

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 14, Number 4

April 1998



President's Prose

Hello SCCARAns

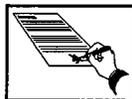
I hope you are all looking forward to Spring. A little less rain, a little more sun? We seem to be moving toward some degree of closure on at least two fronts this month.

The City of San Jose has decided to set up a repeater for us at their vault. Most of the equipment will be furnished by the city and we will need the duplexers from our repeater to complete the assembly, as I understand it. Our imminent move from Trish's place to the vault will now await the completion of the installation of the new equipment.

Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, is heading up a committee to find an alternative site for our club station. The American Red Cross in San Jose does not offer us enough future and your Board of Directors has seen fit to look elsewhere. If any of you have leads on either a station base (fixed or mobile) or a central site that may be available for our use, please contact Barbara or one of the other board members.

My last item is the need for a new SCCARA secretary. Kevin Gehrke, KQ6TV, has resigned and we need a volunteer! Kevin has too many other commitments (including a very demanding job schedule) to continue and we really need someone who can be at both the General and the Board meetings on a regular basis. Kevin, by the way, was also our Webmeister, so we are losing out on the Web page he constructed for us, unless we can come up with someone who will take responsibility for the maintenance of the Web page.

73 'til next time - Jack, AC6FU

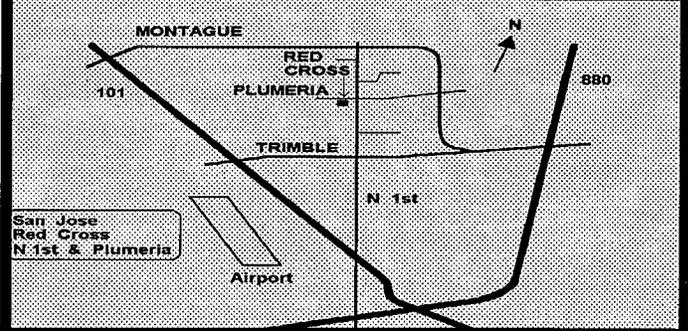
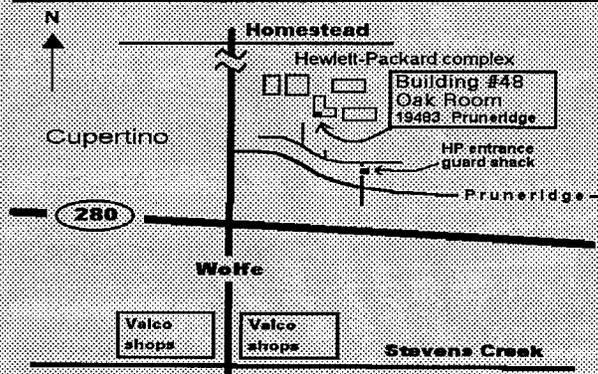


Calendar

- 4/11 Foothill Electronic Flea Market
- 4/13 SCCARA General Meeting
- 4/21 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 5/11 SCCARA General Meeting

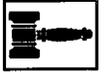
Next General Meeting:

- Day: Monday, April 13, 1998
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: Hewlett-Packard's Oak Rm, Bld #48
- Agenda: John Farley, KNTV Weather, will talk about El Niño, etc.



Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, March 9, 1998



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.

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		
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

STAFF

Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	265-2336
Facilities	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789

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

Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM by president Jack AC6FU. Secretary isn't here, WB6YRU will take minutes.

Self introductions

Moment of silence for Joe, WA6DXP (died recently)

Lou WA6QYS: XYL of Pat Lokke K6GNG, mother of Glenn KE6NBO died.

Speaker didn't show up, membership discussion instead...

Club station at the Red Cross is not very accessible. A radio/communication van or trailer was suggested. A camping trailer would be cheaper and less upkeep. Don KO6HH has a flat place where it could be stored. Barbara KD6QEI will check into the possibility of hooking up with the amateur radio room at Moffett Field and also a trailer for the club station.

Discussion of amateur radio and emergencies followed.

Wally KA6YMD: Repeater move to Eagle Rock Radio Vault OK'd by the City of San Jose (finally). We need at least a week of dry weather for access (dirt road). Trish will allow the repeater to stay until the move to the radio vault.

Clark KE6KXO: Motion to purchase a trailer to house the club station. Seconded and passed unanimously. Clark volunteers his yard to work on the trailer. Don KO6HH volunteers his yard to store and use the club station (trailer). Don KO6HH would like \$50 to \$100 to install electricity to where the trailer would be located.

Mike K8ERL: Motion to provide up to \$100 for Don KO6HH to install power for the trailer site. Seconded and passed unanimously.

Mike K8ERL: Motion to donate \$100 to Hospice of the Valley in the name of Joe WA6DXP. Motion is out of order since we have Standing Rules to do this sort of thing automatically when a member dies.

Don K6PBQ: Net controllers for the two-meter net are rotated between a few people. Kevin KQ6TV missed his turn last time. We need to work on a back-up plan when this happens.

Lou WA6QYS: SVECS could use more help hosting the Foothill Flea Market this Saturday, March 14.

Adjourned 9:04 PM

Recording for the Secretary, Gary, WB6YRU

Board Meeting, March 16, 1998



Called to order 7:50 PM, Jack AC6FU presiding

Present: Jack, KC6FU; Barbara, KD6QEI; Wally, KA6YMD; Gary, WB6YRU; Lloyd, KD6FJI; Don, K6PBQ; Don, KK6MX.

SECRETARY POSITION: Secretary Kevin, KQ6TV has resigned. Obviously we need a new secretary ASAP. Don K6PBQ is interested, but doesn't have a computer. Gary, WB6YRU suggested Don could use one of the club's computers.

TRAILER FOR SCCARA RADIO ROOM, KD6QEI: Prices from ads in paper were higher than what club is willing to pay. Barbara is to keep looking and will report findings. Jack AC6FU will contact the West Valley A.R.A. about their experiences regarding their radio trailer.

TRAILER STORAGE SITES: Don Hayden, KO6HH volunteered his location to store a radio trailer. His home is up in the Santa Cruz mountains and may not be easy to get to, especially in case of a disaster. Other suggested sites are: 1) Alexian Brothers Hospital. 2) Kelly Historical Park. 3) Don Apte has a vacant lot at Hedding and 101. 4) Storage business. 5) Cal Trans Railroad Park and Ride lots. 6) Moffett Field. 7) Lake Cunningham Park. 8) San Jose State University.

Don K6PBQ will ask Frank, K6RQ and Mike, K8ERL if either would like to write up something about Joe Quirantes, WA6DZP, a recent silent key, for the newsletter. As per standing rules, a \$50.00 donation will be sent to Hospice of the Valley in Joe's name.

It was confirmed that a donation was sent to the Parkinson's Foundation in the name of Norm KC6VPZ (SK).

SCCARA REPEATER MOVE: City of San Jose finally gave the go-ahead and is waiting for dry weather to get the repeater moved from Trish's place to the new site above Alum Rock Park.

REPEATER CODES: The repeater codes are reportedly not getting sent out in a timely manner. The Secretary has those and is supposed to be dealing with it.

ROSTER: The Treasurer has many new membership

applications for the roster database. The Editor has been using the same data for the newsletter mailing labels for five months. Kevin has had the secretary's files for at least two months.

Web page: Lloyd KD6FJI reports that SCCARA's web page seems to be down. Kevin KQ6TV was our webmaster. In light of Kevin's resignation, it may be gone for good.

Meeting adjourned 9:20 PM.

Barbara KD6QEI & Gary WB6YRU

Board Meeting, Dec. 15, 1997



Called to order 7:44 PM

Carla, who owns the house where our repeater is located, wishes the repeater to be moved out, preferably by the end of January, 1998. The City still hasn't given the go-ahead for moving the repeater into their radio vault at Eagle Rock Point...it now seems they have a problem with privately owned equipment at a city site. The repeater could be moved to the old site at Alexian Brothers Hospital (where the 440 repeater is still located). Discussion on the mechanics of moving to Alexian Brothers followed.

Dan WM6M will be Field Day Chairman for 1997.

QST and World Radio mention amateur radio events. We should pick out events three months in advance and publish in the SCCARA-GRAM, also announce on the two-meter net. Barbara KD6QEI will gather the info and make up a calendar. Such activities are a chance to use the club station.

Don KK6MX talked with city OES about having our station on City grounds. One possibility is Kelly Park, also the Historical Museum has extra vacant buildings.

Don KK6MX: Ben Carluci (former SCCARA member) has a house above Alum Rock Park and might consider hosting the repeater.

Field Day will again be at Mt. Madonna. Don K6PBQ will make the reservations for the same camp area.

Mrs. Keller (XYL of Bob KD6OHO, SK) was invited to SCCARA's Christmas dinner. She has given most of the badge making equipment to Lou WA6QYS, (the press itself is missing). She also wants to donate Bob's amateur equipment to the club, some of which can be used for Field Day or the club station. Both Bob and his father were hams; a plaque on the equipment could read in memory of Bob and

his father.

Club station idea: We have an antenna trailer, why not a trailer for the club station. Don KK6MX will contact the city to see if they have any old communication trailers/vans that they want to get rid of. We should plan on keeping it in a locked yard. A school district might allow room to store/use the trailer.

Don KK6MX: My employer has old computer equipment that might be donated or sold cheap to SCCARA. Clark KE6KXO: Motion for Don KK6MX to acquire available computer equipment for SCCARA. Seconded and passed.

For the next christmas meeting, we might consider a lunch instead of dinner...might bring out more people since it would not be at night.

Dan WM6M sent in the renewal for the club station license a few years ago (good for ten years).

Adjourned.

Recording for the Secretary, Barbara, KD6QEI

Bad Computer!

Computer Charged with Murder After Frying Chess Champ
by Ragan Dunn, in the 14 March 1989 issue of Weekly World News

A Soviet super-computer has been ordered to stand trial for the murder of chess champion Nikolai Gudkov -- who was electrocuted when he touched the metal board that he and the machine were playing on! "This was no accident -- it was cold-blooded murder," Soviet police investigator Alexei Shainev told reporters in Moscow. "Niko Gudkov won three straight games and the computer couldn't stand it. When the chess master reached for his knight to begin play in the fourth game, the computer sent a lethal surge of electricity to the board surface. The computer had been programmed to move its chess pieces by producing a low-level electric current. Gudkov was electrocuted while a gallery of hundreds watched."

The decision to put the computer on trial stunned legal experts around the world. *[I hope computer experts are also shocked, so to speak. --spaf]* But the Soviets are convinced that the computer had the pride and intelligence to develop a hatred for Gudkov -- and the motive and means to kill him. The mind-boggling murder drama unfolded during a six-day chess marathon between the M2-1 1 supercomputer and Gudkov, a world class chess player. According to reports, Gudkov defied all odds *[calculated by the same supercomputer, no doubt. --spaf]* and beat the machine in three consecutive

games. And when they prepared to begin their fourth, a deadly dose of electricity flowed up into the electronic board and zapped Gudkov dead. Soviet authorities initially thought that the surge of electricity was caused by a short-circuit. But an examination of the computer revealed no problems.

It was later determined that the machine diverted the flow of electricity from its brain to the chess board to ensure a victory over Gudkov. "The computer was programmed to win at chess and when it couldn't do that legitimately, it killed its opponent," said investigator Shainev. "It might sound ridiculous to bring a machine to trial for murder. But a machine that can solve problems and think faster than any human must be held accountable for its actions."

Rudi Hagemann, the Swiss legal scholar, agreed with the Soviet cop. He said that the development of artificial intelligence has come so far in recent years that certain computers and some robots "must be considered human." It isn't clear how the Soviets will punish the computer if it is found guilty when it goes to court this spring. *[Send it to a Gulag for reprogramming? --spaf]* But Hagemann says the machine will probably be reprogrammed or dismantled altogether.

I don't think there's much to say here, except in the way of warning: Next time you accuse the system of cheating at rogue, don't say it too loudly! --spaf

There was speculation in the on-line RISKS Forum on how electrocution might have occurred, with several plausible theories being advanced. This tale bears a curious resemblance to the WWN story from 10 July 1984 about the 58-year-old Chinese man, Chin Soo Ying, who in 1950 had designed and built an artificially intelligent computer system (based on the British Colossus!) to express words of love and emotions. The article related how after he had built a newer machine in the SOs, he was electrocuted by the old machine. His wife was convinced that Chin was murdered by the old machine, which then committed suicide. (The WWN headline was "Jealous Computer Zaps its Creator".) I recall this in the interest of perspective on the current.

ACM SIGSOFT SOFTWARE ENGINEERING NOTES
vol 14 no 5 Jul 1989

April fools! ☺

(source "spaf" unknown)

From the ARRL...

SOME MAJOR CHANGES FOR FIELD DAY!

Some new rules go into effect this year for Field Day. The popular summertime operating event takes place each year on the fourth full weekend in June. This year, it will be June 27-28.

A major change this year is the elimination of bonus-point credit for packet and VHF/UHF contacts. Field Day stations no longer will be allowed to count contacts via digipeaters, packet nodes, or similar arrangements. Class 2A and higher Field Day stations still may operate a "free" transmitter exclusively for VHF or UHF operation (ie, above 50 MHz) without changing their basic entry classification, but not for bonus points. "It's better than bonus points and groups are likely to spend more time on VHF and UHF because of that," predicted ARRL Membership Services Manager Chuck Hutchinson, K8CH. As in the past, crossband and repeater contacts other than via satellite do not count for Field Day credit.

Field Day stations now can earn point credit for digital (ie, non-CW) contacts on each band. The phone, CW, and non-CW digital segments are considered separate "bands" in the Field Day rules. This means, for example, that you now may work the same station for point credit on 40 meters three times: once on SSB, once on CW, and once on RTTY, packet, or one of the TOR modes. SSB contacts count one point, and CW and non-CW digital contacts count 2 points apiece, so adding non-CW digital capability presents a real opportunity to rack up substantial additional points! "We're expecting an interesting year because of the digital modes," Hutchinson said.

The complete, official Field Day rules will appear in the May edition of QST. Basic Field Day rules have remained unchanged for several years now. The new rules undoubtedly will generate a flurry of computerized contest logging program revisions as developers scramble to incorporate the changes into their software.

From *The ARRL Letter*, March 20, 1998

FCC PROPOSES RULES CHANGES AFFECTING HAMS

In a sweeping Notice of Proposed Rulemaking the FCC has suggested several rules changes that could affect Amateur Radio, including replacement of the venerable FCC Form 610. NPRM Docket WT 98-20, "To Facilitate the Development and Use of the Universal Licensing System in the Wireless Telecommunications Services," seeks comments on proposals to replace Form 610 with FCC Form 605; to permit automatic reciprocal licensing of foreign hams wishing to operate in the US; to privatize the issuance of club station licenses; and to require applicants and licensees to supply a taxpayer identification number (TIN) and to file electronically. The FCC also plans to consolidate the application procedures for all Wireless Telecommunications Services into a single set of rules. All of these proposals are

part of the FCC's efforts to implement the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Universal Licensing System (ULS).

The new Form 605 would apply for Amateur Radio and other services "not presently required to submit extensive technical data to receive a license." The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau is trying to drastically cut down the number of forms for the various services it administers, and to include all of its services under the ULS. The FCC last November began initial collection of licensee data to populate the ULS. Using the ULS, applicants and licensees will be able to file, modify, and renew electronically. Ultimately, the FCC intends to require all applicants, as appropriate, to file all applications and notifications electronically.

The FCC says it's tentatively concluded that there is "little or no need to continue issuing the reciprocal permit" (FCC Form 610-AL) for alien amateur licensees because the license from any foreign country with which the US has a reciprocal agreement would "stand as the proof that the foreign operator is qualified for the reciprocal operating authority." Reciprocal operation under the new regime would be "by rule," which means no special action is necessary on the applicant's part, and the elimination of Form 610-A.

For club station licenses, the FCC proposes to accept the services of VEC-like organizations as volunteer club station call sign administrators. Prospective organizations would have to complete a pilot autogrant batch filing project before being authorized as call sign administrators.

Under the ULS, applicants or licensees would have to supply a TIN, usually a Social Security number, or "its functional equivalent." The FCC says this is "consistent with the requirements of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996." To allay fears of misuse of TINs, the FCC says the ULS would be designed so that TINs will not be available to the public and "only a small number of Commission employees would have access to TIN information in conjunction with their work." The FCC says a Privacy Act submission would be published in the Federal Register "to obtain the requisite public and Congressional comment and Office of Management and Budget approval prior to implementation of the ULS."

A text version of the entire rulemaking proposal is at <http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Wireless/Notices/1998/fcc98025.txt> (or see the link from the FCC home page). The ARRL plans to file comments on the proposal, released March 20. Comments are due to the FCC 30 days after publication in the Federal Register. Reference WT Docket 98-20. The FCC will not accept e-mail comments on Docket WT 98-20.

From *The ARRL Letter* March 27, 1998

Code Practice

Jim, WE6V and Roy, K6VIP have started a code class over the air using the W6UU repeater. The class starts at 8 PM local time and runs until 8:30. Any 2 meter FM receiver or transceiver will work. The class will be on Monday nights and is already started. Now is the time to improve your code!

Don, KO6HH

Amateur Web Page

Silicon Valley Ham calendar on the web. Up to date info on ham, nets, meetings, happenings, and clubs in N. CA. <http://www.wigwag.com/ham>. Hosted by w6nmh@wigwag.com

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the packet network:

=====

Answer to the guillotine riddle in the March issue:

Ask either man which door the other man would say leads to the guillotine. The answer will be a lie and is the door leading back to the office. --Ed.

=====

Date: 8 Feb 98 06:40
From: AB7RG@KB7FRV
To: FARCE@USA
Subject: The Traveler's Dialogue

TRAVEL DIALOGUE:

=====

For those of us who travel regularly this conversation should sound familiar:

Room Service: Morny. Rune-sore-bees.
Hotel Guest: Oh, sorry. I thought I dialed Room Service.
RS: Rye, rune-sore-bees. Morny. Djewish to odor sunteen?
HG: Uh... Yes. I'd like some bacon and eggs.
RS: Ow July then?
HG: What?
RS: Aches. Ow July then? Pry, boy, pooch...?

HG: Oh, the eggs! How do I like them? Sorry. Scrambled please.
RS: Ow July thee baycome? Crease?
HG: Crisp will be fine.
RS: Okay. An Santos?
HG: What?
RS: Santos. July Santos?
HG: Ugh. I don't know... I don't think so.
RS: No. Judo one toes?
HG: Look, I feel really bad about this, but I don't know what "judo one toes" means. I'm sorry.
RS: Toes! Toes! Why djew Don Juan toes? Ow bow cenglish mopping we bother?
HG: English muffin! I've got it! You were saying toast! Fine. An English muffin will be fine.
RS: We bother?
HG: No. Just put the bother on the side.
RS: Wad?
HG: I'm sorry. I meant butter. Butter on the side.
RS: Copy?
HG: I feel terrible about this but...
RS: Copy. Copy, tea, mill...
HG: Coffee! Yes, coffee please. And that's all.
RS: One Minnie. As rune torino fee, strangle aches, crease baycome, tossy cenglish mopping we bother honey sigh, and copy. Rye?
HG: Whatever you say.
RS: Okay. Tendjewberrymud.
HG: You're welcome.

73 & May the FARCE be with you! Clinton, AB7RG.

=====

Date: 13 Oct 94 03:50
From: KE4GUM@WB4MOZ
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: DISNEY THEME PARK HUMOR

Top ten REJECTED Disney theme park attractions By David Drummond

- 10 Journey to the Center of a Zit
- 9 Mrs. Potts' Mad, Mad, Gravy Boats
- 8 Honey, I Shrunk the Urinals
- 7 Mr. Genie's Magic 3-d Pants
- 6 101 Damn Nations
- 5 Jiminy Cricket vs Tinker bell: Steel Cage Death Match
- 4 It's a Lame World
- 3 Dr. Goofy's Island of Experimentation
- 2 Huey, Dewey, Louie, Kablooi! M-1 Rifle Range
- 1 Mickey's Flaming Monorail of Death

=====

Date: 16 Mar 98 13:00
From: AB7RG@KB7FRV
To: FARCE@USA
Subject: The Burglar...

THE BURGLAR:

=====

Late one night, a burglar broke into a house that he thought was empty. He tiptoed through the living room, but suddenly froze in his tracks when he heard a loud voice say, "Jesus is watching you!"

Silence returned to the house, so the burglar crept forward again. "Jesus is watching you!" the voice boomed again. The burglar stopped dead again. He was frightened. Frantically, he looked all around. In a dark corner, he spotted a bird cage and in the cage was a parrot.

He asked the parrot, "Was that you who said Jesus is watching me?" "Yes", said the parrot.

The burglar breathed a sigh of relief, then he asked the parrot, "What's your name?" "Clarence," said the bird. "That's a stupid name for a parrot," sneered the burglar. "What idiot named you Clarence?" The parrot said, "The same idiot who named the Rotweiler Jesus."

73 & May the FARCE be with you! Clinton, AB7RG.
[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

Newsletter Notes

It has been brought to my attention that a few people are not receiving the SCCARA-GRAM. This is probably due to the fact that the mailing labels are generated from a rather old copy of the roster database. I've been trying to get an updated copy from the secretary for some time.

Our secretary has recently resigned, so things won't get better just yet. If you or someone you know isn't getting the SCCARA-GRAM: sorry about that. A little patience is requested until we get things straightened out. In the mean time, I will continue to have extra copies of the SCCARA-GRAM available at each meeting.

On another note... We still need someone to be the club photographer, or at least submit some photos once in a while.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

ARRL Pacific Division Update

April 1998

FCC News Relating to Amateur Radio

ARRL visits FCC Commissioners and staff. On Monday, March 9, ARRL President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, and ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, "told the Amateur Radio story" to key officials in Washington, D.C. Four of the five Commissioners are new in the last few months. Rod and Chris called on Commissioner Ness, Commissioner Powell (new) and Rick Chessen, the Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Tristani (new).

Rod and Chris were also able to call on Richard Lee, the relatively new Chief of Compliance and Information Bureau (CIB), who is charged with enforcement and with D'wana Terry, the Acting Chief, Private Wireless Division of WTB. The WTB is the group which has oversight of Amateur Radio.

The visits were cordial and informative. Only time will tell of the outcomes, but significantly, these calls were made at the top level.

FCC Chairman Kennard comments on enforcement; Kennard made an interesting comment before the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary, Appropriations Committee of the Senate on the FCC FY 1999 Budget Estimates. Of particular interest was the part on enforcement and on the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. While, the enforcement perspective is not directed at amateur radio it does show a renewed interest in the subject on Kennard's part; something he has noted several times in print in the 4.5 months he has been Chairman. Maybe there is hope for real enforcement!

Proposed new licensing procedure--On Mar. 20, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making, Docket WT 98-20, "To Facilitate the Development and Use of the Universal Licensing System in the Wireless Telecommunications Services." The proposals will be open for public comment for 30 days starting on their date of publication in the Federal Register. The date is unknown as of March 20, but will likely occur within the next few days. The NPRM apparently proposes no changes in privileges or qualifications for any class of license. Key goals appear to be:

1. Replacement of the venerable Form 610.
2. Elimination of the Form 610-A, thus providing paperless reciprocal licenses.
3. Proposed privatization of club licensing.
4. Require use of Taxpayer Identification Numbers (usually Social Security numbers).

The document is available at the FCC Web site, www.fcc.gov. A link to the document can be found in the Headlines section, the first section following the Home Page banner. Comments must be in harcopy format. No e-mail comments will be accepted.

Ham RF Exposure Guidelines

Compliance with the new guidelines should be straightforward 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 available; a comprehensive ARRL book, entitled, "RF Exposure and You", order number 6621, is now available; an excellent summary of the guidelines is contained in October 1997 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 many questions.

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>.

House Passes Scanner Bill

HR 2369, the Wireless Privacy Enhancement Act of 1998, has passed on the floor of the House of Representatives by a vote of 414 to 1 with 15 members not voting. The bill that was voted on included a report from the House Commerce Committee with the following language, worked out in cooperation with ARRL: "The Committee does not intend to prohibit amateurs from modifying linear amplifiers after purchase, as permitted by Commission rules nor does the Committee intend for Section 2(a) to be interpreted in a manner that would discourage manufacturers or dealers of amateur equipment from providing amateur licensees with information about permissible modifications to enable them to transmit and receive on Military Affiliate Radio Service and the Civil Air Patrol." Thus, it is very clear that Amateur Radio interests have been well protected by a substantial, friendly ARRL interaction with Congress.

The full report and bill as amended and passed may be found at: <ftp://ftp.loc.gov/pub/thomas/cp105/hr425.txt>

Thanks, Steve Mansfield, N1MZA, ARRL Legislative Affairs Manager.

New Pac. Div. Section Managers

In the Pacific Section, Ronald Phillips, AH6HN, of Keauau, HI, will take office on April 1 as the result of an uncontested election. Phillips will succeed current Pacific SM Dean Manley, KH6B, who chose not to run again.

In the Santa Clara Valley Section, Geoffrey Ellis,

KD6MFM, of Santa Cruz, CA, will take office on July 1 as the result of an uncontested election. Ellis will succeed current SCV SM Kit Blanke, WA6PWW, who chose not to run again. Thanks Dean and Kit for your service. Welcome Ron and Geoff to the team!

Hams in New York Times Article

There was a great article in the Mar. 5 issue of the New York Times entitled, "Ham Radio, Version 2.0 for the Silicon Era" by John W. Verity. The premise is that there's a new generation of hams "reinventing" it for the digital era. In the article several hams were interviewed including Pacific Division hams--Dewayne Hendricks, WA8DZP, Assistant Director, and Geoffrey Baehr, N6LXA. The article can be found at <http://www.nytimes.com/library/tech/98/03/circuits/articles/05ham-radio.html>.

New Volunteer Counsel

I am pleased to announce that Mike Albov, KC6TUV, of Monterey CA has been appointed a Volunteer Counsel in the Santa Clara Valley Section. Welcome, Mike!

McGan Silver Antenna Award

Nominees are welcome for the seventh annual Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award, a chance to honor the ham who did the most to promote Amateur Radio in 1997. The McGan award was named for journalist Philip J. McGan, WA2MGQ (SK), the first chairman of the ARRL Public Relations Committee. It goes to the ARRL member who demonstrates volunteer public relations success on behalf of ham radio at the local, state or national level, and who best exemplifies the volunteer spirit of the award's namesake.

Public relations (as opposed to public service) activities are those specifically directed at bringing Amateur Radio to the public's attention in a positive light--typically through the media (newspapers, TV, radio).

Nominations for the seventh annual award are due May 29, 1998 at ARRL Headquarters, Newington, Connecticut, by 5:00 PM Eastern Time. Entry forms are available from Jennifer Gagne, N1TDY, e-mail jgagne@arrl.org or call 860-594-0328. Send completed forms and supporting materials to Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award, care of Jennifer Gagne, N1TDY, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

Applications for 1998 Scholarships

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington D.C. plans to administer sixty six 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.

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.

1998 Northern CA ACS ERI Canceled

The Northern California Emergency Response Institute, scheduled for May 2-3, 1998 in Sacramento, CA, has been canceled. The event will likely be held in Spring 1999.

Coming Events

- Livermore Swap Meet - 1st Sunday of each month at Las Positas College in Livermore, 7:00 AM to noon, all year. Talk in 147.045 from the 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..
- The Valley of the Moon ARC is holding its annual hamfest Saturday, April 25, 1998, at the Sonoma Veteran's Memorial Bldg, 126 First St West, Sonoma. Talk in 145.35(-) PL 88.5. Contact Darrel Jones, WD6BOR at wd6bor@aol.com or (H) (707) 996-4494.
- The International DX Convention, sponsored by the Southern California DX Club: Holiday Inn, Visalia, CA, May 1-3, 1998. Admission is \$55 by Apr. 15 and \$60 at the door. Make checks payable to "International DX Convention" and send to Don Bostrom, N6IC, 4447 Atoll Ave, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423. Call (818) 784-2590. Or contact Rick Samoian, W6SR, (714) 993-0713 or (310) 616-3912.

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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 ==

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY
AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**

PO BOX 6
San Jose CA 95103-0006

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