

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 15, Number 1

January 1999



From the ARRL...

The ARRL Letter, December 4, 1998

LEAGUE FILES "RESTRUCTURING" COMMENTS WITH FCC

The ARRL has filed formal comments in response to the FCC's proposed streamlining of the Amateur Radio rules. The League delivered its comments to the FCC December 1, the final day for comments in the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in WT Docket 98-143.

The League's filing promotes the ARRL Board of Directors' restructuring positions, adopted last July and fine-tuned at a special meeting in October. It also takes the FCC to task on a few points. The ARRL said the FCC's NPRM failed to contain "a comprehensive license restructuring proposal or even an overall review of license restructuring" and generally "missed the mark."

The League called on the FCC to adopt the ARRL Board's restructuring plans as the centerpiece of its streamlining efforts. Among other things, the League plan calls for eliminating the Novice and Tech Plus licenses to reduce the number of license classes from six to four. The ARRL plan automatically upgrades current Novice and Tech Plus licensees to General. The General license would become the entry-level ticket to HF. Existing Novice and Tech Plus HF CW bands would be "refarmed" to provide additional phone spectrum for General, Advanced, and Extra class licensees.

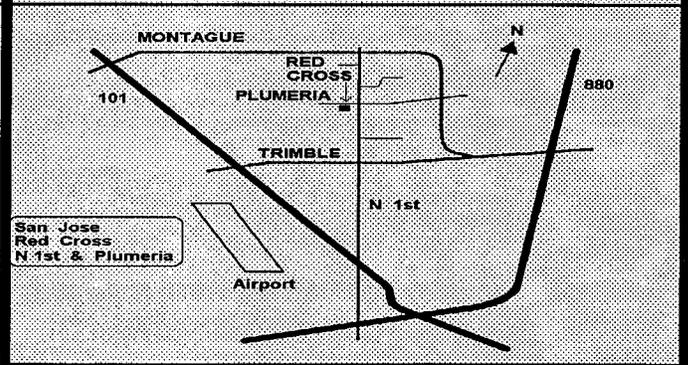
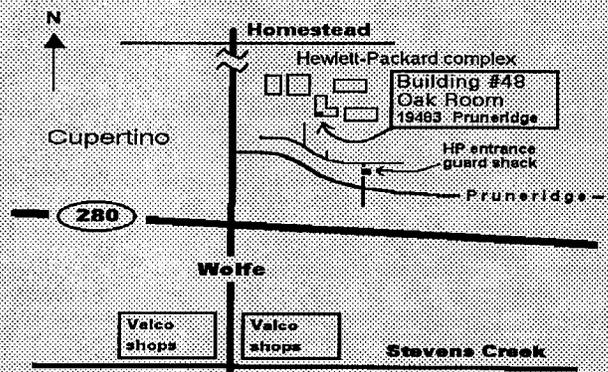
The FCC also proposed a four-tier license structure, eliminating the Novice ticket and melding existing Technician and Tech Plus licensees into a common database while allowing current Novices and Tech Pluses to retain their current operating privileges. The ARRL said the FCC was on "the right track" in proposing to eliminate the Novice ticket. But the League said its "instant upgrade" plan for

Calendar

- 1/11 SCCARA General Meeting
- 1/18 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 2/8 SCCARA General Meeting

Next General Meeting:

- Day: Monday, Jan. 11, 1999
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: Hewlett-Packard's Oak Rm, Bld #48
- Featuring: Trish WA6UBE will talk about automatic link establishment.



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	Barbara Britten, KD6QEI	293-3847
Vice President	Bob Forster, N6PCQ	296-5509
Secretary	John Leonard, WA6UAR	729-3838
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	(831) 430-9650

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

Novice and Tech Plus operators is a better approach because it permits "refarming" the underutilized Novice HF sub-bands. The League called refarming "critical to any comprehensive license restructuring proposal."

The FCC's NPRM sought comments on the issue of Morse code testing and requirements but offered no specific proposals. The ARRL called for a reduction in the number of Morse code examination tiers from three to two--5 and 12 WPM--and changes in the written examinations to make them more relevant and with greater emphasis on current operating practices and newer digital technologies. The League also recommended that the number of written exam questions "increase incrementally" for all license classes above Technician.

The League said that Morse code should not be overemphasized in the licensing process, but should be continued as a licensing requirement above the entry level. It has proposed that General class applicants pass a 5 WPM code test, while Advanced and Extra applicants pass the 12 WPM code test. Subsequent to release of its original restructuring plan, the ARRL Board also decided to ask the FCC to permit Technician operators to use Morse code on the General class HF CW segments without passing a specific code examination.

The ARRL said acknowledged abuses of the CW disability exemption process were an enforcement, not a testing, issue. For those claiming a disability waiver for the higher-speed CW test, the League urged testing accommodations as a preferable alternative. The League also urged an end to multiple-choice CW exams and rules specifying that a passing grade for a Morse examination be either 70 percent correct answers to 10 fill-in questions or one minute out of five of solid copy.

The League also praised the "new dawn" in amateur enforcement undertaken within the Compliance and Information Bureau by Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH. The ARRL suggested that it would be "reasonable to withhold any further [rulemaking] action on amateur enforcement" for now and let the CIB continue its work.

The ARRL's comments stressed the value of increasing participation in the hobby and making it available to more people. "By increased participation, Amateur Radio can provide even more service to the United States than it does currently, with a simpler licensing structure," the League asserted.

A complete copy of the ARRL's comments in WT Docket 98-143 is available on ARRL Web at <http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring/> (see "ARRL's Comments to the FCC on WT Docket 98-143"). Reply comments on the FCC's rulemaking proposals are due January 15, 1999. The FCC is not expected to take action on restructuring at least until sometime next spring.

TMSAT-1 NOW AVAILABLE FOR AMATEUR USE

TMSAT-1 (TO-31) now is available for general amateur use. The satellite opened for business the weekend of November 28. The move allows Amateur Radio operators to use the store-and-forward communications transponder on the spacecraft and to download the high-resolution multi-spectral Earth images taken by the satellite.

Ground station op Chris Jackson, G7UPN/ZL2TPO expressed the hope that ground operators will take advantage of downloading the high resolution multi-spectral images available from TO-31 "and keep other traffic to a minimum." Due to current limitations with on-board memory, images will only be available on the satellite for a couple of days after they are taken. If other files (especially large files) are uploaded to the satellite, this will ultimately increase the amount of time taken to download images and they may therefore be deleted before they are completed.

Jackson says transmitter problems continue, however, and the downlink is not currently operating over most areas. Amateurs in Europe and Southeast Asia will find the downlink on most of the time, and it will remain on for between 15 and 30 minutes, depending on the operation of the transmitter. Work and testing continue to improve this situation.

During some of these tests, access may be limited to command stations only. Jackson requests that hams not attempt to access the satellite if the BBS indicates it is "SHUT."

The TO-31 downlink frequency is 436.925 MHz, 9600 baud FSK. The uplink frequency is 145.925 MHz, 9600 baud FSK. The BBS call sign is TMSAT1-12; the broadcast call sign is TMSAT1-11. --Chris Jackson, G7UPN/ZL2TPO via AMSAT News Service

SETI and Amateur Radio

Alien hunters, hams join forces: The SETI League, which supports a privatized search for extraterrestrial intelligence--has announced its affiliation with the Central States VHF Society. Plans were formalized at the annual Central States VHF Conference this past summer for each organizations to join the other as a member society. The two organizations each have several hundred members. Central States Board Chairman Gerald Handley, WA5DBY, called it "a logical affiliation." He said the groups hope to collaborate in "applying the very latest in radio technique to the challenge of interstellar communications." SETI League Executive Director Paul Shuch, N6TX, has served two terms on the Central States board and has been a regular speaker at the society's annual conference for the past 15 years. For more information, see <http://www.setileague.org>. --The SETI

The ARRL Letter, December 25, 1998/January 1, 1999

COOPERATION CURBS "WIRELESS MODEM" QRM

A maker of "wireless modems" and a cable TV company that's been installing the units across the US have told the ARRL they'll do whatever it takes to keep the devices from causing interference to amateur HF bands. The ARRL contacted the two companies after receiving reports from members of the Northern California Contest Club about 80-meter interference from the devices. The devices, manufactured overseas by Phonex Corporation of Midvale, Utah, operate under Part 15 of the FCC's rules. This means that they may not cause interference to licensed services.

"Although the Phonex has complied with required FCC regulations, the ARRL has identified a potential interference problem on the low end of the 80-meter band," said Phonex Senior Engineer Scott Bullock, KK7LC. "We have several hams in our organization, and we do not want to cause any interference to any amateur band."

Wireless modems are first cousins to wireless telephone jacks used to provide additional telephone jacks without wiring. Both are sold in pairs. One unit plugs into the telephone connection while the other serves as a telephone or modem jack; both plug into convenient ac outlets. The carrier-current devices impose RF on the power line to transmit data back and forth in the form of wide-band FM.

Other units made by Phonex and sold as wireless extension telephone jacks under other brand names operate on 3.025 and 6.436 MHz, where they generally will not affect the ham bands. Unfortunately, the Phonex wireless modems operate on 3.52 and 8.27 MHz. Cable giant TCI has been installing these units in some subscribers' homes to make a convenient connection from the cable box to the telephone line to transmit billing information. Wireless modems transmit a continuous carrier on the lower frequency, whether the phone connection is in use or not, and on both frequencies when the remote line is in use.

ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, says the League received reports in mid-December about persistent interference on the low end of 80 meters and on other bands. The interference, consisting of discrete, somewhat noisy and drifting carriers, typically showed up around 3520 to 3530 kHz, but harmonics have been reported as high as 20 meters. ARRL Lab tests verified that the devices pose a serious QRM problem on the lower part of 80 meters and possibly on other bands.

FCC rules permit the unlicensed devices to radiate signals on HF of up to 30 uV/meter, even on an amateur band. Device

operators--TCI in this case--must correct any resulting interference, however.

TCI Senior Engineer Tony Werner said TCI plans to eliminate the 3.52 MHz wireless jacks it's installed "as expediently as possible" by replacing them with 3.3 MHz units or by running a hardwired telephone connection. TCI will immediately replace units that cause interference and automatically replace other 3.52-MHz units during routine customer service and plans to use nothing but 3.3-MHz units in the future. Hams experiencing harmful interference they believe is related to these devices should contact their local TCI office. TCI says it will be at least a few weeks before it has service information and replacement units on hand.

Phonex says it's made the necessary production changes to move the operating frequency of its units to 3.3 MHz. If one of its units causes interference, he said, Phonex will retune or replace it. Hams can contact Phonex Customer Service at 800-437-0101.

"Both companies have been refreshingly cooperative," said Hare, who--as his W1RFI call sign reflects--is the League's point man for interference issues. "If every RFI problem that involves Amateur Radio could be fixed so quickly, I would probably be out of a job."

Hare said hams with questions about this issue may contact him directly at ARRL HQ at 860-594-0318; e-mail ehare@arrl.org. Additional information is available at <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/rfitejlx.html>

DUTCH LOWFER EXPERIMENT FLIES

A serious effort by several Dutch radio amateurs to work as many other LF stations as possible has resulted in QSOs between PA2NJJN in The Netherlands and several stations in the UK and Europe on 136 kHz. The original test was scheduled for November 14. Plans called for using a kite-borne 900-foot antenna, but that day produced no wind. However, the following Saturday, November 21, provided enough wind to loft the wire to about 80 degrees--nearly vertical.

Kite crew member Richard Middel, PD1AOT, reports the day was cold (-6 degrees C), and windy. "When the kite reached a good height, we tied it to a string of thick nylon cable so the kit would stay there where it was," he said. "It was isolated from ground and it got charged with static electricity." Middel said that within seconds, he and Jeroen, PD1APA, got shocks from built-up static charges. "Sparks were springing from a distance of 2 cm," he said. At that point the antenna was not connected to the transceiver.

The group used a loop antenna and an "active antenna" for receiving, but Nico Nienhuis, PA2NJJN, reports that once the transmitting antenna was in the air, they were unable to

receive as well.

The transmitter power was 150 W. Calculations by the Dutch operators estimated the EIRP (effective isotropic radiated power) to be in the range of 10 to 15 W. Stations worked included G3KEV, G3YXM, G4GVC, ON6ND and ON6UX.

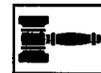
PA2NJJN also got reception reports from several European listeners, including France, Germany, Sweden, Scotland, and Italy. Best DX was a listener report from IK5ZPV in Italy, a distance of 1095 km.

Operators at the station in Usquert, The Netherlands, included PE1PFR, PA3GUC, and PA2NJJN. Others who monitored PA2NJJN's experimental operation are requested to send a report to Nico J. Nienhuis, PA2NJJN, Mensingeweersterweg 7, NL 9967 PA Eenrum, The Netherlands.

The ARRL has petitioned the FCC to create two low-frequency Amateur Radio allocations at 136 kHz and at 160 kHz. The League has proposed permitting CW, SSB, RTTY/data, and image emissions for amateurs in a 2.1-kHz "sliver band" from 135.7 to 137.8 kHz and in a 30-kHz segment from 160 to 190 kHz. (See The ARRL Letter, Vol 17, No 44, for November 6, 1998). The League proposed making the two bands available to General and higher licensees. --Thanks to Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ/Badger State Smoke Signals

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Dec. 12, 1998



Annual Christmas Meeting, this year a Luncheon at the Hungry Hunter restaurant in Milpitas.

The luncheon, scheduled for noon, began on time.

Vice President Barbara, KD6QEI, called the meeting to order at 1:45 PM.

The first order of business was election of a Director. Before the election, Lloyd KD6FJI expressed his desire to resign as a director. His election as a Director had occurred at the November 9, 1998 General Meeting. Upon motion of Wally Britten, KA6YMD, Don Apte, KK6MX was nominated and seconded for Director. All presented then voted in favor of KK6MX as Director. It was additionally noted that a White ballot had occurred.

Brad Wyatt, K6WR, Director, ARRL Pacific Division, next installed officers for 1999. Officers for 1999 are:
President - Barbara, KD6QEI
Vice President - Bob, N6PCQ
Secretary - John, WA6UAR
Treasurer - Lloyd, KD6FJI
Station Trustee - Stan, WA6VJY

He also recognized the new Directors - Wally, KA6YMD and Don, KK6MX.

KD6QEI then recognized, with Certificates of Appreciation, contributions made by these members:

Gary, WB6YRU for his efforts with *SCCARA-GRAM*

Don, K6PDQ for his efforts with the 2 M net

Wally, KA6YMD for his efforts with the 10 M net

Dan Dietz, WM6M as Field Day Chairman

KD6QEI next presented discernment awards to Brad, K6WR and Don, K6PDQ for their contributions to today's proceedings.

2:45 PM Meeting adjourned.

John, WA6UAR, Secretary

John, WA6UAR had made contact with the domain on which it currently exists. The page exists at <http://ns1.qsl.net/sccara/>. He will make efforts to assure the continued existence of SCCARA, and will check on updating information that is presented there.

Bob, N6PCQ advised that he has begun work on our 1999 programs. He asks for any input as to material that would be of interest to our membership.

Don, K6PBQ then provided general information regarding Field Day. He also advised that our 1999 Christmas meeting would be on December 11, 1999. It was then agreed that it would be a lunch, and that the same location would be used as was used for this year's.

Bob, N6PCQ and Clark, KE6KXO advised that new locks would be needed for trailers. They will investigate specifics and advise.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

John, WA6UAR, Secretary

Newsletter Notes

Board Meeting, Dec. 14, 1998



BOARD MINUTES -12/14/1998, San Jose Red Cross building, N 1St & Plumeria

Attendance: KD6QEI, Barbara; K6PBQ, Don; WA6QYS, Lou; N6PCQ, Bob; KD6FJI, Lloyd; WB6YRU, Gary; KA6YMD, Wally; KK6MX, Don; KE6KXO, Clark; and WA6UAR, John

President Barbara, KD6QEI, called board meeting to order at 7:40 PM. She acknowledged the excellent lunch presented at the previous General meeting, and thanked Don, K6PBQ for his efforts in our mutual behalf.

KD6QEI then installed Robert Forster, N6PCQ as Vice President of SCCARA.

It was recognized that the January 1999 General Meeting speaker would be Trish, WA6UBE. It was also recognized that the date of this Meeting would be January 11, 1999.

Under new business, an Audit Committee was established to review the operation of SCCARA. Clark Murphy, KE6KXO, will chair it. Bob, N6PCQ and John, WA6UAR will assist him.

The presence of SCCARA on the Internet was discussed.

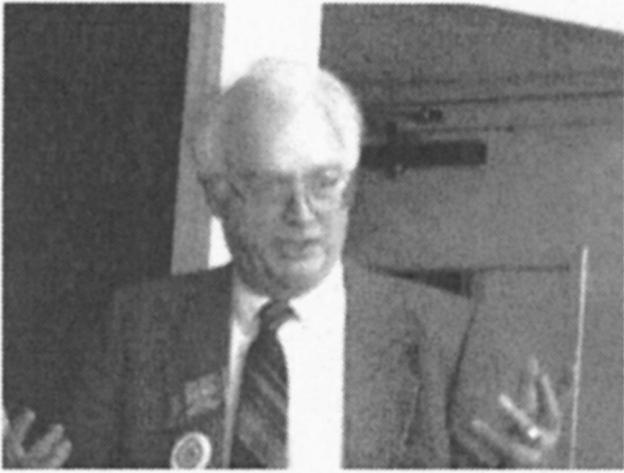
As we start a new year, it would be nice if SCCARA would make a resolution to do a little more to support its newsletter in the way of content. I'm sure you've all noticed...In the past year or two things have gone from poor to worse. In 1997 only fifty percent of the issues had a President's Prose column--the last one was May of 1998. Furthermore, the "regular" columns of the Repeater Report, Treasurer's Treatise, Secretary Says, and Station Status have been rare as hen's teeth! Based on this alone, one might be tempted to believe the club has all but dried up and blown away.

If you agree that these columns should appear at least a few times per year, please mention it to the officers and directors. Let's get the *SCCARA-GRAM* back in the pink. After all, news of club goings on is the primary function of a newsletter.

On a different note... In this issue we have some photos taken from a digital camera. This is a first for the *SCCARA-GRAM*. The biggest problem with early digital cameras is a lack of resolution. Although improvements have been made, evidently they still aren't as good as film (the ones here are noticeably fuzzier). However, if digital camera technology improves as fast as computer technology, in perhaps a couple more years we won't be able to notice the difference, at least as far as the newsletter is concerned.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

From the December dinner meeting...



A few words from Brad K6WR

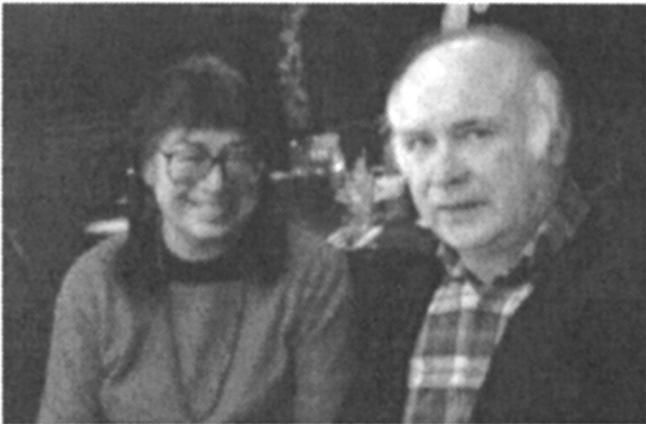


Mike KB6LCJ & Jone KB6LFZ



Do you solemnly swear...?

New officers are sworn in



Gwen KF6OTD & Lou WA6QYS



Roy K6VIP & Virginia K6IUU

*Photos courtesy Virginia Metzger,
K6IUU*

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@aenet.net

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the packet network:

=====
Date: 21 Mar 98 05:40
From: AB7RG@KB7FRV
To: FARCE@USA
Subject: The Mule...

THE MULE:

A newlywed farmer and his wife were visited by her mother, who immediately demanded an inspection of the place. The farmer had genuinely tried to be friendly to his new mother-in-law, hoping that it could be a friendly, non-antagonistic relationship. To no avail, she kept nagging them at every opportunity, demanding changes, offering unwanted advice and making life unbearable to the farmer and his new bride.

While they were walking through the barn, the farmer's mule suddenly reared up and kicked the mother-in-law in the head, killing her instantly.

At the funeral service a few days later, the farmer stood near the casket and greeted folks as they walked by. The pastor noticed that whenever a woman would whisper something to the farmer, he would nod his head yes and say something. Whenever a man walked by and whispered to the farmer, however, he would shake his head, no and mumble a reply.

Very curious as to this bizarre behavior, the pastor later asked the farmer what that was all about. The farmer replied, "The women would say, 'What a terrible tragedy' and I would nod my head and say, 'Yes it was.' The men would ask, 'Can I borrow that mule?' and I would shake my head and say, 'Can't. It's all booked up for a year.'"

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

ARRL Pacific Division Update

January 1999

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All in the Pacific Division!

Restructuring Docket Comment Periods

The Comment deadline on FCC WT Docket 98-143 was Dec. 1, 1998. The implementation of this Docket will set the framework for the Amateur Radio Service in the US for the next several years. The Docket and the ARRL "constructive suggestions" to the FCC on this Docket have been widely discussed in the Sept., Oct., Nov., and Dec. QSTs as well as in recent issues of the Pacific Division Update (see the Pacific Division web site at www.pdarrl.org). As this item is being written, there are just under 1,800 Comments on file at the FCC on this matter. These comments are available on the FCC web site at <http://gullfoss.fcc.gov:8080/cgi-bin/ws.exe/prod/ecfs/comsrch.hts>. You must have Adobe Acrobat Reader installed to read the actual comments.

The ARRL Comments are also posted on the ARRL web site, www.arrl.org.

Thanks to those of you who sent in your Comments expressing your views about the future of Amateur Radio licensing and related topics!

The Reply Comment cycle is designed to allow anyone who filed Comments to reply specifically to Comments made by other individuals or groups.

Reply Comments can be filed via the web at <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html> or by email at ecfs@fcc.gov. For instructions on how to file using the ecfs address, send an email to ecfs with the words "Get form <your email address>" in the body of the message. Of course, written Reply Comments can be sent by hardcopy by US mail to Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M St. NW, Washington DC 20554. Be sure to include reference to WT Docket 98-143.

What happens next? I do not expect to see a Report and Order on this matter from the FCC until late spring 1999. It is also possible that regardless of whatever the FCC decides, Petitions for Reconsideration will be filed by those unhappy with the decision which would further delay the effective date of the Report and Order.

FCC Enforcement

The FCC's Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, is making his list and checking it twice. And now that he knows which hams are naughty, not nice, he's ready to take enforcement actions against the most flagrant amateur offenders.

"Fully half of the amateur problems on HF relate to a specific group of jammers--malicious interferers who apparently enjoy disrupting as much amateur communication as possible," said Hollingsworth, the FCC's point man for amateur enforcement within the Compliance and Information Bureau. "Enforcement action against this group is long overdue."

Coal could be showing up in some Christmas stockings. Hollingsworth has prepared a report to his boss, CIB Chief Richard D. Lee, detailing his findings and fingering the most serious violators in a "top 10" list which he declined to make public just yet. His memo urged "immediate enforcement action."

Hollingsworth said he's talked with more than 250 people on the amateur enforcement line (202-418-1184) since the end of September, when the FCC's latest amateur enforcement initiative kicked into high gear. In addition, he has received more than four dozen letters and e-mailed comments concerning problems in the Amateur Service. Hollingsworth has concluded that, while most amateurs abide by the rules, a few habitual offenders continue to flout the law.

"We are not going to stand for the Amateur Service to be further degraded or destroyed by them," he said.

Hollingsworth says that jamming and deliberate interference is the most common problem, accounting for 31 percent of all complaints. Repeater misuse and jamming account for another 29 percent. But he considers the HF abuses--most typically reported on 75 and 20 meters--to be the more serious offenses because they can be national or international in scope. Other general problems accounted for another 17 percent of the complaints, Hollingsworth said. A full 10 percent of complaints concerned an unlicensed individual in California who already has spent time in jail for past convictions.

Hollingsworth has sent out 30 informal "warning letters" to individual operators as a result of complaints. The letters warn the recipients that a complaint has been received about the recipient or someone using his or her call sign, indicate that the allegations--if true--could jeopardize the amateur's license, and request the recipient to contact the FCC to discuss the matter.

"In almost every case the recipient has contacted us," he said. "In one case, the licensee contacted us, apologized, and reports since that time indicate that the licensee has become a model operator." Some amateurs have reported to the ARRL that amateur behavior has improved--dramatically in some areas--since word hit the street that the FCC was taking amateur enforcement seriously. For its part, the League has said it is willing, for now, not to pursue its request to further privatize amateur enforcement.

Hollingsworth says the warning letters will continue, but now he's taking aim at the hard-core scofflaws within the Amateur Radio community. "We have now let everyone out there know we're back," he said. Continued violations will "guarantee" license revocations, fines, or--in extreme cases--equipment seizures.

"Church is out now," he said. "We mean business

and we're strapped in and ready to ride." Hollingsworth said Amateur Radio rule-breakers "continue these violations at their own risk." --Thanks, ARRL Letter

Strange Signals At or About 3525 kHz!

During the last two weeks several East Bay, San Francisco and Santa Clara Valley Section hams have reported strange and strong signals 24 hours per day around 3525 kHz. Several specific reports have come from members of the Northern California Contest Club. This interference has been traced to the wireless modems installed with some digital TV/CATV installations. The problem has been forwarded to ARRL HQ and assigned to Ed Hare, W1RFI, in the ARRL Lab (ehare@arrl.org). Ed has made a great deal of progress this past week. He told me on Friday, Dec. 18, that he is in contact with the device manufacturers and the cable TV industry. These groups are currently working with Ed on practical solutions. I anticipate that these practical solutions will be finalized very soon, then the information will be publicized. Stay tuned! --Thanks, NCCC, Ed Hare (ARRL Lab), and many others who have helped.

Amateur Radio Scholarships Available

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 1999-2000 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds ten of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual Hamfests. The remaining fifty-six 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.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card to: FAR Scholarships, PO Box 831, Riverdale MD 20738. Applications must be postmarked prior to April 30, 1999.

Nominations for Maxim Memorial Award

Nominations are open for the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award. The award goes each year to a radio amateur under the age of 21 whose accomplishments and contributions are of the most exemplary nature within the framework of Amateur Radio activities. These include, but are not limited to:

- Participation or leadership in organizational affairs at the local or national level.
- Technical achievement.
- Operating record.
- Recruitment and training of new amateurs.

- Public relations activities.

In keeping with the tradition of the award when it was first established in 1936, formal nominations are made by Section Managers. Supporting information, including the endorsement of ARRL-affiliated clubs and elected or appointed League Leadership officials, should be submitted with the nomination. An award panel will review the nominations received and select the winner. The prize consists of a cash award of \$1000, a suitably engraved plaque, and travel and accommodation expenses to enable the winner to attend an ARRL convention for a formal presentation.

Nominations should document, as thoroughly as possible the Amateur Radio achievements and contributions of the nominee during the previous calendar year. Additional information concerning the character of the nominee should be as complete as possible.

The award is intended to provide a tangible reward to those deserving young amateurs who contribute their time, skills and energies daily through their commitment to Amateur Radio. As models for their peers, and inspirations to us all, these fine young people are highly visible boosters of Amateur Radio awareness. We must continue to recognize and encourage their hard work and contributions at every opportunity.

Nominations must be sent to the Section Manager. Nominations must be received at Headquarters from Section Managers by March 31, 1999. There is no limit to the number of nominations one may make.

For more information and an application form, contact ARRL Field Services Manager Rick Palm, K1CE, e-mail rpalm@arrl.org or write him at ARRL Headquarters, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. --Thanks, ARRL Letter.

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.

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S.C.C.A.R.A. Membership Form for 1999

(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**

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