

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 14, Number 9

September 1998



From the ARRL...

The ARRL Letter August 7, 1998

World Amateur Radio day set for September 19

"Communicating Worldwide for Three Quarters of a Century" is the theme of this year's World Amateur Radio Day, set for September 19. The event marks the first two-way transoceanic Amateur Radio contact between French station 8AB and American stations 1XAM and 1MO on November 27, 1923.

The historic contacts ushered in the era of worldwide shortwave communication.

IARU Region One broadcast a special program on shortwave that traces the early history of shortwave communication and the contributions hams have made to the development of radio science and the understanding of HF propagation.

The program will air to North America on September 19 at 2100 UTC on 15205 kHz.

For more information, contact Hans van de Groenendaal, ZS5AKV, e-mail hans@intekom.co.za.

The ARRL Letter August 14, 1998

FCC denies checkpoint systems petition

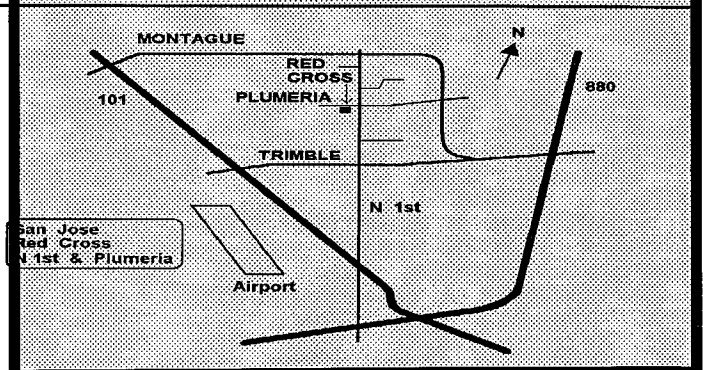
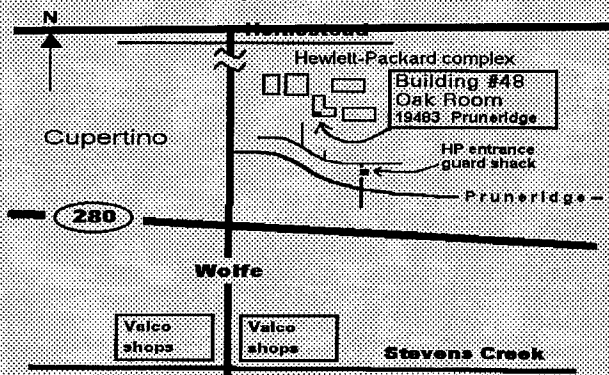
The FCC has turned down a bid by Checkpoint Systems, a maker of theft deterrent systems for stores, to raise the permissible radiated and power-line conducted emission levels of its products operating at HF. The Part 15 devices, known as electronic article surveillance or EAS systems, are located at store entrance and exit gates. The gates include a transmitter and receiver that can detect passive electronic

Calendar

- 9/12 Foothill Electronic Flea Market
- 9/14 SCCARA General Meeting
- 9/21 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 10/12 SCCARA General Meeting--dinner!

Next General Meeting:

Day: Monday, Sept. 14, 1998
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Hewlett-Packard's Oak Rm, Bld #48
Agenda: Dr. Burt Richter (head of SLAC) and Hugh Butler (helped build original accelerator) will speak.



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

tags attached to merchandise and trigger an alarm.

Last year, Checkpoint asked the FCC to be allowed to operate between 1.705 and 30 MHz at a maximum radiated emission level of 1000 uV/meter (measured at a distance of 30 meters), and a maximum conducted emission level of 3000 uV. Current rules permit a maximum radiated emission level of 30 uV/meter (measured at a distance of 30 meters) between 1.705 and 30 MHz, or 100 uV per meter between 1.705 and 10 MHz. The current conducted emission limit for such devices operating between 1.705 and 10 MHz is 250 uV.

In its comments, the ARRL opposed the Checkpoint petition arguing that it would result in increased interference to amateur HF operation. The League also said Checkpoint had not provided any technical analysis of the potential for increased interference at the frequencies in question.

In a decision issued August 5, the FCC went along with the League, saying Checkpoint had not provided sufficient technical analysis to justify the requested tenfold increase in radiated emission limits. The Commission also said that Checkpoint had not justified its assertion that its EAS systems were in danger of being "drowned out" by other sources of radio noise. --FCC

In Brief

Hams track down errant marine transmitter: Hams in Florida recently helped to track down the source of a signal on marine channel 16, the one most often used for emergencies and as a calling frequency. DEC Linda Mullen, AD4BL, reports that WA4IMC was able to find the offending transmitter "through a process of elimination" of reports from other amateurs monitoring the 156.80 MHz signal. Apparently, a sailboat operator had dropped a bag on his marine radio's mike. The signal remained on the air for several hours. "The Coast Guard was in a tizzy," AD4BL reports. --thanks to Nils Millergren, WA4NDA

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, July 13, 1998



7:47 P.M. Meeting called to order By Vice President Barbara, KE6QEI. Self introductions followed as is our custom.

The speaker this evening is Jim Maxwell, W6CF. His topic is the new RF exposure regulations for amateur radio.

Dan, WM6M, gave the field day report.

Barbara, KE6QEI, gave her field day food report. She also gave a report on the status of the recently purchased trailer for our club station.

Wally, KA6YMD, gave an update of the new repeater site.

Barbara lead a discussion of Foothill Flea Market food booth and the possibility of serving CDF chili.

The speakers for the rest of the year have been set. The picnic is August 30 at 11:00 a.m.

Lou, WA6QSY, asked for volunteers to man the Foothill Flea Market booth on August 8.

9:40 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Board Meeting, July 20, 1998



Present: Clark, KE6KXO; Don, KK6MX; Gary, WB6YRU; Jack, AC6FU; Don, K6PBQ; Lloyd, KD6FJI; Robert, N6PCQ.

7:51 P.M. Meeting called to order by President Jack, AC6FU.

Motion to accept the minutes was made by Don, K6PBQ, Second and passed.

Motion by Don, K6PBQ that SCCARA provide soda, hamburgers, hot dogs and utensils for the annual picnic and \$25.00 for prizes. Second and passed.

There was a discussion about the newly acquired trailer and the remodeling of it.

The bill from the Perham Foundation is \$1,000 for the August Foothill Flea Market.

There was a discussion about the christmas luncheon.

Gary, WB6YRU, said he had a 286 computer he would like to donate to SCCARA. Clark, KE6KXO made a motion that we accept Gary's 286 computer. Second and passed.

Don, K6PBQ, says we need a microphone for the Icom 735 transceiver that was donated to SCCARA by Bob Keller's widow. Motion by Don, KK6MX that there will be a \$25.00 reward for any SCCARA member who can find a mike for the Icom IC 28A transceiver that was donated to SCCARA by Bob Keller's (KB6OHO) widow. Second and passed.

9:35 p.m. meeting adjourned.

General Meeting, June 8, 1998



7:45 PM Meeting called to order by Vice President Barbara, KE6QEI. Self introductions followed as is our custom.

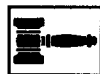
Dan Dietz, WM6M, the field day chairman, talked about field day and the preparation that goes into it. Barbara, KE6QEI, discussed field day food. Dan showed some of the video of a previous field day.

Motion to purchase a tri-band antenna, VHF UHF with coax and connectors by Don, K6PBQ, motion second and passed.

Barbara, KE6QEI, said that the San Jose Unified School District is a good prospect to get a 24 hour access club station. Barbara also said that she has found a 14 foot trailer for \$500. She and Wally, KA6YMD, discussed the condition of the trailer and locations where it can be stored. Next months speaker will be Jim Maxwell, W6CF. Sept speaker Burt Richter, dir of Stanford Linear Accelerator. October we will be at the United Way for dinner meeting.

9:25 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Board Meeting, June 15, 1998



Present: Gary, WB6YRU; Wally, KA6YMD; Barbara, KE6QEI; Lloyd, KD6FJI; Clark, KE6KXO; Don, K6PBQ; Don, KK6MX.

7:50 p.m. Meeting called to order by Vice President Barbara, KD6QEI. There will be a SCCARA table at the August Foothill Flea Market to attract new members. Barbara, KE6QEI, needs \$400.00 for the field day food. A check for \$400.00 was issued to Barbara, KE6QIE, for field day food.

Don, KK6MX, made a motion to purchase a trailer to house the SCCARA club station in. Motion second and passed.

Don also mentioned that he looked for fire proof safes. The ones he found were expensive.

9:04 p.m. meeting adjourned.

Lloyd, KD6FJI

Flea Market

SCCARA had a good day at the August 8 Foothill Flea Market. Not an exceptional day, but a good day. IT DID NOT RAIN. Events such as this test the mettle of the membership of any organization and everyone came through with flying colors. It is a privilege to work with people with such dedication. The club owes a debt of gratitude to: Gary WB6YRU, Wally KA6YMD, Barbara KD6QEI, Clark KE6KXO, Harold KK6ZE, Scott KB6UOO, Ron, Don K6PBQ, Jim, Ethan, John WA6UAR, John KB6RSB, Lloyd KD6FJI, Doug WN6U, Chris KF6APP, Jim WE6V, Don KO6HH, El K6ZYY, Mike KB6LCJ, Margaret (XYL of AC6FU), Henry WD6CGI, Roy K6VIP, and my long suffering wife Gwen KF6OTD.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thanks to one and all. Without each of you it couldn't have been done. You are SCCARA!

Thanks, Lou WA6QYS

Groaners

Floating around the internet, (brace yourself)...

--Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, but when they lit a fire in the craft, it sank, proving once and for all that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

--Two boll weevils grew up in South Carolina. One went to Hollywood and became a famous actor. The other stayed behind in the cotton fields and never amounted to much. The second one, naturally, became known as the lesser of two weevils.

--A neutron goes into a bar and asks the bartender, "How much for a beer?" The bartender replies, "For you, no charge."

--Two atoms are walking down the street and they run into each other. One says to the other, "Are you all right?" "No, I lost an electron!" "Are you sure?" "Yeah, I'm positive!"

--Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused his dentist's Novocain during root canal work? He wanted to transcend dental medication.

--A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. But why?" they asked, as they moved off. "Because," he said, "I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer."

--A doctor made it his regular habit to stop off at a bar for a hazelnut daiquiri on his way home. The bartender knew of his habit, and would always have the drink waiting at precisely 5:03 p.m. One afternoon, as the end of the work day approached, the bartender was dismayed to find that he was out of hazelnut extract. Thinking quickly, he threw together a daiquiri made with hickory nuts and set it on the bar. The doctor came in at his regular time, took one sip of the drink and exclaimed, "This isn't a hazelnut daiquiri!" "No I'm sorry," replied the bartender, "it's a hickory daiquiri, doc."

--A hungry lion was roaming through the jungle looking for something to eat. He came across two men. One was sitting under a tree and reading a book; the other was typing away on his typewriter. The lion quickly pounced on the man reading the book and devoured him. Even the king of the jungle knows that readers digest and writers cramp.

--There was a man who entered a local paper's pun contest. He sent in ten different puns, in the hope that at least one of the puns would win. Unfortunately, no pun in ten did.

--A guy goes to a psychiatrist. "Doc, I keep having these alternating recurring dreams. First I'm a tepee, then I'm a wigwam, then I'm a tepee, then I'm a wigwam. It's driving me crazy. What's wrong with me?" The doctor replies: "It's very simple. You're two tents."

--A woman has twins and gives them up for adoption. One of them goes to a family in Egypt and is named "Emal." The other goes to a family in Spain; they name him "Juan." Years later, Juan sends a picture of himself to his birth mom. Upon receiving the picture, she tells her husband that she wishes she also had a picture of Emal. Her husband responds, "But they're twins - if you've see Juan, you've seen Emal."

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the packet network:

=====
Date: 16 Aug 98 15:40
From: W4DPH@W4DPH
To: NEWS@AMSAT
Subject: * SpaceNews 17-Aug-98 *

=====
SpaceNews
=====

MONDAY AUGUST 17, 1998

* TMSAT NEWS *

=====

TMSAT commissioning is proceeding, and controllers are currently testing the earth imaging system. TMSAT has 5 cameras on board - a wide angle camera (WAC) similar to UO-22, 3 narrow angle cameras with a pixel resolution of approximately 100m and image size of 1020x1020 pixels, and a video camera (which will be used for taking still images).

Five images have been taken so far. The first was a test over India under manual control from Bangkok, and the other images have been taken automatically under control of the OBC186. The Red Sea was initially since it is generally free of cloud which is useful for sensor calibration. For the first few images, only the WAC was used, and the first set of images using the narrow angle cameras (NAC) over Greece was taken on Friday 1998-14-Aug. Due to the size of the images, it is taking some time to download as other housekeeping and commissioning functions must also be scheduled.

Two of the WAC images have been posted to the following web address: <http://www.ee.surrey.ac.uk/CSER/UOSAT/amateur/tmsat/index.html>.

One is the first image over the Red Sea. This was actually under exposed and has been enhanced. The Nile valley can clearly be seen as can the Nile delta and the different sands in the deserts of Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The image is reasonably cloud free, and for a first image is quite nice.

The other image was taken over southern Greece and the Mediterranean Sea. The southern tip of Italy can also be seen as can Crete and Libya.

[Info via Chris Jackson, G7UPN]

=====

Date: 27 Feb 98 01:00
From: KM6CQ@KM6PX
To: ALL@USA
Subject: Women's English

Women's English --

"Yes" = No
"No" = Yes
"Maybe" = No
"I'm sorry." = You'll be sorry.
"We need" = I want
"It's your decision" = The correct decision should be obvious by now.
"Do what you want" = You'll pay for this later.
"We need to talk" = I need to complain

"Sure, go ahead" = I don't want you to.
"I'm not upset" = Of course I'm upset
"You're so manly" = You need a shave and you sweat a lot.
"You're certainly attentive tonight" = Is sex all you ever think about?
"Be romantic, turn out the lights" = I have flabby thighs.
"This kitchen is so inconvenient" = I want a new house.
"I want new curtains" = and carpeting, and furniture, and wallpaper...
"Hang the picture there" = NO, I mean hang it there!
"I heard a noise" = I noticed you were almost asleep.
"Do you love me?" = I'm going to ask for something expensive.
"How much do you love me?" = I did something today you're really not going to like.
"I'll be ready in a minute." = Kick off your shoes and find a good game on TV.
"Is my butt fat?" = Tell me I'm beautiful.
"You have to learn to communicate." = Just agree with me.
"Are you listening to me!?" = Too late, you're dead.
"Was that the baby?" = Why don't you get out of bed and walk him until he goes to sleep.
"I'm not yelling!" = Yes I am yelling because I think this is important.
"The same old thing" = Nothing
"Nothing" = Everything
"Everything" = My PMS is acting up
"Nothing, really" = It's just that you're such an _sshole

Men's English --

"I'm hungry." = I'm hungry.
"I'm sleepy." = I'm sleepy.
"I'm tired." = I'm tired.
"Do you want to go to a movie?" = I'd eventually like to have sex with you.
"Can I take you out to dinner?" = I'd eventually like to have sex with you.
"Can I call you sometime?" = I'd eventually like to have sex with you.
"May I have this dance?" = I'd eventually like to have sex with you.
"Nice dress!" = Nice cleavage!
"You look tense, let me give you a massage." = I want to fondle you.
"What's wrong?" = I don't see why you are making such a big deal out of this.
"What's wrong?" = What meaningless self-inflicted psychological trauma are you going through now?
"What's wrong?" = I guess sex tonight is out of the question.
"I'm bored." = Do you want to have sex?
"I love you." = Let's have sex now.
"I love you, too." = Okay, I said it...can we have sex now?
"Yes, I like the way you cut your hair." = I liked it better before.

"Yes, I like the way you cut your hair." = \$50 and it doesn't look that much different!

"Let's talk." = I am trying to impress you by showing that I am a deep person and maybe then you'd like to have sex with me.

"Will you marry me?" = I want to make it illegal for you to have sex with other guys.

(while shopping) "I like that one better." = Pick any freakin' dress and let's go home!

"I don't think that blouse and that skirt go well together." = I am gay.

=====

Date: 5 May 94 23:31

From: KF4OJ@KF4OJ

To: JOKES@ALLUS

Subject: A COUPLE IN THEIR 80's

A couple in their 80's were having a hard time making ends meet, so they decided she would stand on the street for the evening.

When she got home in the morning she had \$4.10 for the evenings efforts. The husband said, "What cheap guy gave you 10 cent?" The wife replied, "They all did."

This message has been sent by Bruce, VE7FVN

From the Happy Club, 73+ de Juan,

KF4OJ.@ KF4OJ.#ARCFL.FL.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

As you can see from recent SCCARA-GRAM issues, most of the space is taken up by news from *The ARRL Letter*, *The Pacific Division Update*, and the occasional item from the packet network. This is all well and good, but as I've said before, it makes the SCCARA-GRAM very generic, having little that says "this is SCCARA." Much of the time, the only thing of SCCARA in these pages is the calendar and the meeting minutes...(and this column).

My question to the membership is: what about this? Does everyone like it the way it is or would you prefer the newsletter to have more of a local flavor?

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

ARRL Pacific Division Update

September 1998

License Restructuring Proposals

In the last three weeks, two major U.S. Amateur Radio License Restructuring proposals have been announced; the most recent by the FCC and one earlier by the ARRL. Because of the current complex U.S. license structure and these announcements, it is probably inevitable that there will be a major restructuring. It is now YOUR turn to express your views about the future of Amateur Radio licensing and related topics in the U.S.!

The FCC Proposal

As part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Congress mandated a "Biennial Review...aimed at simplifying, eliminating, or modifying regulations that are overly burdensome or no longer serve the public interest" for all services regulated by FCC. For the Amateur Radio Service, the FCC has now proposed to phase out the Novice and Technician Plus class licenses, leaving just four amateur license classes - Technician, General, Advanced, and Extra. The Commission also has asked the amateur community to express its opinions on Morse code requirements for licensing and testing, but offered no specific changes. They also asked for comments on the written examinations and on how to improve enforcement of rules. These proposals were among several suggested rules changes and invitations to comment contained in an FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), WT Docket 98-143, made public August 10, 1998. This NPRM offers a uniquely long comment period ending on Dec. 1, 1998, with the opportunity to comment via the Web, email, and hard copy letters. This long comment period provides a unique challenge for ALL amateurs to give their opinions on a wide range of topics vital to the future of Amateur Radio.

In proposing to phase out the Novice and Tech Plus tickets, the FCC said "there appears to be an unnecessary overlap between the Novice, Technician, and Technician Plus license classes." The FCC also said that Technician and Tech Plus operators "predominantly" use FM and packet on VHF and UHF. In addition, the FCC said Novice applicants last year numbered fewer than 1000, while there were nearly 21,500 Technician applications.

Under the FCC plan, Novice and Tech Plus licensees would retain current operating privileges, but no new Novice or Tech Plus licenses would be granted. For examination purposes, current examination Elements 2 and 3A would be combined into a new Element 3A. For administrative

purposes, the FCC would combine the current Technician and Tech Plus databases into a single Technician database.

The FCC did not propose to change any operating frequencies or license privileges for amateurs. However, the FCC does seek comment on the disposition of the current Novice HF bands, which carry a 200 W output power limit for all licensees. The FCC invited comment on whether it would be "appropriate" to delete the Novice bands and the power restrictions on higher-class licensees and permit Novices to operate CW anywhere on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters at 200 W output.

The Commission asked for comments on Morse code testing from the amateur community. In particular, the Commission said it wants to know if hams prefer the current three-level system or would like to see it reduced to a one or two-tier system and at what required speeds. The FCC asked whether hams would be willing to trade a reduction in Morse code requirements for additional written elements on newer digital technologies "which, in part, are replacing the Morse code." And, the Commission asked whether it should consider specifying Morse code examination methods, such as fill-in-the-blank or one minute of solid copy, instead of allowing VEs to determine the testing method.

The FCC also invited comments on whether it should change written examination requirements "to provide VEs and VECs additional flexibility in determining the specific contents of written examinations."

Referring to an ARRL petition, RM-9150, the FCC invited comments on how it can improve its Amateur Radio enforcement processes. The FCC applauded the ARRL "for its creative thinking" in that petition, but said the specific proposal was "inconsistent" with the current statutory role of administrative law judges. The FCC raised the possibility of encouraging complainants to include a draft order "to show cause to initiate a revocation or cease and desist hearing proceeding." The FCC said it also wants to hear how it can better use the services of the Amateur Auxiliary in beefing up enforcement.

The FCC also seeks comments on how to deal with potential abuses of the current disability waiver for higher-speed Morse code tests. In RM-9196, the ARRL had asked the FCC to require anyone applying for an exemption pursuant to a doctor's certification to first attempt the higher-speed test before examination credit could be given. The League also asked that VECs have access to relevant medical information from the certifying physician. The FCC said the ARRL's proposal would place "an unfair burden on examinees" and raised serious privacy and confidentiality issues.

In other matters the FCC went along with another ARRL petition and proposed allowing Advanced class hams to be eligible to prepare and administer license examinations up through General class under the VE program. The FCC also proposed to phase out Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) stations by not renewing their licenses. The FCC also took the occasion to clarify the definition of "power" as used in the RF exposure table in Section

97.13(c)(1). The FCC said it refers to peak envelope power (PEP) input to the antenna. It also made clear that no one holding an FCC- issued ham ticket may apply for a reciprocal permit for an alien amateur license.

Significantly, the FCC set a longer-than-normal comment period. The deadline for comments is December 1, 1998. The deadline for reply comments is January 15, 1999. The FCC is encouraging electronic comments via the web at <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>; by email at ecfs@fcc.gov (for instructions, include in the body of the message the words - "Get form <your email address>". Of course, written comments prepared in the traditional way and sent by US mail will also be accepted.

A copy of the complete NPRM has been posted on the ARRL Web page, <http://www.arrl.org>, and at the Pacific Division Web page at pdarrl.org. The FCC NPRM can also be downloaded from the FCC Web site in Word Perfect 5.1 and Text versions at: <http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Wireless/Notices/1998/fcc98183.wp> and <http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Wireless/Notices/1998/fcc98183.txt> respectively.

October QST will carry the full story on the FCC NPRM, as well as an editorial on the subject.

The ARRL Proposal

The ARRL Board delivered a license restructuring plan to FCC on July 22 (see ARRL Bulletins and the Special Edition of the Pacific Division Update for July 30, 1998). In brief, the plan is targeted toward 4 classes of licenses by renaming the Technician Class as Class D; would "grandfather" Novice and Tech Plus into Class C (General); expand phone bands on 80, 40, 15 meters; set Class C (General) code speed at 5 wpm - and Class B (Advanced) and Class A (Amateur Extra) at 12 wpm. Written examinations would be broader in scope and more comprehensive. The Board members were adamant that simplifying the structure should not come at the expense of privileges already earned by any amateurs.

The following key documents are available on the ARRL web site, <http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring/>.

1. The announcement and outline of the plan itself.
2. Board meeting minutes (see Minute 53 for the details of the motion adopting the plan).
3. ARRL Letter of transmittal of the plan to FCC on July 22.
4. Frequently Asked Questions about the plan.

September QST, due to arrive soon, will carry the full story and an editorial about the ARRL Plan. Many local club newsletters are reporting on this proposal already.

Now It's YOUR Turn

I believe that the new NPRM from the FCC provides a unique opportunity for all of us to express our views on the direction that Amateur Radio will take in the U.S. in the years ahead. I urge all of you to write and send your constructive comments to the FCC at one of the addresses

noted above. To be effective, you should not only include your suggestions for change (or no change) in your letter, but should also include the rationale behind your suggestions. If you wish, please also send a copy to me at one of the addresses shown below.

Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act Needs Cosponsors

On March 27, Representatives Michael Bilirakis (R-FL-9th) and Ron Klink (D-PA-4th) introduced HR 3572, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1998.

The operational portion of the bill is Section 3 (see below), which, if passed, would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" if the Commission reallocates any primary or secondary Amateur Radio frequencies.

You can look up the full text of the bill on the House THOMAS web site at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c105:H.R.3572>:

Our strategy is very simple - obtain as many House co-sponsors as we can before the end of the legislative session and elections later this year. Congress is in recess in August, so now is the time to contact your Congressman at home. To date we have 64 in total including the following co-sponsors in the Pacific Division - Patsy Mink (D-HI-2); Tom Campbell (R-CA-15); John Doolittle (R-CA-4).

Let's get more of the Pacific Division House Members to be co-sponsors! Co-sponsors don't vote against their own bills!

Here is Section Three:

SEC. 3. FEDERAL POLICY REGARDING REALLOCATION OF AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM.

Section 303 of the Communications Act of 1934 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

- (y) *Notwithstanding subsection (c), after July 1, 1998*
- (1) *make no reallocation of primary allocations of bands of frequencies of the amateur radio service;*
 - (2) *not diminish the secondary allocations of bands of frequencies to the amateur radio service; and*
 - (3) *make no additional allocations within such bands of frequencies that would substantially reduce the utility thereof to the amateur radio service; unless the Commission, at the same time, provides equivalent replacement spectrum to the amateur radio service."*

Summary Some FCC News Items

- Lower fee levels for Vanity Calls: The vanity call sign application fee will drop to \$13 effective September 14, 1998, according to Terry Johnson in the FCC's Office of Managing Director. The new fee will be for the ten-year term, payable at the time of application for a new, renewed, or reinstated license. The current vanity call sign application fee is \$50. Earlier this year, the FCC had proposed dropping the fee to

\$12.90. The actual fee was "rounded up," Johnson said.

The FCC says it has no plans to refund the difference between the current fee and the new fee for applicants who submit applications before the new fee schedule goes into effect in September.

- 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." Comments and Reply Comment dates are now well past. 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 at www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls/. The ARRL Comments are available on the ARRL web site at www.arrl.org.

- RM 9267, a Petition requesting access to the 70 cm Amateur Band and other non Amateur Radio spectrum was submitted by the Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC), released for public comment by FCC on April 30, 1998.

The Comment and Reply Comment periods are over. The National Telecommunications and Information Agency (NTIA), a part of the Department of Commerce, commented that no change to the 70 cm allocation should be made. Such a comment must be taken seriously, for the 70 cm band has the U.S. government as primary user, and the NTIA acts as the "FCC" for Federal government activities. Several members of LMCC itself also commented to FCC that the 70 cm allocation should not be changed. These events should end this issue, but FCC has not said anything further thus far.

Detailed information on this Petition and Comments are available on the Pacific Division web site, www.pdarrl.org, and the ARRL web site, <http://www.arrl.org>. See also the Editorial on page 9 of July QST.

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.

- Placerville, every 3rd Sunday, 3970 B Missouri Flat Rd. #3, Placerville. Talk-in on 146.865 (-) PL 142.2; 440.700 (+) PL

88.5. Hwy 50 East take Missouri Flat off-ramp. Go over Hwy to 2nd light, into shopping center in front of Radio Shack. See <http://www.inforum.net/h&h/radioswap.html>; e-mail jjwilson@inforum.net, Jason Wilson KE6BUU.

- Ohlone Elementary School Ham Radio Swap Meet - Hercules, CA - 3rd Sunday through October. Address - 1616 Pheasant Dr., Hercules - from I-80, exit Hercules. Contact: Frank Bianchi, KE6EUA, (510) 799-0889, email at fbianchi@home.com or www site <http://www.jps.net/ai3x/harc>.

- Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Hamfest - Sept. 19 in Sebastopol. Holy Ghost Hall, 1/2 mile north of Sebastopol on Hwy 116, corner of 116 and Millstation Road. Contact James Dean, KF6DHB, 5324 Huckleberry, Santa Rosa CA 95403. Phone (707) 578-4098.

- The Western States Weak Signal Society and The 50MHz and Up Group are sponsoring the WSWSS '98 Conference on October 3, 1998. It will be held at the Sunnyvale Hilton, Sunnyvale, CA from 9 AM - 9 PM. The advance fee of \$35 includes lunch. A banquet will be held at 6 PM with special speaker Paul, N6TX of SETI. Tickets for the banquet are \$35. For tickets contact Jim Moss, 862 Somerset Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94087-2223. Call 408 746-2789 for more info, or email: n9jim@aol.com, or see the web site: <http://www.qsl.net/wb9ajz/wswss98>.

- The Pacific Division - PACIFICON '98 - Convention sponsored by the Mount Diablo ARC is scheduled for Oct. 16 - 18 at the Airport Sheraton Hotel, Concord, CA. For information call (925) 932-6125, email at PACIFICON98@designlink.com, or via the web at <http://www.mdarc.org>. Mail reservations to PACIFICON'98 PO Box 272613, Concord CA 94527. Obtain hotel reservations at \$76 per night by calling 1-800-325-3535 (mention PACIFICON '98 to get this rate).

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Internet: k6wr@arrl.org
Pacific Division Web site <http://www.pdarrl.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 ==

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY
AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**

PO BOX 6
San Jose CA 95103-0006

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League

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