kiosk/Information		Fishing (youth only)
	Restrooms		Miller House Ruins
	Public Telephone		Two Lane Paved Road
	Call Box		Two Lane Park Road
	Reserved Campground		One Lane Paved Road
	Campground		Equestrian/Hiking Trail
	Reserved Group Picnic Area		Footpath (hiking only)
	Picnic Area		Elevation Contours (feet)
	Amphitheater		Trail Distance (miles)
	Deer Pen		Private Property

# Field Day is coming up!

## Field Day contest weekend is June 22-23. Mark your calendars!

For those who are new to amateur radio: Field Day is one of the biggest radio contests of the year. The underlying idea is to give amateurs practice making contacts under disaster conditions. This means the participants are encouraged to set up and operate portable stations. You can operate at home, but it's better (worth more points) to "setup shop" elsewhere. For the past several years we have been going up to Mt. Madonna County Park (Southern end of the county). We usually have a variety of stations and antennas. The stations have included phone, CW, digital, novice, solar, VHF, etc. The antennas have been: beams on towers (one is a sizable crank-up on a specially made trailer), a long wire, and miscellaneous dipoles and verticals. The more exotic the power source, the better. We usually use batteries, generators, and solar cells. We operate under a classification where several transceivers are on the air at one time. We are allowed a certain amount of time to set up--that's why some of us go up Friday afternoon. Once set up, we have 24 hours (starting at a specific time) to make as many contacts as possible. It's a lot of fun and a great way to hone those operating skills! Everyone is encouraged to participate. You can make a weekend of it or just show up for part of it, whatever you like.

The 1996 SCCARA Field Day weekend will again be held at Mt. Madonna County Park on June 22 & 23. Anyone who joins the group going up on Friday, June 21 and stays through Sunday helping with both setup and tear-down will be able to stay for free. All others need to pay the camping fee of \$8.00 per night per vehicle. Those who won't be staying overnight will be responsible for paying the "day use" fee themselves at the Park entrance.

A Field Day Committee and set-up group will be forming soon. Dan WM6M agreed to be the SCCARA 1996 Field Day Chairman. If you are interested, contact Dan.

The club will be serving a BBQ dinner at 1:00 PM on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday morning. The Saturday dinner will be your choice of steak or chicken, plus all the "fix'ns". Please indicate your choice on this sign up sheet. The cost of the dinner is \$10 per person and the Sunday breakfast is \$5 per person. You must pay for these meals in advance so that we know how much food to buy--June 17 is the cutoff date. All other meals are usually pot-luck or if you wish fend for yourself.

We're expecting a great Field Day this year, so please come join us!

Name _____	Call _____
Address _____	
City _____	zip _____
Overnight camping fee @ \$8.00 / night / vehicle: \$ _____	
OR	
<input type="checkbox"/> I will join the set-up group going up Friday, then help tear-down Sunday.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday steak dinner(s) @ \$10.00 / person:	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday chicken dinner(s) @ \$10.00 / person:	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday breakfast(s) @ \$5.00 / person:	\$ _____
Total:	\$ _____

Please fill out this sign up sheet (or a copy) and get it to me before June 17. I can take it at the next club meeting or mail it with your check (payable to SCCARA) to:

Barbara Britten KD6QEI  
585 S 14<sup>th</sup> ST  
San Jose CA 95112

# S.C.C.A.R.A. Membership Form for 1996

(Fill in name and address if there is no mailing label below; make corrections if the label is incorrect)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: E A G T+ T N

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Licensed since (yr): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  New Member  I'm also an  
 Renewal ARRL member

For family memberships (at the same address), please list other name(s) and call(s):

Annual membership dues are payable at the first of the year and expire the following December 31.  
New members joining on or after July 1, pay half the membership dues (and half auto-patch fee).

Annual Membership dues:  Individual \$15  Family \$20  Student (under 18) \$5

I want \_\_\_\_\_ SCCARA badges @ \$3 ea. Badge name & call: \_\_\_\_\_ ....

Please send the repeater Auto-Dial codes (no charge, circle): ..... Yes  
Please send the repeater Auto-Patch codes (includes Auto-Dial), \$10.00 .....  
WE MUST BE ABLE TO VERIFY YOUR AMATEUR LICENSE  
BEFORE ANY REPEATER CODES WILL BE SENT TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

Give this completed form (or copy) with payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or  
mail to the return address below:

== PLEASE DO NOT TEAR/CUT == PLEASE DO NOT TEAR/CUT ==

SANTA CLARA COUNTY  
AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 6  
San Jose CA 95103-0006

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