

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 13, Number 2

February 1997



Little LEOs narrow two-meter focus to 146-148 MHz

From *The ARRL Letter*, January 17, 1997

In their effort to secure spectrum space that includes the 2-meter and 70-cm ham bands, the Little LEOs have narrowed their focus on 2 meters to the 146 to 148-MHz segment. The industry also appears to be attempting to reposition itself as a potential emergency communication adjunct to ham radio.

The little LEOs will use low-Earth-orbiting satellites to provide position-location and two-way data-messaging services to potential customers around the world. Customers would use small, inexpensive transceivers to communicate with satellites. According to the FCC, potential uses of this service include emergency location in remote areas, environmental data collection, vehicle tracking, and time-sensitive business and personal data communication.

For Region 1, a draft little LEO frequency allocation table has proposed adding a primary mobile-satellite allocation of 146 to 148 MHz to the existing allocations for fixed and mobile (except aeronautical mobile [R] services). The table was contained in a working paper--Document IWG-2A/86 Rev. 3, entitled "New Allocations for the Mobile-Satellite Services Operating Below 1 GHz" submitted by representatives of the Little LEOs industry to Informal Working Group-2A (IWG-2A) January 7.

The 146 to 148 MHz segment is not a ham band in Region 1, but is in Regions 2 and 3. A footnote would be added to state: "Additional allocation: the bands 146-148 and 430-440 MHz are also allocated to the mobile-satellite service, limited to non-geostationary satellite systems, for use only during emergency communication situations as a complement to the

Calendar

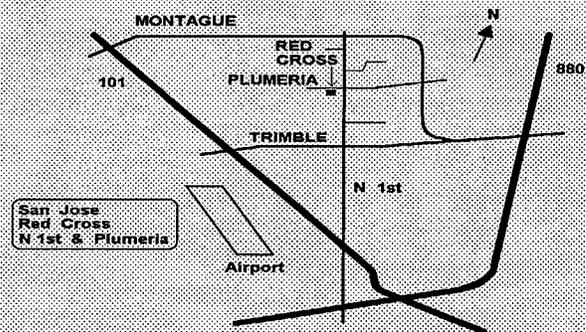
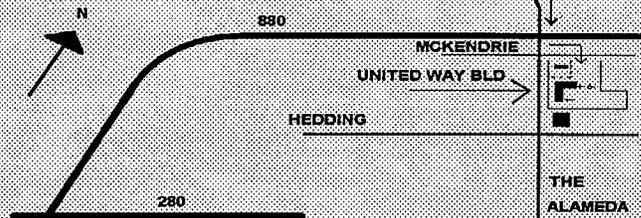
- 2/10 SCCARA General Meeting
- 2/17 SCCARA Board Meeting--(location may be Valley Villages, contact Jack AC6FU)
- 3/10 SCCARA General Meeting-Dinner

Next General Meeting:

- Day: Monday, Feb. 10, 1997
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: United Way Building
- Agenda: Red Cross use of Amateur Radio for disaster communications.

United Way Building 1922 The Alameda

From 880 in San Jose, take the Alameda turn-off South, left on McKendrie, then right into the parking lot (far end).



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

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

The deadline for SCCARA-GRAM articles is one week before the last Monday of the month.

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

President	Jack Ruckman, AC6FU	379-4846
Vice President	Barbara Britten, KE6QEI	293-3847
Secretary	Dan Dietz, WM6M	458-3460
Treasurer	Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI	225-6769
Station Trustee	Stan Getsla, WA6VTY	275-0735
Director	Clark Murphy, KE6KXO	262-9334
Director	Don Apte, KK6MX	629-0725
Director	Don Village, K6PBO	263-2789
Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	241-7999
Director	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847

STAFF

Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	265-2336
Facilities	Don Village, K6PBO	263-2789

COMMITTEES

Repeater	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
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 (auto-dial and auto-patch). 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

amateur service in accordance with Resolution No. 640."

The little LEO proposal also calls for a new primary allocation for the mobile-satellite (space-to-Earth) service for 430-440 MHz in Regions 2 and 3 (ham radio is primary in Region 1), and offers this rationale. "The allocation for the mobile-satellite service within the bands allocated to the amateur service is intended to be a complement to that latter service in situations involving emergency communications as provided for the [sic] Resolution No. 640."

As currently drawn, Resolution 640 covers only the 144 to 146 MHz segment of 2 meters and does not apply at all to 70 cm.

In the 440 to 450 MHz band, where the Amateur Service is not listed in the international table of frequency allocations except by footnote (ham radio is secondary in Australia, the US, Jamaica, the Philippines, and Canada), the little LEOs proposed a new worldwide primary mobile-satellite (space-to-Earth) allocation.

Calling their service "inherently global" the little LEO group said the industry needs "frequency allocations that can be used anywhere in the world," for non-geostationary, non-voice mobile satellite service through the year 2002. "ITU-R studies indicate sharing is possible," the industry said.

"If the demand for Little LEO spectrum cannot be satisfied by allocations that could be used on a worldwide basis, one solution is to assign different frequencies for use in the various regions of the world from within the allocations to the mobile satellite service," the working paper's preamble said.

Little LEO firms CTA, E-Sat, Final Analysis, GE Starsys, and LEO One submitted the third revision of the lengthy paper--which drew criticism from the ARRL as well as from military and land-mobile interests and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration at the January 7 session. The ARRL continued its objection to the inclusion of amateur bands and to the misapplication of Resolution 640. For now, Document IWG-2A/86 Rev. 3 is tabled, but it's expected to come up again at future meetings. IWG-2A meets on January 21 and February 4.

Overall, the little LEOs proposed the following bands for additional allocation to non-geostationary data-only mobile satellite service systems: 138-144, 146-148, 149.9-150.05, 150.05-156.7625, 380-387, 387-390, 390-399.9, 399.9-400.05, 400.15-401, 430-440, 440-450, 470-608 and 614-806 MHz. The paper notes there are proposals concerning 401-406 and 450-470 MHz and for feeder links at 1390-1400 and 1427-1432 MHz in other papers, and that "additional allocation proposals are under construction for the 174-230 MHz band."

For additional information on the little LEOs situation, read

the editorial "It Seems to Us..." by ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, in February 1997 QST.

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Jan. 13, 1997



Corrected and approved by board of directors January 20, 1997

Meeting called to order at 7:39 P.M. by president Jack, AC6FU.

Certificates for participation in club Special Events were passed out by Don, K6PBQ.

Speaker was Art Lange, W6RKQ of Trimble Navigation who spoke on "Global Positioning Systems and Amateur Radio."

Secretary Dan, WM6M read minutes of December 22, 1996 board meeting as they were not published.

Don, K6PBQ has made Mount Madonna reservations for Field Day 1997.

Discussion of the repeater operations. We need phone bill information from Trish, WA6UBE. Lloyd, KD6FJI will contact Trish.

Barbara, KB6QEI reported to the membership on the possibility of a new no-cost meeting site for our regular meetings. She will set up an appointment with the manager of Valley Village Retirement Center and will report results of the visit and meeting at the next board of directors meeting. The meeting room has an A/V screen, stage, and a kitchen.

Don, KK6MX reported, regarding the move of the SCCARA 2 meter repeater to the city radio vault, that the matter is waiting for agenda formality. The city council will consider the matter at the March city council meeting.

Tony, K6MOB asked if any used ham gear was for sale within the club for a new ham. Several suggestions were made.

Roy, K6VIP said that John Tanner, K6EJF is now home from an extended stay at the hospital of 40 days. He is monitoring our 2 meter repeater and would be happy to chat with anyone. If you call him, give him a bit of time to respond.

Several new hams and upgraded hams were introduced. Newly licensed members are Josephine Alvarado, KF6IFV and her husband Raymond, KF6IFU. New members are Ray, KE6IDY and Nano, AC6YY. Andy, KF6DXQ attended his first meeting.

Lou, WA6QYS announced a SVECS breakfast on January 25 at 9 A.M.

Meeting adjourned at 9:44 PM

Board Meeting, Jan. 20, 1997



Meeting called to order by president Jack, AC6FU at 7:38 P.M.

Attendees: Jack, AC6FU; Don, K6PBQ; Clark, KE6KXO; Lloyd, KD6FJI; Wally, KA6YMD; Gary, WB6YRU; Lou, WA6QYS, Bob, N6PCQ; and Dan, WM6M.

Several thank you letters were reviewed. The American Cancer Society recognized that SCCARA made a contribution of \$50.00 in remembrance of Cliff Furlow, KE6HM. The Spartan Foundation of San Jose State University thanked the club for a contribution of \$50.00 in memory of Bill Stevens, W6ZM.

Repeater: There is an existing agreement dated 6/27/91 between SCCARA and Trish, WA6UBE which states the amount to be paid for utility expenses of the repeater operations at her location. The amount agreed at that time and still in effect is a rate of \$10.00 per month. Therefore, a motion was made by Clark, KE6KXO and seconded by Don, K6PBQ to rescind the motion made and passed at the previous board meeting. This motion was to pay a \$300.00 annual payment. It was noted that the amount in the existing agreement is subject to adjustment. Motion was passed. Lloyd will contact Trish regarding phone billing amount and payment.

Minutes of Dec. 22, 1996 board meeting were read, corrected and approved.

Old Business:

Barbara, KB6QEI was unable to attend the board meeting but advised via letter and Wally that the group consisting of Bob, N6PCQ; Clark, KE6KXO; and herself visited the Valley Village Retirement Center and met with the director. The report is that the facility is suitable to our need for general meetings however the major problem is that the facility is not available on Monday evenings as they conduct Bingo sessions.

It was decided that a possible change of a meeting night should be discussed at our next general meeting on February 10. Clark, KE6KXO made a motion to hold the next board meeting at Valley Village which is contingent upon the membership agreement to change the site and the meeting night. The second Wednesday of each month is the only acceptable Wednesday night due to conflicts with other organizations having meetings on Wednesdays. Second by Lou, WA6QYS. Motion passed.

New Business

Jack, AC6FU stated our need to find a replacement club historian as Doc, W6ZRJ feels he can not fulfill the duty as he has moved away from this area. Discussion of the need to gather all club historical materials in one secure and safe place. We will look for a bargain on a fireproof safe to use in the storage locker for this material.

Motion by Don, K6PBQ to contact Tony, K6MOB and advise that the club's Yaesu FT101EE and related equipment is available for sale for \$300.00 to his friend or any other interested ham needing a transceiver. Second by Don, KK6MX. Motion passed.

Jack, AC6FU reports that he will pursue and continue the Red Cross relationship and will report on status of the radio room, etc.

Jack asked whether or not SCCARA wished to regain Special Club status. There are several mandatory articles that must be met to achieve this status. Item to be discussed at next general meeting.

Jack reported that Hugh, KD6EFL will speak with Bob, KB6OHO regarding his ability to continue as club badge maker.

Gary, WB6YRU provided a copy of program and updated roster to Dan, WM6M and Don, KK6MX.

Treasurer Lloyd, KD6FJI has no report as he had difficulty with using Quicken program. Lloyd gave Dan, WM6M records of some new and renewing members to add to the roster.

Don, K6PBQ reported that Stan, WA6VJY has agreed to continue as station trustee.

Wally, KA6YMD will accept temporary appointment as repeater committee chair.

Gary, WB6YRU asked if SCCARA wished to accept paid advertising in the SCCARA-GRAM. It was noted that we must remain within certain restrictive guidelines to preserve our non-profit mailing privilege. Upon completion of discussion of issue, motion made by Don, KK6MX to accept paid advertising. Second by Don, K6PBQ. Motion passed.

Motion made by Clark, KE6KXO and seconded by Wally, KA6YMD to accept the following SCCARA-GRAM commercial advertising rates:

Per issue rate:

\$5 for business card size ad

\$20 for column (half page, same as 4 cards)

\$40 for whole page (same as 8 cards)

Running for 2-6 issues, each issue:

\$4.50 for business card size ad

\$18 for column (half page, same as 4 cards)

\$36 for whole page (same as 8 cards)

Running for 7-12 issues, each issue:

\$4 for business card size

\$16 for column (half page, same as 4 cards)

\$32 for whole page (same as 8 cards)

Don, K6PBQ announced that March meeting will be a dinner meeting. Barbara, KB6QEI will arrange and advise.

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 P.M.

Board Meeting, Dec. 22, 1996



Minutes as corrected and approved at board meeting of January 20, 1997

Present: Jack Ruckman, AC6FU; Barbara Britten, KD6QEI; Wally Britten, KA6YMD; Clark Murphy, KE6KXO; Don Village, K6PBQ; Lou Steirer, WA6QYS; Hugh Collis, KD6EFL; Rex Skiver, N6BUO; Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI; and Dan Dietz, WM6M. Also present was non board member Bob Forster, N6PCQ and visitor Yoshi Sano, KE7NC.

Meeting called to order by new president Jack Ruckman, AC6FU.

Repeater Committee Report: A pre-meeting discussion of the 2 meter repeater site and planned move to a new location was resumed as a topic. Trish Gibbons, WA6UBE has made it known that she wishes to have the repeater relocated from her location to another site. The targeted site is the San Jose city radio vault. There is a delay in gaining access to this vault at this time. Should the city vault not be available, it was decided to look for an alternate site as a backup plan.

Keith Butts, KN6K has resigned as chair of the Repeater Committee. Wally Britten, KA6YMD will contact Keith to discuss activities and issues.

Rex Skiver, N6BUO brought up that SCCARA usually pays Trish, WA6UBE "something" for the electricity and other costs related to having the repeater housed at her

location. There was discussion whether this amount is sufficient to cover the expenses.

Moved by Don Village, K6PBQ to pay Trish the amount of \$300.00 for one year repeater site expenses. Seconded by Clark, KE6KXO. Motion was passed. We will require a statement or documentation for SCCARA payment records from Trish.

Red Cross Building Occupation: What is the current status? We do have access to the building and a key to the radio room per Hugh, KD6EFL. Wally, KA6YMD stated that we can erect a vertical antenna on the building. Jack, AC6FU will contact Scott Hensley, KB6UOO to arrange reservation of a Red Cross meeting room for 1997 meetings.

Photographer: Our longtime photographer, Bob Keller, KB6OHO is unable due to illness to continue this duty. SCCARA will look for a new photographer among the membership.

Badges: Bob, KB6OHO also serves a SCCARA badge maker. Hugh will ask Bob if he is able and/or wishes to continue this duty.

Field Day 1997: It was discussed whether SCCARA would again use the Mount Madonna site for Field Day. Motion by Lou, WA6QYS and seconded by Dan, WM6M to make reservation. Motion was passed. Don, K6PBQ will make a reservation for Manzanita Grove at Mount Madonna County Park for the Field Day weekend at the earlier possible date reservations can be made.

Meeting Site: Barbara, KD6QEI stated she has an opportunity for the club to use a meeting room at Valley Village located at Winchester and Delores. This site, if acceptable to their management and our board and membership, would be available at no charge to SCCARA. Barbara, KD6QEI; Clark, KE6KXO, and Bob, N6PCQ will visit the site and report to the board and membership on the suitability, availability and will obtain more information. No motion was made on this issue at this time.

Jack, AC6FU stated that he would like to see more amateur radio related topics for meeting topics during the year.

Secretary Dan, WM6M was directed to write a letter of appreciation to Al Gaetano, W6VZT for his efforts in obtaining the La Rinconada Country Club for the club's Christmas and 75th Anniversary dinner meeting.

It was discussed that the board will prepare a 1997 activity calendar for publication.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:07 PM

Dan, WM6M, Secretary

FCC establishes 5.7 GHz service

From *The ARRL Letter*, January 17, 1997

The FCC has amended Part 15 of its rules to make available 300 MHz of spectrum in the 5 GHz range--including part of secondary Amateur Radio allocations in that region--for use by Unlicensed National Information Infrastructure (U-NII) devices (formerly referred to as NII/SUPERNet devices). The FCC made available 5.15 to 5.35 GHz and 5.725 to 5.825 GHz. Part 15 requires that unlicensed operations not interfere with other services. The U-NII devices will provide short-range, high-speed wireless digital communications on an unlicensed basis.

The 5.650 to 5.925 GHz band is allocated on a secondary basis to the amateur service; additionally, the 5.65 to 5.67 GHz and 5.83 to 5.85 GHz sub-bands are allocated to the amateur-satellite service on a secondary basis. The original FCC U-NII proposal included 5.725 to 5.875 GHz, but the plan adopted this month excludes 50 MHz of this, including the Amateur Radio-satellite downlink at 5.83 to 5.85 GHz.

The FCC said it anticipates that U-NII devices will support the creation of new wireless local area networks (LANs) and provide wireless access to the National Information Infrastructure (NII). That's the name the FCC has given the "group of networks, including the public switched telecommunications network, radio and television networks, private communications networks, and other networks not yet built" to serve US communication needs.

The FCC said it was "adopting the minimum technical rules necessary to prevent interference to other services and to ensure that the spectrum is used efficiently" in order to permit "significant flexibility in the design and operation of these devices."

Significantly, the FCC abandoned its original proposal that would have presumed that U-NII devices were not causing harmful interference--even if interference was in fact caused--as long as the devices were operated within the technical parameters of the new regulations.

Although it initially proposed a listen-before-talk protocol, the FCC deleted this requirement in its final Report and Order, concluding that requiring such "spectrum etiquette" could delay deployment of U-NII devices and hinder innovation. Instead, the Commission concluded that simple technical rules "should be sufficient to ensure spectrum sharing between incumbent operations and new U-NII devices." The Commission also declined to adopt a channelization plan or a minimum modulation efficiency requirement.

Incumbent users of the 5.725 to 5.825 GHz band either opposed allowing U-NII operation because of interference concerns or urged that sharing studies be completed before that band was made available to U-NII devices.

In its comments on the plan, the ARRL argued against setting up an unlicensed service. The League asserted that longer-range community networks are not consistent with the typical low-power operations authorized by Part 15. The ARRL said that the Communications Act requires that such higher-powered systems with a significant interference potential be operated on a licensed basis and that the FCC was unlikely to enforce the requirement that unlicensed-device users cease operation if they cause harmful interference to allocated services.

The League argued that permitting the power of U-NII operations to exceed 100 mW EIRP or permitting the use of high-gain antennas by non-spread-spectrum U-NII devices would represent a significant departure from the underlying precepts of Part 15. Although the ARRL opposed the operation of U-NII devices in the 5.725 to 5.825 GHz band, it stated that if a 100 mW EIRP limit and a power spectral density (PSD) limitation of 0.03 mW in any 3 KHz bandwidth were adopted, then U-NII devices should be able to share this band with incumbent operations.

The FCC concluded that an increase in the power limits proposed in its rulemaking notice was supported by "new material in the record in this proceeding" but said that unrestricted antenna gain should be permitted because of interference concerns. The Commission decided to increase the maximum peak power limit to 50 mW peak transmitter output power with up to 6 dBi antenna gain (which equates to 200 mW EIRP) in the 5.15 to 5.25 GHz band; 250 mW peak transmitter output power with up to 6 dBi antenna gain (which equates to 1 W EIRP) in the 5.25 to 5.35 GHz band; and 1 W peak transmitter output power with up to 6 dBi antenna gain (which equates to 4 W EIRP) permitted in the 5.725 to 5.825 GHz band. Further, the FCC adopted a PSD requirement for U-NII devices that would require that the maximum power be spread across a bandwidth of at least 20 MHz.

The FCC said it believes that the new rules "will foster the development of a broad range of new devices and service offerings that will stimulate economic development and the growth of new industries."

Wanted

Kenwood SP230 speaker for TS830/530 series.
Kenwood remote VFO 520 for TS520.

Contact Don Village, K6PBQ, 408 263-2789

Someone we know?

You might be a Redneck Ham if you think:

quarter wave is a midget female in the navy.
half wave is bigger.
standing wave is a group of them in formation.
feed line is what you get in to eat.
resister is what you do to a ugly girl.
coax is what you do with a party girl.
rubber duck is a decoy.
linear has something to with your family tree,
despite its lack of branches.
radiator is part of your pickup.
propagation is the rate of reproduction.
ionosphere means "the basketball is mine".
tube is the TV.
transistor is a nun who had a sex change.
zepp is a breakfast cereal.
whip is what your kid can do to the honor student.
harmonic is what Charlie McCoy plays music with.
image is something you look at, if you shave.
parasites is two locations.
DX is just a brand name for gasoline.
QRP is a kidney disease.
impedance is a jig you do while looking for a restroom.
ohms is Watson's detective partner.
current is some kind of berry.
a handheld could lead to romance.
a loudspeaker is a cheerleader.
ampere is a ear deformity.
volt is what you do on the first Tuesday in November.
watt is often asked by someone hard of hearing.
chip is something you avoid stepping in, out in the pasture.
beam is an illumination for frog gigging.
quad is a form of carburetion.
slow scan is what you do when a girl walks by.
contact is what you yell when jump starting your pickup.
digital means displaying one finger.
a condenser is something that puts milk in cans.
an inductor works for Amtrak.
a coil is used to make moonshine.
polarization is the difference between races.
meter is being introduced to a woman.
160 is the average speed for a NASCAR race.
mobile is another brand of gasoline.
switch is swapping mates.
knife is pulling out a bigger blade in a fight.
push to talk is forcing yourself to be heard in a beer joint.
pair of strippers is two naked girls.
keyer is a locksmith.
connector is a dating service.
rotor is part of a pickup axle.

Dan WM6M

Estate Sale

For sale from estate of Bill Stevens, W6ZM

Two 5-element two-meter beams (new) \$40 ea
Two CDR AR22XL rotors (new) \$50 ea
Two Hustler 4BTV antennas \$50 ea
4-element 15-meter beam \$65
Two 10-15-20 mobile whip antennas \$25 ea
4-1000A EMAC tube best offer

Contact Don Hayden, KO6HH at 408 867-4643 or via packet at NOARY.

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, K6RQ, WB6YRU

Lightning protection, grounding: WB6YRU

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

TVI/RFI: WB6YRU

Homebrew projects, construction: AC6FU, KD6FJI, 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, K6RQ

Contesting & techniques: K6RQ

DX (long distance/propagation): WB6EMR, K6RQ

Emergency operating/preparedness: WA6QYS

FM (VHF/UHF, repeaters): WA6VJY

HF operating techniques (SSB, CW):

WB6EMR, AC6FU, K6PBQ, K6RQ

Mobile operating: K6RQ, WN6U

NTS & traffic handling:

QRP (HF low power, all modes): WN6U

TEN-TEN (10 M only): AC6FU

Classes/license upgrading: W6ACW, AC6FU

Legal/FCC rules: WB6YRU

SCCARA (club inner workings):

KO6HH, 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

KO6HH, 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

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: wn6u@compuserve.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
internet: wb6yru@arasmith.com

Newsletter Notes

You've probably noticed that there haven't been very many photos in the *SCCARA-GRAM* recently. Unfortunately, Bob Keller, KB6OHO, our photographer is not well enough to continue.

Bob has been a fixture for a long time, constantly roaming around with his trusty camera--or two--always ready for that next perfect shot. He never wanted to be reimbursed for his expenses, saying that photography is just another hobby which he enjoys. Aside from simply taking pictures, Bob *cared* about the quality of his work. He worked with me to make sure the photos that appeared here were as good as can be managed (photocopy machines aren't known for their fantastic photographic ability).

Thanks for all the years of great service, Bob! It won't be the same without you.

If there are any other shutter-bugs in the club who might be interested in taking over for Bob, please let me know.

Please note: if you submit a photo, it will copy much better if the contrast is low. The copy process tends to boost the contrast. Also, unless you state otherwise, photos and documents submitted to the *SCCARA-GRAM* become the property of SCCARA.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

ARRL Pacific Division Update

February 1997

RF Exposure Regs Delayed

The FCC, on Dec. 23, 1996, amended its rules (FCC Report & Order 96-236) to extend the transition period for Radio Amateurs to Jan. 1, 1998, to determine compliance with the new requirements for exposure to radio frequency (RF) fields produced by FCC-regulated transmitters. Additionally, the FCC will allow changes to amateur radio operator license examinations to be made as the examinations are routinely revised between now and July 1, 1998.

As an aid to amateurs in complying with the new regulations, the FCC plans to release a document, OET Document Number 65, that will contain technical guidance for all amateurs. The ARRL, together with a group of volunteer experts, is working with the FCC in the preparation of the document. There is a status report in January QST, page 47. The text of this Report & Order can be found on the FCC web site http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Engineering_Technology/Orders/fcc96326.txt. Also, see the ARRL WWW site at <http://www.arrl.org/news/rfsafety/> for current information.

Vanity Calls Continue to be Issued

Gate 2 for Extra Class opened on Sept. 23, 1996. Approximately 4,500 calls were issued on Nov. 5, 1996, and more since (see page 70, Jan. QST). The calls issued for Pacific Division hams should appear on the Pacific Division Website (www.pdarrrl.org) shortly. ARRL has established a one-stop vanity call sign page at <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/vanity.html>.

VHF & UHF Bands Under Challenge

2m/70cm Band Threats

The Geneva preparation meetings and the latest round of IWG2A meetings ended Jan. 7, 1997. The issue has not been dealt with as definitively as would have been expected at this relatively late date in the WRC-97 preparatory process.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has issued a statement supporting the hams' continued use of these bands. However, another challenger has appeared - NASA/JPL and other space agencies are looking at the 70 cm band for a satellite-carried synthetic aperture radar system (see page 72 of January QST).

The Little LEO folks have a satellite to be launched to collect data for a study of frequency sharing possibilities

below 1 GHz. They were able to obtain permission to submit data later in 1997 potentially bypassing the preparatory meetings. ARRL and IARU are following this plan closely.

It appears that the draft paper for the U.S. delegation position has been tabled for now, but will come up again at the Jan. 21 meeting. There seems to be substantial disagreement within IWG2A over its contents. However, it now seems possible that the U.S. delegation position for WRC-97 may NOT include support for Little LEO access to these bands, but the threat could come from somewhere else. For more information, see the K1ZZ editorial on p. 9, Feb. QST.

1296 MHz Band Threat

It now appears that various Federal agencies cannot come up with plans for the L5 frequency for GPS, so the Oct. 31 deadline has come and gone with no apparent new deadline. The best information is that the frequency for L5 will likely be 1309.7 MHz. We must always remember, however, that amateur radio is secondary to radiolocation and navigation systems in the 23 cm band.

2300-2310 MHz Band Threat

Public Law 104-208 made 2305-2310 MHz of the Amateur Band spectrum available for auction to finance current 1997 Federal spending.

To save what we can, ARRL has filed comments to keep our secondary status at 2305-2310 MHz and to be elevated to primary from 2300-2305 MHz in Docket 96-228. We also filed a separate petition asking for the same allocations. There seems to be a real chance that this just might work.

Dec. QST, p. 15, and Jan. QST, p. 71 detail the first part of this story; Jan. QST, p. 16; Feb. QST, p. 16 tell the second. See also the ARRL WWW site.

5800 MHz Band Threat--New Sharing Services in 100 MHz of Band

The FCC, in a Report and Order on Jan. 9, 1997, created a new type of unlicensed device called a U-NII device (Unlicensed NII). They also determined spectrum for this device as follows:

- 5.15-5.35 GHz: 200 MHz, outside Amateur Bands.
- 5.725-5.825 GHz: 100 MHz, 50 MHz less than proposed in the NPRM.

Apparently this spectrum will be lower than the 5830-5850 MHz downlink band for Phase 3D.

The power levels are reported to be:

- 5.15-5.25 GHz - 200 mW EIRP
- 5.25-5.35 GHz - 1 W EIRP
- 5.725-5.825 GHz - 4 W EIRP

There appears to be no restriction on whether the

devices are Spread Spectrum or non Spread Spectrum devices. The 4 W EIRP figure is the same as that allowed Part 15.247 (SS) devices. This means that where the Amateur Radio allocation is now, we are going to have a mix of SS and non-SS devices at the same power levels. This does not appear to be good for Part 15.247 devices or hams.

Amateurs are to be "protected" from interference. The "protection" from interference apparently is based on the fact that amateur priority is higher than these unlicensed devices. It also appears that there is specific reference to not protect these devices from amateur radio.

Obviously, all this information is subject to revision once the actual documents are available and analyzed.

This additional sharing service comes as a result of NPRM ET Docket 96-102, based on the petitions from Apple Computer and WINForum, to grant access to the Amateur Radio Spectrum from 5725-5875 MHz band for the NII/SUPERNET proposal for free spectrum for very high data rate LANs and other activities for schools, libraries, hospitals. ARRL and many other Comments opposed this NPRM.

For the latest news on this volatile issue, see QST, Pacific Division Updates in hard copy, ARRL Letter, Pacific Division Updates on e-mail, Pacific Division WWW site, and the ARRL home page at <http://www.arrl.org/> (select "Band Threat News").

Unfortunately, the future of these threats is uncertain and unknown. We won't be able to breathe easily about WRC-97 issues until the final gavel comes down on Nov. 21, 1997.

Don Costello, AB6TA, New SJV SM

It is my pleasure to announce that Don Costello, AB6TA, of Merced, CA, has been appointed San Joaquin Valley Section Manager to complete the term of Mike Siegel, KI6PR, ending June 30, 1997. Welcome, Don, and many thanks, Mike, for your outstanding efforts as SM of SJV!

Awards and Scholarships

There are many awards and scholarships covering a wide range of situations available to licensed Amateurs. Contact the Field Services Dept. at ARRL HQ for details.

To apply for ARRL Foundation scholarships, write to The ARRL Foundation Inc. 225 Main St Newington CT 06111. Deadline for applications and transcripts is Feb. 1.

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc. plans to administer sixty scholarships for the academic year 1997-98 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 1997 from: FAR Scholarships, 6903 Rhode Island Ave, College Park MD 20740.

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association is now accepting applications for its 1997 college scholarships.

Amateur Radio licensees graduating high school in 1997 are eligible for \$2000 scholarships. Interested students should send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for an application to DARA Scholarships, 45 Cinnamon Crt, Springboro OH 45066.

Other organizations will be announcing their dates for applications for their 1997 scholarships. Watch QST and other amateur radio publications for details.

FCC Crackdown on Illegal Operations

There has been considerable coverage about the illegal operation by Timothy Harold Hoffman on various frequencies in the Phoenix AZ area.

By letter dated October 1, 1996, Mr. Hoffman requested a reduction or the elimination of the forfeiture. After carefully evaluating the information provided by Mr. Hoffman, the WTB recently concluded that he had failed to adequately document his claim of inability to pay. Mr. Hoffman must pay the full amount of monetary forfeiture within thirty (30) days.

FCC Now Provides Toll Free Service

The FCC Gettysburg is in the process of installing a new toll free service to the public to field any calls dealing with any telecommunications topic. The number is 1-888-CALLFCC. While not fully operational, this number can now be reached by anyone in the Pacific Division. The goal is that this number will be the first contact by outside persons to the FCC. I have tried it several times over the last couple of months and find the staffers pleasant, but basically not knowledgeable about Amateur Radio. You might try it to see what you think. I would be interested in your comments.

Coming Events

- Livermore Swap Meet - 1st Sunday of each month at Las Positas College in Livermore, CA, 7:00 AM to noon, all year. Talk in 147.045 from west, 145.35 from the east. Contact Noel Anklam, KC6QZK, (510) 447-3857 eves.

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S.C.C.A.R.A. Membership Form for 1997

(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

E-mail: _____ Packet: _____

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.

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/Auto-Patch codes (no charge, circle): Yes
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 ==

SANTA CLARA COUNTY
AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

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