

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 13, Number 11

November 1997



President's Prose

To: Jean A. "Doc" Gmelin, W6ZJR
23 February, 1997

Dear Doc,

I apologize for not responding to your letter of December 29th sooner. Things have been pretty hectic for me since I started working full-time for Ham Radio Outlet in November.

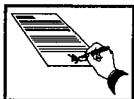
The Board of Directors of SCCARA decided that the position of Club Historian belongs with the other positions listed under the category of "Elmer". Evidently their feeling is that the position is, at best, a part-time position, and you can be listed in the Elmer category. Anyone wishing to know anything concerning the history of SCCARA is expected to call upon you (or anyone else so listed) as the need arises.

My question to the Board about the club records and maintenance of these records brought the response that "The club Secretary keeps the records and is responsible for their maintenance." Archival storage has not been, nor is it currently, an important item with SCCARA.

Obviously, I do not share the Board's attitude in this, but I cannot get them to see the value of a full-time Historian position (provided we could find a volunteer for the position).

Congratulations on your SCCARA Lifetime Achievement Award. I do hope you will maintain contact with SCCARA and help us all you can in the future. Thanks again for all you have done for the club - we all do appreciate your time and efforts.

Vy 73 & Good DX,
Jack L. Ruckman, AC6FU

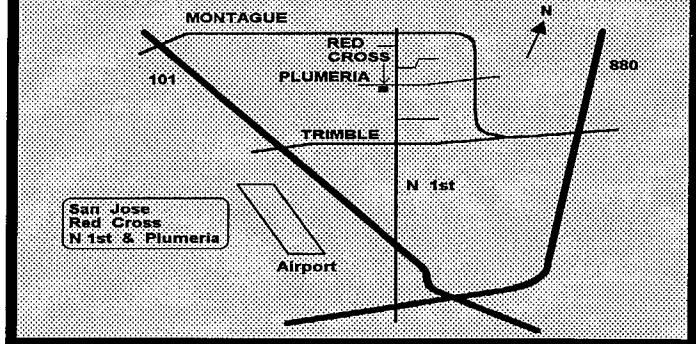
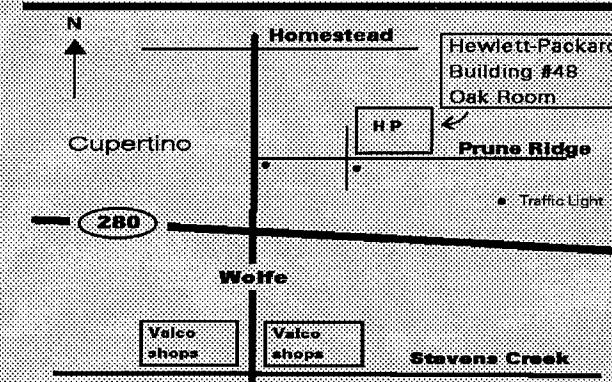


Calendar

- 11/10 SCCARA General Meeting--elections
11/17 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
12/12 SCCARA Annual General Meeting
12/15 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

Next General Meeting:

Day: Monday, Nov. 10, 1997
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Hewlett-Packard's Oak Rm, Bld #48
Agenda: Elections



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 of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

The club station is W6UUW.

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, KD6QEI	293-3847
Secretary	Dan Dietz, WM6M	458-3460
Treasurer	Lloyd DeVaugnhs, KD6FII	225-6769
Station Trustee	Stan Getsla, WA6VYI	275-0735
Director	Clark Murphy, KE6KXO	262-9334
Director	Don Apte, KK6MX	629-0725
Director	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	241-7999
Director	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847

STAFF

Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	265-2336
Facilities	Don Village, K6PBQ	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

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Oct. 13, 1997



Meeting was called to order at 7:46 PM by president Jack, AC6FU. Meeting site was the Hewlett-Packard's Oak Room instead of at the United Way building. It is probable that SCCARA will be able to use this site for future meetings at no cost to the club and pending approval of membership. Self introductions were made.

The evening's program was presented by Rick Lagerstrom, KN6FR of Seaside. He spoke on the subject of "Training". He made many strong points including ideas on how to keep courses interesting and how to keep students involved to enhance their experience and fortify their recollection of materials presented. Lectures with demonstrations were said to be the most effective method of presenting information to be retained. Rick's training program starts with "training the trainers" to use these techniques. The success rate of his classes has been very high which speaks to the effectiveness of this approach.

A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes of the September general meeting and board minutes.

Don, KO6HH announced that the Nomination Committee has found a full slate of candidates for officers in 1998. He also announced that he would not continue in the duty of nominations chair.

Lou, WA6QYS announced that SVECS received some help from SCCARA members at the October Foothill Flea Market. He noted that October 25th will be the quarterly SVECS breakfast.

Jack, AC6FU announced: All visitors to the Hewlett-Packard site may use visitors or car pool parking spots during meetings. The Red Cross station will be open for the JOTA operation on Sunday, October 20th. The Microsoft Marathon had only six amateur operators to assist with communications. These operators were from several local radio clubs. It is hoped that with earlier notification next year, more operators will participate and assist in this event.

There was no Treasurer's report, Repeater Committee report or Internet Committee report.

Don, KO6HH asked for assistance in moving some estate items (W6ZM).

Meeting was adjourned at 9:44 PM.

Dan Dietz, WM6M, SCCARA Secretary

Board Meeting, Oct. 20, 1997



Board meeting was called to order at 7:38 PM by President Jack Ruckman, AC6FU at Red Cross building in San Jose. Attending were: Jack, AC6FU; Clark, KE6KXO; Lou, WA6QYS; Lloyd, KD6FJI; Gary, WB6YRU; Barbara, KD6QEI; Wally, KA6YMD and Dan, WM6M. Member Kevin Gehrke, KF6MBG also attended.

Barbara reported an arrangement has been made with Hewlett-Packard regarding use of the Oak Room facility for future SCCARA general meetings. They have approved our use of the room beginning November, 1997 until further notice. The Oak Room is available to SCCARA for no cost. Barbara will notify Don, K6PBQ to contact the United Way to advise of our change of venue. We may possibly have to pay for November use due to our short notice of change.

The repeater Committee was represented by Wally, KA6YMD who reported an audio problem with the two-meter repeater. He will contact Trish, WA6UBE to determine a course of action to correct the problem. No information is known regarding the status of the possible move of the repeater from the present site to the San Jose City radio vault.

Barbara, KD6QEI reported that ARRL President Rod Stafford, KB6ZV, may attend our November general meeting. Several other possible speakers were mentioned as we have need for good programs for the 1998 club meetings.

Gary, WB6YRU brought up his memo to the board members which he distributed at the last general meeting which commented on his objection to actions taken by the board at the last board of directors meeting (Gary was not present) related to the repeater and general fund checking and savings accounts. It had been discussed and agreed that the club should change from having a separate checking and savings for the general fund and for the repeater fund to a more manageable single account. A motion was passed to merge two checking accounts into one and two savings accounts into one.

A lengthy discussion ensued as to whether this motion was the best and appropriate course of action. A motion was made to investigate the history of the repeater fund. We need to determine who are the signatures of record on the repeater accounts as Lloyd has no information on this. No accounts will be merged or any other further action taken in pursuit of the motion which was passed at the September board meeting which merged the general and repeater funds into one account. The motion includes putting all pursuant actions on hold until further information is available. Motion was passed.

Jack, AC6FC reported that SCCARA has received a letter of

appreciation from the National Parkinson's Foundation in recognition of the club's donation to that fund in memory of SK Norm Norman, KC6VPZ.

Wally, KA6YMD made a motion to donate \$50.00 to the American Cancer Society in memory of SK Bob Keller, KB6OHO who recently passed away. Motion was passed.

Jack made a motion that SCCARA's secretary contact surviving spouses of SK members to determine which charity should be given a \$50.00 donation in memory of that deceased member. This will be done from this date forward as a matter of club policy. Motion passed.

Barbara, KD6QEI brought a motion to invite surviving spouses of members to our social events if they so desire. They will also be asked at least 3 months after the death of their spouse if they wish to continue to remain on the mailing list and to receive the club newsletter for another year. They will be invited as guests of SCCARA to our annual Christmas Dinner. Motion was passed.

Jack, AC6FU presented a copy of a letter he has written to the FCC declaring support for the ARRL petition relative to RM-9150.

Jack is seeking an activities chairman to establish and maintain an operating schedule for the club station. Kevin Gehrke, KF6MBG will be the 1998 club secretary and was attending this meeting. Kevin volunteered to serve as the Activities chairman to which Jack made a motion to approve Kevin in this new position. The motion also included an approved expenditure of not to exceed \$100.00 for the printing of new club QSL cards. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:47 PM.

Dan Dietz, WM6M, SCCARA secretary.

From the ARRL

FCC announces electronic renewal form 900

The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) has consolidated eight renewal forms into one form. Form 900, Application for Electronic Renewal of Wireless Radio Services Authorizations, is an interim measure to permit all WTB licensees, including hams, to renew their licenses electronically.

This form is only for renewals, not for license modifications. You can only enter changes (eg, name, address) using Form 900 as a part of the process of renewing your license. You can only use Form 900 if the expiration date on your license falls within the renewal window (within 120 days of

expiration). You cannot use Form 900 to renew an expired license. Form 900 may only be submitted electronically. No Form 900 paper applications will be accepted. When filing Form 900, you will be required to enter a Social Security Number for a taxpayer ID number.

Access Form 900 on the WTB Electronic Commerce page, <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/electcom.html> (click on Production Page for Electronic Commerce Applications to access the Form 900). Click on any item number for filing instructions. Once you have filed the form, clicking on Electronic Renewal Query lets you view or print the information submitted.

Once you have successfully submitted Form 900, it is important to click on the Continue button to obtain the fee information pertaining to your filing. The screen will prompt you with a Fee Remittance Advice, Form 159. The form will indicate that there is no charge to renew an Amateur Radio license (except for vanity call sign holders, who won't have to renew for several more years yet).

Form 900 updates will be batch processed at night. They are not instantaneous.

Send comments about the FCC Form 900 to sreed@fcc.gov. For technical assistance, call the FCC Technical Support Group at 202-414-1250. Other general information may be obtained from the FCC's National Call Center at 888-225-5322 (CALL-FCC).--FCC

--*The ARRL Letter, October 3, 1997*

FCC issues new form 610, old versions obsolete

The FCC announced this week that as of January 1, 1998, Amateur Radio applicants may only submit FCC Forms 610, 610A and 610B that carry an edition date of September 1997. After the first of the new year, previous editions of Form 610 will not be accepted for filing by the FCC or by Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs). Amateurs may begin using the new Form 610s now.

The major change on the new form is a certification that says the applicant has "read and will comply with Section 97.13(c) of the Commission's Rules" regarding RF radiation safety and the amateur service section of OST/OET Bulletin No 65, Evaluating Compliance with FCC-Specified Guidelines for Human Exposure to Radio Frequency Electromagnetic Fields. But, Amateur Radio Supplement B of Bulletin 65, which has additional information on how to conduct a routine RF safety evaluation and explains other aspects of RF safety, is still in the draft stages and not yet available to the ham radio community.

ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, says the League is concerned that the new Form 610 could be in the hands of hams before Amateur Radio Supplement B is complete. Sumner says it's essential that the FCC make

Supplement B available in time for hams to complete their evaluations to meet the deadlines in the rules.

ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, who's been involved in reviewing the draft supplement, said he expects the FCC to release it sometime in November. The ARRL will release a book on the new RF safety regulations near the end of the year. "Above all, it is important that the required station evaluation be as easy as possible for hams," Hare said. "The FCC has pretty much met that goal. Additionally, most hams, by virtue of their power levels, will not need to do an evaluation at all."

Section 97.13(c) reads: Before causing or allowing an amateur station to transmit from any place where the operation of the station could cause human exposure to RF electromagnetic field levels in excess of those allowed under 1.1310 of this chapter, the licensee is required to take certain actions.

1. The licensee must perform the routine RF environmental evaluation prescribed by 1.1307(b) of this chapter, if the transmitter PEP exceeds the following limits: 160-40 meters, 500 W; 30 meters, 425 W (legal limit is 200 W--Ed); 20 meters, 225 W; 17 meters, 125 W; 15 meters, 100 W; 12 meters, 75 W; 10 meters, 50 W; VHF (all bands), 50 W; 70 cm, 70 W; 33 cm 150 W; 23 cm, 200 W, 13 cm 250 W, SHF/EHF (all bands) 250 W.

2. If the routine environmental evaluation indicates that the RF electromagnetic fields could exceed the limits contained in 1.1310 of this chapter in accessible areas, the licensee must take action to prevent human exposure to such RF electromagnetic fields. Further information on evaluating compliance with these limits can be found in the FCC's OET Bulletin 65, Evaluating Compliance with FCC-Specified Guidelines for Human Exposure to Radio Frequency Electromagnetic Fields.

The new Forms 610 may be obtained from the FCC's Web site via the Internet at <http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>, at <ftp://ftp.fcc.gov/pub/Forms/> or by fax at 202-418-0177 (request index, or for Form 610 use form code 000610, for Form 610A use form code 006101, for Form 610B use form code 006102). The FCC Forms Distribution Center will accept FCC forms orders by calling 800-418-3676.

ARRL VEs and VE teams will be able to obtain a supply of the new Forms 610 in mid to late November--once the ARRL/VEC has had time to obtain a supply of the new forms.

Individual amateurs may obtain a copy of the new Form 610 by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) to: ARRL/VEC, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111. Include 32 cents postage for each Form 610 requested (this is a four page form).

For general information, contact the FCC, 1270 Fairfield Rd,

ARRL continues to push for federal preemption

The ARRL Executive Committee has voted to have the League continue to urge adoption of the antenna regulatory preemption policies contained in its petition, RM-8763. The action came on a motion from ARRL Vice President Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, as the Executive Committee met October 11 in Philadelphia.

The League's petition, filed in February 1996, seeks enhancement of the PRB-1 limited federal preemption of state and local regulation of Amateur Radio antennas. However, the FCC appears to have made no progress with regard to the petition, which asked the FCC to declare that localities must find the least restrictive means to deal with ham radio. Among other things, the petition called on the Commission to amend Section 97.15(e) of the rules to say that any state or local antenna restrictions limiting ham radio antennas to heights below 70 feet would be "presumed unreasonable," unless the state or local authority could show its restrictions were necessary for health, safety, or aesthetic reasons.

It was also announced at the Executive Committee meeting that the League will submit comments in Mass Media Bureau Docket 97-182 supporting a comprehensive antenna facilities siting policy, including amateur antenna structures.

The ARRL also continues to pursue FCC preemption of local and state attempts to regulate in the area of RF radiation safety.

The Committee also was told that numerous comments, most of them supportive, were filed on the ARRL's petition (RM-9150) seeking to improve the FCC's handling of private-sector complaints of serious amateur rules violations. The League has filed reply comments in the matter.

AMSAT-NA & TAPR, possible APRS move

The Board agreed--in cooperation with Tucson Amateur Packet Radio (TAPR)--to help an ongoing effort to minimize the impact of moving current APRS users off 145.79 MHz. The Board agreed to donate up to \$500 to help defray needed expenses of various fixed-frequency APRS node operators to find new homes for their operations. If it proves acceptable to the APRS community, the frequency shift would contribute to an effort to clear 145.80 MHz for worldwide use by Mir, SAREX and the International Space Station.

--The ARRL Letter, October 24, 1997

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the packet network:

Date: 25 Apr 94 10:11
From: KB4CTL@KF4OJ
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: CHUCKLES

I drink only my own blood now...Drinking someone else's blood is better, of course, but I'm a safe-sex vampire.

Some sad news...The inventor of Trident gum passed away...The funeral was attended by four out of five dentists in the country.

Whoever said money can't buy happiness didn't know where to shop.

For every person wishing to teach, there are 30 not wanting to be taught.

A Senator passed a colleague on the floor and noticed he was completing a jigsaw puzzle....

"That's pretty good...How long did it take you?"
"Two weeks."
"Isn't that pretty fast?"
"Sure is...The box says 2-4 years."

From the Happy Club, 73 de Felly,
KB4CTL @ KF4OJ.#ARCFL.FL.USA.NOAM

Date: 7 Oct 94 08:58
From: KR4YL@KC4HAZ
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Light Bulb Jokes, list 1

Here is part one of an edited list of light bulb jokes found on rec.humor on the internet.

Enjoy, 73 de KR4YL (ex KD4VMD) in Tampa, FL

Q. How many quantum mechanics does it take to change a light bulb?
A. They can't. If they know where the socket is, they cannot locate the new bulb.

Q. How many Teamsters does it take to change a light bulb?
A. 53. You got a problem with that, buddy?

Q. How many people does it take to change a light bulb for one Jewish mother?

A. None. "Don't worry about your mother. You go have a good time. I'll just sit here in the dark, again. Alone."

Q. How many Jewish Princesses does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A. Two-one to get the diet Cokes out of the fridge and the other to call Daddy.

Q. How many teenage girls does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A. One, but she'll be on the phone for five hours telling all her friends about it.

Q. How many Zen Buddhists does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A. Two, one to screw it in and one not to screw it in.

Q. How many Hari Krishnas does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A. Ten, one to do it and the rest to dance around, play the tambourine, chant, and sing.

Q. How many fundamentalists does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A. THE BIBLE DOES *NOT* SAY *ANYTHING* ABOUT LIGHT BULBS!!!!

Q. How many Branch Davidians does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A. Nine, one to do it and the other eight to find a leg for him to stand on.

Q. How many atheists does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A. None. Atheists question whether it's really light anyway.

Q: How many IBM types does it take to change a light bulb?

A: 100. Ten to do it, and 90 to write document number GC7500439-0001, Multi-tasking Incandescent Source System Facility, of which 10% of the pages state only "This page intentionally left blank", and 20% of the definitions are of the form "A consists of sequences of non-blank characters separated by blanks".

Q: How many operating systems are required to screw in a light bulb?

A: Just one, Microsoft is making a special version of Windows for it.

Q: How many people does it take to change an object-oriented light bulb?

A: Change it? Aw shucks, I was going to reuse it.

Q: How many hackers does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A: Huh?...What? Oh, it's dark in here?

Q: How many Microsoft executives does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A: None, they just redefine "darkness" as the industry standard.

Q: How many musicians does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A: Tell me how it goes, big daddy, and I'll try to fake it.

Date: 25 Apr 94 02:01

From: KA4AQQ@KF4OJ

To: HUMOR@USA

Subject: THE LADY OFTEN GOES FOR A WALK

The lady often goes for a walk after her husband leave for work. One morning their son was driving to school and pulled up to a stoplight. His mother was standing on the curb, waiting for the light to change...She walked over to his car, leaned through the open window and gave him a kiss. The light changed and he took off. The car behind him drove up and stopped, and the man rolled down his window...Next! he said.

After Sunday-school class was over, Teresa's son presented her with a red Valentine's heart he had made, and she pinned it on her dress. Then her daughter hung a colorful chain of paper dolls around her mother's neck. A father, coming to pick up his child, did a double take when he saw Teresa with her paper adornments... You know, he said, grinning...You look just like my refrigerator.

From the Happy Club,
73 de Miguel, KA4AQQ @ KF4OJ.#ARCFL.FL.USA.NOAM

Newsletter Notes

Well, it looks like I did it again...jumped the gun on the newsletter. Usually, the board meeting lands on the deadline, so I tend to get going shortly thereafter. Last month the board meeting happened to fall on the Monday prior to the deadline.

Unfortunately, this time it meant the October issue of the ARRL Pacific Division Update did not appear in the previous *SCCARA-GRAM*. Both the October and November ARRL Pac. Div. Updates are included in this *SCCARA-GRAM*. Sorry for any inconvenience.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

ARRL Pacific Division Update

October 1997

RF Exposure Rules Effective Jan. 1, 1998

The long-awaited FCC decision on RF Exposure rules for the amateur radio service were finally released in August. An excellent summary of the obligations the new rules places on individual hams is contained in October QST, pages 51 and 52. Two questions immediately will come to mind: when must individual hams be in compliance with the new regulations, and how must individual hams demonstrate such compliance. More details are provided in the QST article cited above, but in brief, here's the story.

When - The new regulations become effective Jan. 1, 1998; however, there will be a transition period for compliance by individuals, as follows:

1. New licensees after Jan. 1 1998 must be in compliance with the new regulations at the time for first licensing. The FCC is preparing a new version of Form 610, which will contain a statement to the effect that the new licensee understands and complies with the new regulations. That is, the applicant will certify compliance by the very act of signing off on the 610 application.

2. All those licensed prior to Jan. 1, 1998, will have to be in compliance with the new RF-Exposure regulations whenever a Form 610 is filed, such as for a license renewal, upgrade, or other modification. Because the same revised Form 610 as used by new license applications is used for such modifications, the act of signing off on the 610 will certify compliance.

3. All stations, new or old, must be in compliance with the new regulations no later than Sept. 1, 2000. This date must be met whether a Form 610 has been filed previously or not.

How - The full story of how each ham must determine compliance to the new regulations is too lengthy to present here; additional details may be found in the Oct. 1997 QST article. Briefly, each ham, with some exceptions, will need to perform a routine station evaluation to ensure that maximum permissible power levels, as described in the new FCC rules, are not exceeded. Those running at or below certain threshold power levels will be exempt from routine evaluations, although they will not be exempt from complying with the RF exposure levels prescribed by the regulations. The full list of the threshold power levels is given in the Table below. For example, from 160 through 40 meters routine evaluations need not be performed at output levels of 500 watts PEP or less, while at 2 meters the level that triggers an evaluation is 50 watts PEP.

Output PEP Thresholds for Routine Evaluation of

Amateur Radio Stations:

Band (Wavelength)	Transmitter Power (Watts)
160 m	500
75 m	500
80 m	500
40 m	500
30 m	425
20 m	225
17 m	125
15 m	100
12 m	75
10 m	50
6-1.23 m	50
70 cm	70
33 cm	150
23 cm	200
13 cm and up	250

Additional details on performing evaluations, as well as details regarding maximum permissible RF exposure levels are given in the FCC document OET-65, now available on the WWW. A supplement specialized to the Amateur Radio Service, OET-65-Bm is being prepared by the FCC. It is expected to be released some time during November of this year. See the ARRL RF-safety Web page at <http://www.arrl.org/news/rfsafety>, or at the FCC at <http://www.fcc.gov/oet/dockets/et93-62/>.

Protection for Volunteers Started

"The Volunteer Protection Act of 1997," Public Law 105-19, should provide Federal protection from "frivolous, arbitrary, or capricious" lawsuits against our OO/AmAux and VE volunteers as well as other volunteers. The law became effective on Sept. 16, 1997. The text is available on the WWW at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>. The text should also be available from other sources.

PL 105-19 is much broader in scope than the Amateur Radio Volunteer Services Act of 1997 -- To quote PL 105-19, "The purpose of this Act is to promote the interests of social service program beneficiaries and taxpayers and to sustain the availability of programs, nonprofit organizations, and governmental entities that depend on volunteer contributions by reforming the laws to provide certain protection from liability abuses related to volunteers serving nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies."

See p. 15, August 1997 QST for more information.

Pacific Division Supports ARRL Petition

The vast majority of the supporting Comments to the proposed privatization plan to help enforce the FCC Rules in the Amateur Radio Service (RM 9150) came from Pacific Division hams. Many thanks for your support in the short time given us by the FCC!

The ARRL filed Reply Comments by the Sept. 15

deadline.

All we can do now is wait and hope that FCC will adopt a Notice of Proposed Rule Making in this matter to take the next step in the process. Again, many thanks to all in the Pacific Division who submitted supporting Comments!

Vanity Call Program

Gate 3 opened for Advanced Class licensees on Aug 6, 1997. Details on the Vanity Call program can be found on the ARRL WWW site at www.arrl.org or by calling the FCC National Call Center at 1-888-CALL-FCC. To file, use Form 610-V available via the FCC Internet Homepage at <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/amradsrv.html> or from ARRL HQ. The fee became \$50 for a 10 year license starting Sept. 15, 1997.

On Wednesday, September 17, the FCC issued some 500 to 600 vanity call signs to those who had filed applications on August 6, the opening day. Applicants can check for new call signs at <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/fccid.html> or by using one of the other popular call sign databases.

The date for opening Gate 4 has not yet been announced.

Two Versions of Form 159 Confusing

With no fanfare, in July the FCC issued a new Form 159, Remittance Advice, that's somewhat different from the earlier version of the form issued in February. As of September 15, 1997, the FCC requires vanity call sign applicants to file a Form 159 with their applications no matter the method of payment. The FCC still was shipping the old Form 159 as of mid-summer, despite the revision.

While the two forms require essentially the same information, some item numbers on the new form--available via the FCC Web formpage site--are different from those reported in last week's ARRL Letter, Vol. 16, No. 36. For example, applicants enter the Payment Type Code (which is "WAVR") in Item 20A on the new version and Items 14A and 14B on the old version of Form 159. Under Item 21A on the new form, applicants filing only one application may write "1" or simply ignore the box.

The Fee Due, entered in Box 22A, rose to \$50 for the ten-year license term as of September 15, 1997. Hams can ignore Items 23A and 24A. Under Item 25, Payer TIN, and Item 26, Applicant TIN, applicants should supply the appropriate Social Security number(s). The new Form 159 contains a Section F for Credit Card Payment Information. Applicants must print their name and sign Form 159.

--From The ARRL Letter, Sept. 19, 1997.

Latest Band Threat News

There has been no specific new band threat news this month on the Little LEO matter. This situation may remain this way until WRC 97 opens in Geneva in November. However, other countries' delegations may yet propose the

"broad allocation" scheme as the Little LEO companies have been active all over the world selling this idea. See also p. 9, August 1997 QST.

For more information on spectrum matters involving the US budget and other spectrum issues, see pages 15, 16, and 74, August 1997 QST.

VEC Pacific Division Phone Number

To obtain all the Amateur Radio license testing information for the ARRL VEC Pacific Division, call (408) 984-8353. Follow the menu to obtain the necessary details. This information is also available on the Pacific Division WWW site at www.pdarl.org.

Newsletter Competition Entries Sought

The Amateur Radio News Service (ARNS) seeks entries in its annual competition to identify and recognize "superior performance in Amateur Radio journalism" and to evaluate club newsletters "with suggestions for improvement."

The contest is open to all ham radio organizations, and membership in ARNS is not required to enter. Prospective applicants should obtain a contest entry form from ARNS by sending a business-size sase to ARNS President Lee Knirko, W9MOL, 11 S La Salle St., Suite 2100, Chicago, IL 60603-1302. The deadline for entries is December 31, 1997. (Thanks - Jerry Boyd, K6BZ/ARNS.)

Electronic Museum ARC Wins DXCC

The EMARC club station, WB6WSL, was awarded a DXCC certificate by ARRL recently. It is one of the few clubs in the Pacific Division to win this award. (Thanks, Omri Sterlin, AA6TA.)

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.

- Foothill Flea Market - 2nd Saturday of each month from March to October at Foothill College, Los Altos Hills, CA.

Brad Wyatt, K6WR
Director, ARRL Pacific Division

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



Packet: K6WR @ N0ARY.#NCA.CA.USA.NOAM
Internet: k6wr@arrl.org
Pacific Division WWW Home Page <http://www.pdarl.org/>

ARRL Pacific Division Update

November 1997

Pacificon'97 Was a Great Success!

From all reports, the attendees, speakers, exhibitors and vendors all had a great time. Thanks to Greg Estep, KE6VTA, and Sylvia White, KC6YJV, who were the co-Chairs of the event. They and their crew put on the best show in the series so far. Now, on to Pacificon '98 at the Sheraton in Concord.

KI6DS, WA6GER Hams of the Year

Doug Hendricks, KI6DS, and Jim Cates, WA6GER, were named Pacific Division Hams of the Year for 1997 at Pacificon '97.

Jim and Doug are the co-founders of the Northern California QRP Club, a.k.a. NorCal QRP Club. Both thought that the club would attract only a handful of radio amateurs in the Northern California area when they formed it in 1993. Due to their co-leadership and team efforts they now have over 2500 members in all fifty states and some sixty countries. It continues to grow at a high rate.

Congratulations, Doug and Jim!

10 Year Old Passes Extra Exam

Joseph Simon III, KF6ACO, of Alamo, CA, originally licensed about one year ago, passed his Extra Class exam at Pacificon and was awarded his Extra Class license by the FCC the day before his 11th birthday. Congratulations, Joseph! Thanks to ARRL VEC and others.

Latest Band Threat News

This month (November) WRC 97 opens in Geneva. A great effort by ARRL and IARU has been put forth to protect our spectrum. We will not know the results of this enormous amount of work until the gavel comes down in Geneva on Nov. 21. For the latest detailed information, read "It Seems to Us" an editorial by Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, in Nov. QST page 9.

Amateur RF Exposure Rules

The long-awaited FCC decision on RF exposure rules for the amateur radio service were finally released in August. An excellent summary of the obligations the new rules places on individual hams is contained in October QST, pages 51 and 52. Two questions immediately will come to

mind: when must individual hams be in compliance with the new regulations, and how must individual hams demonstrate such compliance? More details are provided in the QST article cited above, but in brief, here's the story.

When - The new regulations become effective Jan. 1, 1998; however, there will be a transition period for compliance by individuals, as follows.

1. New licensees after Jan. 1 1998 must be in compliance with the new regulations at the time of first licensing. The FCC is preparing a new version of Form 610, which will contain a statement to the effect that the new licensee understands and complies with the new regulations. That is, the applicant will certify compliance by the very act of signing off on the 610 application.

2. All those licensed prior to Jan. 1, 1998, will have to be in compliance with the new RF exposure regulations whenever a Form 610 is filed, such as for a license renewal, upgrade, or other modification. Because the same revised Form 610 used by new license applications is used for such modifications, the act of signing off on the 610 will certify compliance.

3. All stations, new or old, must be in compliance with the new regulations no later than Sept. 1, 2000. This date must be met whether a Form 610 has been filed previously or not.

How - The full story of how each ham must determine compliance to the new regulations is too lengthy to present here; additional details may be found in the Oct. 1997 QST article. Briefly, each ham, with some exceptions, will need to perform a routine station evaluation to ensure that maximum permissible exposure levels, as described in the new FCC rules, are not exceeded. Those running at or below certain threshold power levels will be exempt from routine evaluations, although they will not be exempt from complying with the RF exposure levels prescribed by the regulations. The full list of the threshold power levels is given in the Table below. For example, from 160 through 40 meters routine evaluations need not be performed at output levels of 500 watts PEP or less, while at 2 meters the level that triggers an evaluation is 50 watts PEP.

Electronic Renewal Form 900

The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) has consolidated eight renewal forms into one form. Form 900, Application for Electronic Renewal of Wireless Radio Services Authorizations, is an interim measure to permit all WTB licensees, including hams, to renew their licenses electronically.

This form is only for renewals, not for license modifications. You can only enter changes (e.g., name, address) using Form 900 as a part of the process of renewing your license. You can only use Form 900 if the expiration date on your license falls within the renewal window (within 120 days of expiration). You cannot use Form 900 to renew an expired license. Form 900 may only be submitted electronically. No Form 900 paper applications will be

accepted. When filing Form 900, you will be required to enter a Social Security Number for a taxpayer ID number.

Access Form 900 on the WTB Electronic Commerce page, <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/electcom.html>. Select "Production Page for Electronic Commerce Applications" to access the Form 900. Click on any item number for filing instructions. Once you have filed the form, clicking on "Electronic Renewal Query" lets you view or print the information submitted.

Once you have successfully submitted Form 900, it is important to click on the "Continue" button to obtain fee information pertaining to your filing. The screen will prompt you with a Fee Remittance Advice, Form 159. The form will indicate that there is no charge to renew an Amateur Radio license, except for vanity call sign holders, who won't have to renew for several more years yet. (Thanks - FCC and ARRL Letter Oct. 3, 1997.)

Changes to Morse Code Waiver Rules

The ARRL has asked the FCC to change the way Morse code exam exemptions for severely handicapped applicants are handled. The League wants to change the procedural requirements in Part 97 that must be met prior to granting examination credit.

Under the League's proposed changes, a candidate at least would have to attempt the CW test - with any and all permissible accommodations - before being granted an exam waiver based on a physician's certification. Also, Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) would be entitled to request medical information pertinent to an applicant's handicap from the certifying physician. VECs also would be required to have this information on file before the application is forwarded to the FCC for processing.

The League said it believes the procedural changes alone will help to deter those who might abuse the process while still allowing exemptions to deserving applicants.

See the editorial "It Seems to Us" by David Sumner, K1ZZ, QST, Oct. 1997, page 9. (Thanks also to ARRL Letter, Oct. 3, 1997.)

No. California ARES HF Net Established

The Northern California ARES HF Net meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 8:30 PM on 3987 kHz. Net control is the Siskiyou EC, Dave KC6HOY, who established the net. All EC's and ARES members in Northern CA are encouraged to check in. Southern Oregon stations also participate at times.

The Sacramento Valley Section ARES now has a web page. It can be found at <http://www.eheart.com/ares/>. (Thanks, Jerry Boyd, K6BZ -- Pacific Div. AD, PSAC Rep. and SV SEC.)

KK6EK, Wins Cover Plaque Award

Pacific Division member Robert W. Schmieder, KK6EK, won the September 1997 QST Cover Plaque for his article, "The 1997 VK0IR Heard Island Expedition."

Congratulations, Bob! This is Bob's second Cover Plaque Award.

ARRL Audio News Debuted October 17

The League inaugurated ARRL Audio News, a weekly, Web-based audio news service, on October 17. Compiled from the ARRL Letter, ARRL Audio News will include the week's top news from the world of Amateur Radio and the League. ARRL Audio News will be available in RealAudio format via the ARRL Web, <http://www.arrl.org/>. Tucson Amateur Packet Radio (TAPR) has generously agreed to provide space on its Web server to permit the League to offer this service.

Each edition of ARRL Audio News will contain up to 10 minutes of timely Amateur Radio news. It will be available via the ARRL Web every Friday by 9 PM Eastern Time. Dial-up telephone access will be announced later.

For more information, contact Rick Lindquist, N1RL, e-mail n1rl@arrl.org; telephone 860-594-0222. (Thanks, ARRL Letter Oct. 10, 1997.)

US Applies for CEPT Participation

The State Department has applied for US participation in the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) Amateur Radio licensing system. The move, taken on September 22, could eventually make it easier for US hams to operate temporarily in European countries that participate in CEPT, without having to apply for a reciprocal license.

Last fall, the FCC proposed amending the Amateur Radio rules to make it easier for hams holding a CEPT license or an International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) to operate during short visits to the US. (Thanks, ARRL Letter Oct. 10, 1997.)

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.

Brad Wyatt, K6WR
Director, ARRL Pacific Division

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



Packet: K6WR @ N0ARY.#NCA.CA.USA.NOAM
Internet: k6wr@arrl.org
Pacific Division WWW Home Page <http://www.pdarrl.org/>

December Dinner Meeting Sign-up

Our annual December christmas dinner meeting will be on Friday, December 12th, at the Hungry Hunter in Milpitas, Calaveras Blvd near Hwy 680 (old yellow house location), we've been there once before a couple of years ago. Cocktails at 7:30 PM and dinner at 8 PM. We will have a choice of four entrees. Regular dinners are \$21.50 each, children's choices are indicated below. Reservations need to be in by Friday, December 5. Talk-in on our repeater W6UU, 146.385(+). I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there. Why not renew your membership (back cover) at the same time? -- Don K6PBQ

For the annual dinner meeting in December, sign me up for the following dinner(s):
From the regular menu, \$21.50 each:

Prime Ribs of Beef

Whiskey Peppercorn Top Sirloin Steak

Teriyaki Chicken

Sword Fish

From the Children's menu:

Deli Burger, \$7.50

Chicken Strips, \$7.50

Fried Shrimp, \$8.75

Total for dinners: \$ _____

Please renew your membership (over) at the same time--combine both payments here -- GRAND TOTAL: \$ _____

Give this form (or copy) with payment to the Treasurer or mail to: SCCARA PO Box 6 San Jose CA 95103-0006

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):

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.,
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

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

S.C.C.A.R.A. Membership Form for 1998

(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 ————— PLEASE DO NOT TEAR/CUT —————

SANTA CLARA COUNTY
AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 6
San Jose CA 95103-0006

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
SAN JOSE CA
PERMIT NO 3318

FORWARD & ADDRESS CORRECTION