

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 14, Number 2

February 1998



President's Prose

Greetings, SCCARAnians!

I hope you all enjoyed the holidays. My work schedule underwent some small changes in the last few weeks, but I think everything is back to normal now, and I can settle back into my old Tuesday through Saturday routine!

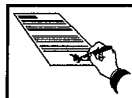
Not much positive news to give you this month, although Don Hayden, KO6HH, has some items that were donated by the Keller estate in his possession. Don will check them out and report their status to your Board of Directors.

The City of San Jose has not done anything regarding our Memorandum of Understanding to permit SCCARA to occupy their secure equipment site. We are coming under increasing pressure to move our 2 Meter repeater and we may have to relocate it to a temporary site while we await the San Jose City Council action.

Our Red Cross friends have not warmed to the idea of having us around. Seems it's ok to store our equipment in the Communications Room, but they don't expect us to USE it often! What we need is a more User-Friendly site for our club station. Maybe someplace we might be able to put up a tower and a beam? Maybe one of the Seagate buildings?

That's all for now...

73, Jack, AC6FU

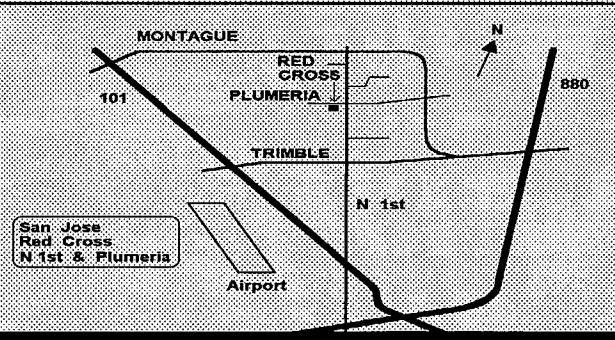
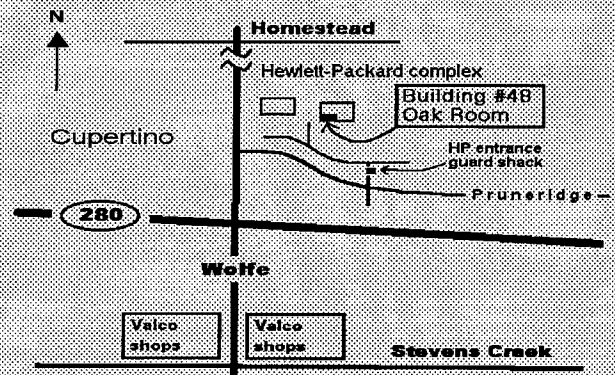


Calendar

- 2/9 SCCARA General Meeting
- 2/16 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 3/9 SCCARA General Meeting

Next General Meeting:

Day: Monday, February 9, 1998
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Hewlett-Packard's Oak Rm. Bld #48
Agenda: (to be announced)



Meeting Minutes

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 W6UW.

SCCARA web page: <http://www.qsl.net/sccara>

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	Kevin Gehrke, KF6MBG	929-2492
Treasurer	Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI	225-6769
Station Trustee	Stan Getsla, WA6VJY	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

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Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	265-2336
Facilities	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
Webmaster	Kevin Gehrke, KF6MBG	929-2492

COMMITTEES

Repeater	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
Field Day	Dan Dietz, WM6M	458-3460

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). Coordinator: Don K6PBQ.

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

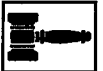
SCCARA HOTLINE:	249-6909
ARRL LICENSE (VEC) HOTLINE:	984-8353

General Meeting, Jan. 12, 1998



{No minutes were received by the deadline. --Ed.}

Board Meeting, Jan. 19, 1998



{No minutes were received by the deadline. --Ed.}

CQ SKN DE K6PBQ

On January 1st the ARRL had their straight key night (SKN). I operated this event again starting on Dec. 31 through New Years day (4 PM to 4 PM). I made 21 QSO's from as close as Saratoga and as far away as New York. It's a good operating activity to start the new year off with. I made a few contacts on 40 meters, but 20 meters was the most active band.

My key is an E. F. Johnson Brass Key. It's fun to get back to basics for a day. I sent in my log sheet to the ARRL and will receive a participation certificate for this event. It's fun, so lets polish up our keys for next year.

73, Don Village, K6PBQ

News & Misc.

From The ARRL Letter, January 9, 1998

MIR to stay up a bit longer; next crew to be all hams

News reports say that the 12-year-old Russian Mir space station may stay in orbit until the first components of the International Space Station are in place in 1999--a few months longer than planned. The first ISS units are set to be launched later this year. Hams are scheduled to be among the first crew members to populate the ISS, but the US presence aboard Mir will come to an end this June.

US astronaut David Wolf, KC5VPF, now aboard Mir, is scheduled to be replaced later this month by Australian-born US astronaut Andy Thomas, KC5CHF. Two new Russian crew members, both hams, are due to arrive at month's end.

NASA has set January 22 as the launch date for the penultimate space shuttle trip to Mir. The shuttle Endeavor will carry supplies and a crew of seven, including Thomas.

Wolf has been living on Mir since late September. Thomas will work aboard Mir until June, when the US shuttle Discovery will dock with Mir for the final time, rounding off the Russian-US cooperative mission.

Wolf's research schedule has allowed him little spare time to use the ham radio equipment aboard Mir. The packet system aboard the space station has been experiencing problems because the crew has not had time to set up the correct parameters for the new TNC aboard Mir. This week, Wolf, 41, monitored and filmed the operation from inside Mir's main module as his two cosmonaut crewmates conducted a space walk to check a leaky hatch and to retrieve some equipment. Wolf and cosmonaut Anatoly Solovyov will carry out a NASA-run spacewalk on January 14 to recover experiments set up outside Mir by previous US astronauts.

The SAFEX repeater (downlink 437.950 MHz; uplink 435.750 MHz) has been active on an intermittent basis. The crew has turned off the CTCSS tone feature of the repeater, making it easier for weak stations to access the repeater. However, this also means the repeater may transmit noise and occasionally time out.

While the aging space station has been free of the kinds of major troubles that plagued it last year, Mir's computer malfunctioned just two days into the new year. The problem was subsequently fixed.

Later this month, Mir will get a bit crowded. French astronaut Leopold Eyharts is scheduled to join Russian cosmonauts Talgat Musabayev, RO3FT, and Nikolai Budarin, RV3FB (ex-RV3DB and R4MIR) in the first crew change of the year. They are scheduled to blast off to Mir on January 29. Eyharts' mission to Mir was planned for last August but had to be postponed after a Progress cargo rocket collided with Mir last June forcing emergency repairs. Eyharts will work aboard Mir for three weeks before returning to earth with Anatoly Solovyov and Pavel Vinogradov, the current Mir Russian contingent.

Sputnik PS2/RS-17 officially declared dead

It's official. The Sputnik PS2/RS-17 mini-satellite is a silent key. It ceased transmitting on December 29, 1997. The little satellite, a one-third scale replica of the original Sputnik 1, beep-beeped its way around the globe for 55 days, more than two weeks longer than it had been projected to last. The 200-mW transmitter was powered by lithium batteries.

The Sputnik PS-2 was launched by hand from the Russian Mir space station on November 4, 1997, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the launching of the original Sputnik by

the USSR in 1957. The original Sputnik only transmitted for about one month.

The Sputnik PS2 beacon, on 145.82, was widely monitored and recorded around the world. The satellite was fabricated by students in Russia and on France's Reunion Island. Sputnik 40 Years, which sponsored the satellite project, said the last known recordings of the Sputnik PS2 beacon were made on December 29 at approximately 2100 UTC by a ham in Washington and by FR1AJ on Reunion Island. At the time, the data indicated an internal temperature of 40 degrees C.

Those tracking the satellite reported that the Sputnik PS2's beacon signal had continued to get weaker as the end approached. Even after the beep-beep ceased, however, the satellite's unmodulated oscillator continued to transmit for a while longer.

Reception reports go to The Radio Club of Jules Reydellet school on Reunion Island. Those whose reports are confirmed will receive an approximately 6x9-inch color certificate on high-quality paper with number identification and the radio club stamp. Requests for these certificates should be made only by letter with an SASE (6x9 inch) and two (2) IRCs. Do not send requests via e-mail! The mailing address is FR5KJ Radio Club, 103 Rue de la Republique, 97 489 Saint Denis Cedex, Reunion Island.

Six meters turns hot for new year

The new year arrived with a bang on six meters--once again demonstrating why it's known as "The Magic Band." Rick, K6SIX, was among those benefiting from the apparent F2-layer propagation on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day available from some parts of the US. "I thought it was going to be a great start to 1998 when I worked ZF1DC," he said, "but just an hour later, I worked ZL3NW in grid RE66 on 50.125!"

Others also managed US-to-ZL contacts. "What a way to start the new year!!!" exclaimed Ron, K5LLL, who worked both ZL2TPY and ZL3NW just a few minutes into the new year (GMT).

Additional stations posted equally enthusiastic messages on the Internet reflectors. "WOW! what a way to start the New Year," wrote WB2QLP in Florida after he'd just worked several South American stations on six. "I think Cycle 23 has a lot of DX in store for us."

Mike, ZL3TIC/ZL3SIX, reported hearing American Samoa and the FO5DR beacon (50.050 MHz) as well as several US stations.

Newsline reports that Dave, KC6WFS, in California, turned on his old Gonset G-50 AM transceiver and worked

Oklahoma and several other AM DX contacts. Other US stations managed to work stateside DX on FM.

Oscar, CO2OJ, in Cuba reported working several US stations, including some as far away as California and Texas.

ARRL antenna guru Dean Straw, N6BV, speculates the propagation involved was probably multiple F2 hops, most likely combined with sporadic E.

RS-12 and others continue to provide Mode-A access

If you've never operated through any of the ham radio satellites, you're missing a whole dimension of ham radio. It's very easy to get on most satellites, and Mode A is among the simplest of all. In Mode A, you transmit (SSB or CW) on 2 meters and receive the satellite's transponder downlink on 10 meters. Two Russian satellites still offer Mode A as well as other modes.

RS-12 is home to a lot of Mode A activity over North America. To operate Mode A, you transmit between 145.91 and 145.95 MHz on CW or SSB (do not attempt to use FM on these satellites), and listen for your signal between 29.41 and 29.45 MHz. The RS-12 beacon is at 29.408. If you're operating a simplex transceiver working crossband (such as the ICOM IC-706MkII), you'll need a separate receiver to hear your own signal coming back through the satellite. HQ staffer and satellite enthusiast Peter Budnik, KB1HY, says he gets good signal reports on Mode A via RS-12. Even a modest station should have no trouble making contacts through the satellites. He uses AMSAT's InstantTrack software to track satellite passes (<http://www.amsat.org/amsat/catalog/software.html> or call 301-589-6062). Keplerian elements also are available from AMSAT's Web site.

"It's a fun bird," says Budnik, adding that a typical pass at a high elevation might last up to 15 minutes and provide a 1500 to 2000 mile footprint on Earth. Passes closer to the horizon can offer much further distances. For instance, from the Eastern US, when the satellite is over the mid-Atlantic, you can easily work into Europe.

By the way, RS-12 also now operates in Mode KA, which is 15 or 2 meters up and 10 meters down.

Another Mode A satellite possibility is RS-15 (uplink 145.858-145.898 MHz; downlink 29.354-29.394 MHz; beacon 29.352.5 MHz). Experienced operators say CW is very easy to hear on the downlink via RS-15. HQ staffer and experienced satellite op Steve Ford, WB8IMY, suggests that RS-15 is "definitely not a beginner bird for Mode A." The RS-16 satellite also is designed for Mode A, but it's not yet available for ham radio, and no one seems to know when it will be.

Never run more power than you need to get an adequate signal back through the transponder. In some cases, where the pass is directly overhead, you can make the bird while running just a few watts ERP (effective radiated power), although Ford says your signal might be on the weak side. But you don't want to engage in overkill and run too much power either. Keep in mind that even 10 W to a multi-element (gain) antenna can mean you're developing an ERP of several hundred watts. The rule of thumb is that, in no case should your signal through the transponder be louder than the satellite's beacon. A satellite's transponder only has so much power to go around, and it's "spread" among all users. A stronger-than-necessary uplink signal will suck power away from other users.

Budnik says he's experienced some QRM and transponder desensing from terrestrial simplex FM activity in the 2-meter uplink band. Stations should avoid operating terrestrial FM in those portions of the band set aside for satellite operation.

From The ARRL Letter, January 16, 1998

{Looks like the rumor mill is alive and well on packet and the internet. --Ed}.

FCC "Internet fee" notice is old news: The FCC's trying to staunch a flow of e-mail concerning a non-existent issue. Several individuals, including some hams, have circulated or posted "warnings" on the Internet concerning the possibility that telephone companies would be permitted to charge by the minute for Internet access. Some recipients of this "warning" were advised that the telephone companies were trying to slip this past the public before users realized what was happening. The "warning" mentioned a February 1998 date to send comments to the FCC. In short, this is old news. The FCC did issue a Notice of Inquiry on this topic in late 1996 (with a reply comment deadline in February 1997), but it subsequently rejected the idea. The FCC now has posted a message to this effect on its Web site (see http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Common_Carrier/Factsheets/ispf_act.html): "There is no open comment period in this proceeding. If you have recently seen a message on the Internet stating that in response to a request from local telephone companies, the FCC is requesting comments to isp@fcc.gov by February 1998, be aware that this information is inaccurate."

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the packet network:

=====
Date: 15 Jan 98 08:01

From: AB7RG@KB7FRV
To: FARCE@USA
Subject: Stupid Criminals! (True!):

STUPID CRIMINALS:

(True stories!)

When a man attempted to siphon gasoline from a motor home parked on a Seattle street, he got much more than he bargained for. Police arrived at the scene to find an ill man curled up next to a motor home near spilled sewage. A police spokesman said that the man admitted to trying to steal gasoline and plugged his hose into the motor home's sewage tank by mistake. The owner of the vehicle declined to press charges, saying that it was the best laugh he'd ever had.

A woman was reporting her car as stolen, and mentioned that there was a car phone in it. The policeman taking the report called the phone and told the guy that answered that he had read the ad in the newspaper and wanted to buy the car. They arranged to meet, and the thief was arrested.

A 45 year old woman was arrested in San Antonio, Texas after a mechanic reported to the police that 18 packages of marijuana were packed in the engine compartment of the car which she had brought to the mechanic for an oil change. According to police, the woman later said that she didn't realize that the mechanic would have to raise the hood to change the oil.

A 33 year old man was arrested recently in Providence, R.I. after allegedly knocking out an armored car driver and stealing the closest four bags of money. It turned out they contained \$800 in PENNIES, weighed 30 pounds each, and slowed him to a stagger during his getaway so that officers easily jumped him from behind.

The Belgium news agency Belga reported in November that a man suspected of robbing a jewelry store in Liege said he couldn't have done it because he was busy breaking into a school at the time. Police then arrested him for breaking into the school.

A drug-possession defendant, on trial in March in Pontiac, Michigan, said he had been searched without a warrant. The prosecutor said the officer didn't need a warrant because a "bulge" in the man's jacket could have been a gun. Nonsense said the defendant, who happened to be wearing the same jacket that day in court. He handed it over so the judge could see it. The judge discovered a packet of cocaine in the pocket and laughed so hard he required a five-minute recess to compose himself.

Clever drug traffickers used a propane tanker truck

entering El Paso from Mexico. They rigged it so propane gas would be released from all of its valves while the truck concealed 6,240 pounds of marijuana. They were clever, but not bright. They misspelled the name of the gas company on the side of the truck.

In Oklahoma City, a man was on trial for the armed robbery of a convenience store in a district court this week when he fired his lawyer. The assistant district attorney said that the defendant was doing a fair job of defending himself until the store manager testified that the man was the robber. The defendant jumped up, accused the woman of lying and then said, "I should have blown your <expletive> head off." The defendant paused, then quickly added, "if I'd been the one that was there." The jury took 20 minutes to convict the man and recommend a 30-year sentence.

A 21 year old man walked up to two patrol officers who were showing their squad car computer equipment to children in a Detroit neighborhood. When he asked how the system worked, the officers asked him for a piece of identification. The man gave them his driver's license, they entered it into the computer, and moments later they arrested him because information on the screen showed that he was wanted for a two-year-old armed robbery in St. Louis, Missouri.

73 & May the FARCE be with you! Clinton,
AB7RG @ KB7FRV.AZ.USA.NOAM

=====
Date: 19 Mar 95 23:47
From: KF4OJ@KF4OJ
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Lots of woman

Lots of women still believe in miracles...If you don't think so, just visit a beauty parlor.

-
I saw this sign in the window of a beauty parlor...We can give you the new look if you still have the old parts.

-
Phyllis has been getting those expensive facial treatments for years...Finally she asked her hairdresser....How come after all these years I don't get any better-looking? He said...I think you've built up an immunity

-
The doctor warned the man who was a heart case...not to smoke, drink or dance during his convalescence...What about kissing? The doctor said...Only with your wife...I don't want you to get excited.

-
People who lose sleep over the stock market are lucky...I loose money

The reason the stock market shuts down on the weekend is to give the investor's hair a chance to grow out.

My neighbor bought some stock for his old age...and it worked. Within a month he was an old man.

The only thing I've learned about the stock market is that you have to be patient...and the way it's been going lately, I'm going to become one.

I have an unusual broker...He specializes in stock losses.

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

Date: 19 Jun 95 16:27
From: KC7AQB@KG7LX
To: PUZZLE@USA
Subject: Another tricky puzzle

Once, there was this guy, who was happily married, and had one child. One day, however, for no reason at all, a god came down and explained the following to the guy: "For no reason at all, I am going to turn your wife into a rosebush. She will be in a field with two other rosebushes. Each bush will be EXACTLY alike, every petal, branch, stem, leaf, etc. Hey, I don't know why I'm doing this, but it's part of the story, OK? Anyway, every night she will come alive and visit your house, so from sundown to sunrise, she can come over and be with you."

He did this for a month, sleeping during the day, then seeing his wife at night. Then, one day, for no reason at all (as everything happens in this story), the god came back and said: "OK, I'll cut a deal with you. Tomorrow morning, go out to the field, and pick a single rose off ONE, and only one of the rosebushes. If the rosebush you pick from is your wife, she will come back alive and be with you forever. If you pick wrongly, she will evaporate into dust and never come back... period."

So, that night the man met with his wife again. When the sun rose, he rushed out to the field with the three identical rosebushes. He studied carefully and picked a rose. It was off his wife's bush. How did he know which bush to pick from?

KC7AQB@KG7LX.OR.USA.NOAM

Date: 12 Jan 98 07:00
From: AB7RG@KB7FRV
To: FARCE@USA
Subject: Toy Store...

After spending 3-1/2 hours enduring the long lines, surly clerks, and insane regulations at the department of motor vehicles, I stopped at a toy store to pick up a gift for my son. I brought my selection -- a baseball bat -- to the cash register. "Cash or charge?" The clerk asked. "Cash!" I snapped. Then apologizing for my rudeness, I explained, "I've spent the afternoon at the motor vehicle bureau." "Shall I gift wrap the bat?" The clerk asked sweetly. "Or are you going back there?"

73 & May the FARCE be with you! Clinton,
AB7RG @ KB7FRV.AZ.USA.NOAM

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, WB6YRU
Lightning protection, grounding: WB6YRU
Station set-up, equipment: AC6FU, K6PBQ
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
DX (long distance/propagation): WB6EMR
Emergency operating/preparedness: WA6QYS
FM (VHF/UHF, repeaters): WA6VJY
HF operating techniques (SSB, CW):
WB6EMR, AC6FU, K6PBQ
Mobile operating: 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

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

One Liners

Floating around the internet...

If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.

A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking. Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism. He who hesitates is probably right.

Never do card tricks for the group you play poker with.

No one is listening until you make a mistake.

Success always occurs in private and failure in full view.

The colder the X-ray table, the more of your body is required on it.

The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.

The severity of the itch is proportional to the reach.

To steal from one is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.

To succeed in politics, it is often necessary to rise above your principles.

Two wrongs are only the beginning.

You never really learn to swear until you learn to drive.

The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory. If you must choose between two evils, pick the one you've never tried before.

Don't sweat petty things... or pet sweaty things.

A fool and his money are soon partying.

Attempt to get a new car for your spouse--it'll be a great trade!

Hell hath no fury like the lawyer of a woman scorned.

Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks.

Hard work and sacrifice pay off in the future; laziness pays off now.

Eagles may soar, but weasels aren't sucked into jet engines.

Half the people you know are below average.

99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.

A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.

If at first you don't succeed, then skydiving definitely is not for you!

Everyone has a photographic memory; some just don't have film.

Boycott shampoo! Demand the REAL pool!

Who is General Failure and why is he reading my hard disk?

What happens if you get scared half to death, twice?

Energizer Bunny arrested, charged with battery.

I used to have an open mind but my brains kept falling out.

I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder.

Shin: a device for finding furniture in the dark.

How do you tell when you run out of invisible ink?

Laughing stock: cattle with a sense of humor.

How come "psychics" have to ask you for your name?

Support your right to bare arms! - wear short sleeve shirts.

For Sale: Parachute. Only used once, never opened, small stain.

OK, so what's the speed of dark?

Corduroy pillows: They're making headlines!

Black holes are where God divided by zero.

All those who believe in psychokinesis raise my hand.

Newsletter Notes

Last month I reported on a high-end printer that would be capable of producing the newsletter on its own, as opposed to having it copied. It's also able to produce a much higher quality page than what the copy machines are capable of putting out and could automatically print the mailing labels directly on each one at the same time. However, it would take many years for that thing to pay for itself. So, the board decided to not go that route and just stick with a lower-end printer; something good enough to print photos, but that's it.

Speaking of photos... So far nobody has stepped forward to be the club's photographer. If the cost is an issue, the club can reimburse you.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

ARRL Pacific Division Update

February 1998

RF Exposure Guidelines Now in Effect

Compliance with the new guidelines should be relatively easy for the vast majority of hams and should require few changes in current operating practices. These Amateur Radio rules deal with the general public for the first time in a new substantial manner; therefore, compliance is very important.

There are numerous information resources - an excellent summary of the guidelines is contained in October QST, pages 51 and 52. An article titled "How To Do a Routine Evaluation," starting at page 50 in the January 1998 QST, will answer most questions. Also, an ARRL book on this subject should be available soon.

Recent Pacific Division Updates have contained "run-up" articles. These documents are available on the Pacific Division web site at <http://www.pdarrrl.org/>.

FCC has published OET Bulletin 65, "Evaluating Compliance with FCC Guidelines for Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields," Edition 97-01, August 1997, and Supplement B, "Additional Information for Amateur Radio Stations."

For the latest news on this matter and linkage to related Web sites, visit the ARRL RF-Safety Web page at <http://www.arrl.org/news/rfsafety>. To obtain the FCC documents directly refer to the FCC site at <http://www.fcc.gov/oet/rfsafety>.

As part of the implementation of these new guidelines, there is a new Form 610 series, dated Sept. 1997. There are three new forms in this series: Form 610 is for basic transactions, Form 610-A is for operating privileges for foreign nationals, and Form 610-B is for club stations. These new forms MUST be used for all licensing transactions after Jan. 1, 1998. The new forms all contain a statement to the effect that the applicant understands and complies with the new RF Safety regulations. The new 610 form series can be obtained on the FCC WWW site at <http://www.fcc.gov>, the ARRL Web page at <http://www.arrl.org>, by contacting the FCC Central Phone Service at 1-888-CALLFCC (225-7245), by writing FCC at 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg PA, 17325-7245, or by contacting the ARRL at (860) 594-0200 or at 225 Main St., Newington CT, 06111-1494.

Here are the key dates to remember:

1. New licensees after Jan. 1, 1998, must be in compliance with the new regulations at the time of first licensing. The applicant will certify compliance by the very act of signing off on the new 610.

2. All those licensed prior to Jan. 1, 1998, will have to be in compliance with the new RF exposure regulations

whenever a new Form 610 is filed for license renewal, upgrade, or other modification.

3. All licensees, 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.

Electronic Renewal Form Works Well

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

Form 900 is only for renewals within 120 days prior to license expiration. You can only enter changes (e.g., name, address).

Latest Congressional News

Congress has recessed until Jan. 26, 1998. As a result, there has been no action on HR 2369, the Wireless Privacy Enhancement Act, after it was rewritten to reflect the concerns of Amateur Radio operators, volunteer fire fighters, scanner enthusiasts, and others. The ARRL worked with a coalition of other organizations to make sure your voice was heard on The Hill.

Similarly, there has been no action on S. 1350 or other bills. See DC Currents in Jan. QST, for more details.

Vanity Call Sign Gate 4 is Open

General, Technician Plus, Technician, and Novice Class amateur operators may now request a vanity call sign. The details for requesting a vanity call sign follow the pattern used on the previous gates. QST, Pacific Division Updates and other publications detail the use of Forms 610-V and 159 for filing electronically and in paper document format. The fee is \$50 for the 10 year license.

New Features on Pac. Div. Web site

Thanks to Paul Wesling, KM6LH, Pacific Div. Webmaster and his crew, there are some new features on the Pacific Division web site, at www.pdarrrl.org.

The audio versions of the ARRL Letter and other newsletters are available using the Real Audio feature of the TAPR web site. Many thanks to TAPR for providing this facility! The Vanity Calls section will be updated shortly to include recently issued Gate 4 calls.

Handi-Ham Camp in CA Announced

The next session of HANDI-HAM Radio Workshop (Camp) will be held at Camp Joan Mier, Malibu, from February 24 to March 1, 1998.

This camp will provide ham radio instruction at all levels for persons with severe physical (not learning) disabilities and/or sensory impairments.

The camp in 1998 will be FREE for California residents who are going for a first ticket or upgrade. All normal care, food, lodging, and Amateur Radio instruction for the session will be provided AT NO COST to the campers.

If you or anyone you know is interested, contact Jane Rova, Secretary, Courage HANDI-HAM System, 3915 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55422; (612) 520-0512; e-mail handiham@mtn.org.

ARRL Program to Enhance Elmering

Over the years, countless letters and articles have been written in the pages of QST about Elmers, those patient, inspired souls who thoroughly enjoy bringing newcomers into the world of Amateur Radio. Now, the ARRL's new Radio Coaches program takes Elmering to new levels. Through the Radio Coaches program, you and your fellow club members can become part of a national effort to better the lives of youth using Amateur Radio. And ARRL will provide the game plan and materials!

Radio Coaches stems from the kickoff of America's Promise, the Alliance for Youth, a national campaign to improve the lives of the nation's young people and put them on paths for brighter, more productive futures.

The mission will be to give young people an ongoing relationship with a caring adult and a marketable skill through effective education. Amateur Radio will be our chief tool.

Through Radio Coaches, we want to reinforce the idea that Amateur Radio is a "sport for the brain." Ham radio provides not only a lifetime of enjoyment, but also, potentially, a lifetime career.

To get involved contact Radio Coaches, c/o Field Services Department, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington CT, 06111; or e-mail coaches@arrl.org. Thanks, ARRL Letter, Nov. 14, 1997.

Call for New Ham Education

Information on "How to Become a Ham," education books and materials, instructors, etc., can be found by calling ARRL Educational Activities Department at 1-800-32NEW-HAM or by visiting the ARRL web site at <http://www.arrl.org>. On the web site look under the category of "How to Become a Ham."

There is a variety of ham education information available within the Pacific Division. Some selected sources are as follows: "One-on-one" code practice using MCW is on the KM6DZ repeater (146.655-) in Monterey after 9:00 PM Thursdays; KN6FR in Monterey teaches classes regularly; K5FO holds code practice on his web site at <http://reality.sgi.com/adams/>; Jack Carter, K4WRM, in Nevada City, will hold Novice and No Code Technician classes

starting Jan. 28; No-Code Technician classes will be held by Tim Lyons, KF6LCH, in Ridgecrest, starting Jan. 22, by the Humboldt ARC in Eureka starting Jan. 12, and by Duncan Insley, WA6RRU, of Sierra Intermountain ARA in Minden, NV, starting Feb. 4.

Call for Scholarship Applications

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington D.C., plans to administer sixty-six (66) scholarships for the academic year 1998-99 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds nine of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual Hamfest. The remaining fifty-seven are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2500 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Clubs are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters, during training classes, on their nets and on their WWW pages.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 1998, from FAR Scholarships, 6903 Rhode Island Ave, College Park MD 20740

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.
- The Naval Postgraduate School ARC is having its 7th Winterfest on Feb. 21, 1998, in Monterey. Visit <http://www.mcktech.com/wf98.htm> web site for details. It's a free public service event with the flea market paying for the event. Contact Doug McKinney at KC3RL@mcktech.com, or phone at (H) (408) 663-6117 in Prunedale, CA.

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Pacific Division Web site <http://www.pdarrrl.org/>



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
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