

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 16, Number 1

January 2000



President's Prose

First of all, I want to wish everyone the very best the season has to offer, as it is the last holiday of the century. Then, I wish for everyone a Happy New Year.

Now I have some bad news to report. We have another silent key. John Tanner, K6EJF, passed on Thursday at 9:00 A.M. at Skyline Convalescent Home. He was 84. We will miss him. He was the person in our club who had made the contacts with the San Jose Unified School District, which has resulted in us getting a radio station placed at the Hammer Elementary School. As an acknowledgement of his efforts, I would like to have a plaque placed on the door of the radio room when completed to say, "Dedicated to John Tanner, K6EJF." John had told me earlier this year that he had stipulated in his will that his radio equipment was to be given to SCCARA. Things are in the hands of the lawyer now. I haven't talked to him since John's death, but I plan to speak to him on Monday, December 6. I will know more by the SCCARA Christmas party and the Board meeting on Monday, Dec. 13.

Speaking of radio rooms, I have no further info at this writing from Paul Tucker about the status of our radio room at Regional Medical Center (formally known as Alexian Brothers Hosp). I will be in contact with him for more info by the Christmas Party.

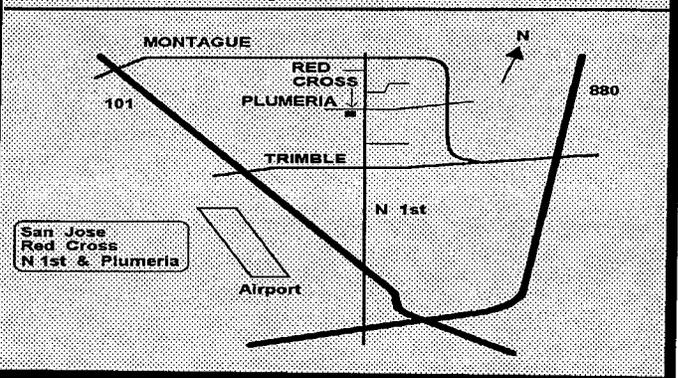
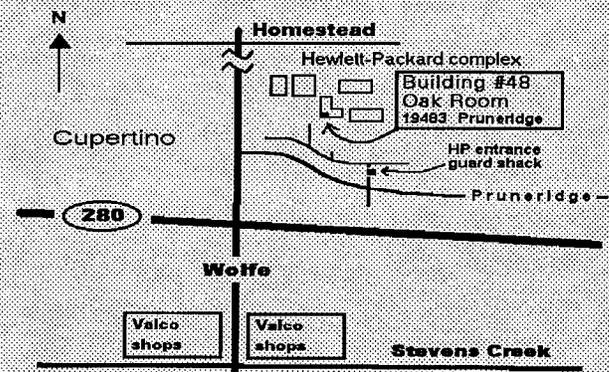
I want to thank all of the members who are actively participating in the club in what ever capacity they chose. (Coming to meetings, participating in the social events, and serving as officers or directors). We still need help. Gary Mitchell has brought up some interesting comments through some recent e-mails to me. I would like to put some of these thoughts out to you. He has made some valid points. In the last two years our club has been operating (illegally, according to incorporation rules) without a secretary. Is there no one in this club of some 70 or so members who has enough interest in our club to help it by manning a vital station as secretary? What will it take for someone to step forward and be secretary? The job is not that difficult, although it does require some of your time on

Calendar

- 1/10 SCCARA General Meeting
- 1/17 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 2/14 SCCARA General Meeting

Annual General Meeting:

- Day: Monday, January 10, 2000
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: Hewlett-Packard's Oak Rm. Bld #48
- Featuring: Bob Forster N6PCQ will talk about fractal antennas.



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SCCARA was formed 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. Web page: <http://www.qsl.net/sccara>.

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N0ARY BBS	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	265-2336
	e-mail: wb6yru@aenet.net	

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 auto-dial and auto-patch is available). The two meter repeater is located in the Mt. Hamilton foothills, Alum Rock area. The 70 cm repeater and N0ARY BBS 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--our meeting night). Coordinator: Don K6PBQ. On ten meters, 28.385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00 PM. Net control: Wally KA6YMD. Visitors welcome.

N0ARY PACKET BBS

SCCARA hosts the packet BBS N0ARY (San Jose). User ports: 144.93 (1200 baud), 433.37 (9600 baud), telephone 408 259-8497, internet (by registration only, get info by sending e-mail to: info@n0ary.org). Sysop: Gary WB6YRU

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

SCCARA contact Clark KE6KXO:	408 262-9334
ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group:	408 243-8349
	me-ae6z@worldnet.att.net

a monthly basis for note taking at the regular and Board meetings, the receiving and sending of correspondence, and the keeping of files and records on SCCARA club members. I have agreed to take the secretary position after I vacate the Presidency, but that won't be until next year. (That's if there is someone to take the Presidency). Gary has suggested that he resign as SCCARA-GRAM editor to become the secretary. This is a gracious gesture, but I would like him to stay right where he is as the editor, because he is doing an excellent job. The secretary position does not require as much time as being the editor of the newsletter. What would it take to get someone to be secretary? I'll pay your dues for the year or two you are secretary. Will that help? Shall we pay a salary to the secretary? They pay the secretary of the Masonic Lodges and Eastern Star Chapters. Do we need to do that for SCCARA? Lloyd DeVaughns has been taking the notes at both regular and Board meetings for the last two years as we have not had a secretary. This is not fair to him. He has enough to do as treasurer. Please, search your minds and hearts. We NEED a secretary, yesterday. I know we all have busy lives and it is hard to fit one more task into it, but our club needs that special person who will be secretary to come forward and take the job for only one year. I hope you are that person. I'm talking to that one person who can give just a little more right now for just one year. Think about it. Will you be the person who is part of the problem, or the solution to the problem?

Okay, off the soap box. On to other things. Everyone who comes to the Christmas party will have a special and different "place card" at their seat this year. It will be edible and will have your call sign on it. Please enjoy with my compliments and thanks to my daughter, Anna, for making them. I'm hoping to make this a permanent part of all future dinners.

Thank you to all the officers, directors, and members who have worked so very hard this last year. Your efforts have gotten this club to where it is today. I am looking forward to working with you for the next term. It looks like we are going to have a pretty good year. We are hoping to get two new radio stations up and running as soon as possible. I would like to get more people involved in contests and other radio related events, so the name SCCARA will be a more familiar name to the members of the community we live and serve in. The greater the involvement with the community should mean a greater possibility for new members, and training more people to be hams.

As we go into the new millennium, I want to say thank you to SCCARA members for giving me the privilege to be president this last year and next. In the seventy five year history of SCCARA there has never been a woman president (I don't think so anyway). I feel very honored that SCCARA has allowed me to be the woman to break the cycle and be the one to take this club into the new millennium. I hope I continue to meet your expectations as your president. I couldn't have done it without your help. At his point, I want to say, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Remember to be Y2K ready.
unexpected and you will be ready.

Expect the

73, Barbara K. Britten KD6QEI



Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Dec. 11, 1999



[No minutes were received by the deadline. --Ed.]

Board Meeting, Dec. 13, 1999



[No minutes were received by the deadline. --Ed.]

News from the ARRL

From *The ARRL Letter*, December 3, 1999

FCC denies League's request to strengthen PRB-1

The FCC has turned down a 1996 ARRL petition asking the Commission to go further in compelling state and local governments to reasonably accommodate Amateur Radio and apply the least restrictive means to regulate amateur antennas and activity. However, in denying the petition, designated RM-8763, the FCC did offer some words that may be helpful to amateurs.

The requested rules changes would have expanded and clarified PRB-1, the Federal preemption of state and local regulation spelled out by the FCC in 1985 and since incorporated into the laws of several states.

Specifically, the League called on the FCC to amend Section 97.15(e) of its rules to say that any state or local antenna restrictions limiting ham radio antennas to heights below 70 feet would be "presumed unreasonable" unless the state or local authority could show its restrictions were necessary for health, safety or aesthetic reasons.

Further, the ARRL asked the FCC to clarify that local government's role in applying PRB-1 was to accommodate

ham antennas rather than to balance local interests against Federal interests in "effective public service amateur communications." The League also wanted the FCC to acknowledge that it "has no less interest in the effective performance of an Amateur Radio Station" in an area regulated by deed restrictions, covenants, or condominium regulations than by zoning ordinances. It also asked the FCC to preempt overly burdensome conditions and excessive costs localities might require in connection with amateurs antenna installations.

In its denial, in an Order released November 19, the FCC said it would not be "prudent" or "appropriate" to set a height standard for amateur antennas and supporting structures "because of varying circumstances that may occur" for differing antenna configurations. "We believe that the policy enunciated in PRB-1 is sound," the FCC said, noting that PRB-1 does not specify a height limit. The Commission also said it did not want to mandate specific provisions that localities must include in zoning ordinances.

"We continue to believe that the standards the Commission set, that is 'reasonable accommodation' and 'minimum practicable regulation', have worked relatively well," the FCC said. The Commission applied that same philosophy to the imposition of fees, zoning laws and other conditions that localities might impose on amateur antenna installations.

The FCC also said its policy with respect to restrictive covenants already is clearly stated in PRB-1, which excludes restrictive covenants in private contracts as "outside the reach of our limited preemption." The FCC did say that it "strongly encourages associations of homeowners and private contracting parties to follow the principle of reasonable accommodation" with respect to Amateur Radio. But it drew the line at proposing specific rule changes to bring private restrictive covenants under the umbrella of PRB-1.

On a slightly positive note, the FCC did assert that PRB-1 precisely states the principle of "reasonable accommodation." Some courts have held that a local authority can merely balance its own interests against those of the amateur. PRB-1 says local regulations involving placement, screening, or height of antennas based on health, safety, or aesthetic considerations "must be crafted to accommodate reasonably amateur communications, and to represent the minimum practicable regulation to accomplish the local authority's legitimate purpose." In its Order, the FCC said that given PRB-1's explicit language, "it is clear that a 'balancing of interests' approach is not appropriate in this context."

The ARRL Executive Committee will review the Order at its December 4 meeting to determine what further action is appropriate.

FCC intervenes in power line noise complaints

Taking a new direction in a power-line interference case, the FCC has contacted a West Coast power company to remind the utility of its obligation to fix equipment problems that cause harmful radio interference. The case involved longstanding complaints by several northern California amateurs to Pacific Gas & Electric Company regarding severe power line noise on the ham bands.

On November 22, the FCC's Consumer Center wrote PG&E Senior VP James K. Randolph, who's also General Manager of Distribution and Customer Service requesting the company to correct the problem "within a reasonable time."

"It is a little bit unusual, but it had been ongoing for quite a while, and I had talked with the power company," said Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth. He said the situation involved "a long history of non-response" by PG&E. "They've shown a lot of patience," he said of the amateurs who had complained, adding that he'd spoken to some of them during a West Coast visit earlier this year.

"The FCC has the responsibility to require that utility companies rectify such problems within a reasonable time if the interference is caused by faulty power utility equipment," the Commission's letter said.

Under FCC Part 15, utilities and others that fall under its provisions are obliged to not cause harmful interference to licensed services and to cease operating a device that's causing harmful interference upon FCC notification. The FCC said that while it remains confident that utilities can resolve such interference issues voluntarily, its letter was intended as a reminder that the unresolved interference problem "may be a violation of FCC rules and could result in a monetary forfeiture for each occurrence."

The FCC letter points out that the FCC encourages parties to resolve such problems "without FCC intervention" but says the FCC will step in when necessary. In this particular case, Hollingsworth said, the amateurs "had worked diligently with the power company and with the League, and we thought it appropriate for us to send a letter reminding them of what the Commission's rules and policies are."

Hollingsworth and ARRL Lab Supervisor, Ed Hare, W1RFI--the League's point man for interference-related issues--say that, before contacting the FCC to intervene as it did with the PG&E situation, affected amateurs first should attempt to work patiently with the utility and should contact the League for assistance.

The ARRL Technical Information Service has prepared a Web page, "RFI--Electrical and Power Line," at <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/rfi-elec.html>. Amateurs suffering from interference believed to be emanating from power generation or transmission facilities also may contact Ed Hare, W1RFI, 860-594-0318; rfi@arrl.org.

FCC dismisses five more amateur radio-related petitions

The FCC has turned down five more Amateur Radio-related petitions, including three filed by the ARRL. The FCC consolidated the dismissals into a single Order, released November 29. Among the five was a petition filed last spring by the Central States VHF Society. That petition, designated RM-9673, generally sought more restrictive regulation of the modes used by amateurs in the 6 meter, 2 meter, 1.25 meter and 70 cm bands.

The three ARRL petitions dismissed were RM-9259, filed April 3, 1998, asking for an FCC declaratory ruling to equate observance of voluntary band plans with "good amateur practice"; RM-9115, filed March 12, 1997, seeking to permit RACES participants and others to intercommunicate during emergencies, drills and tests and to expand the time allowed for RACES drills; and RM-9106, filed March 12, 1997, asking the FCC to permit stations in the Territory of American Samoa to transmit on 7.1 to 7.3 MHz as a domestic exception to the International Table of Frequency Allocations.

The FCC also dismissed a petition filed March 19, 1997, by James Cardillo-Lee, KE6VGV, asking for a rule change to permit hams who also are emergency personnel engaged in disaster relief to use the Amateur Service bands while on paid-duty status.

The Central States VHF Society petition, filed May 3, had expressed concern about increasing encroachment into the so-called weak-signal portions of the bands above 50 MHz by wider-bandwidth modes, such as voice FM and packet. CSVHFS said voluntary band plans had not been successful in limiting the activity.

In turning down the petition, the FCC said that amateurs, including weak-signal adherents, already have been provided segments in the bands at issue that are off-limits to certain types of stations. The FCC reiterated language from another Report and Order that declared it was "unreasonable" to expect to operate in a totally interference-free environment. The Commission also expressed concern that "subdividing amateur service bands on the basis of operating interests would result in a loss of flexibility to accommodate changes in operating trends and emergence of new technologies." The FCC said it agreed with the ARRL's position on the CSVHFS petition that education and the application of existing rules should suffice to minimize interference among various modes.

In dismissing as "unnecessary" the League's request for a declaratory ruling to equate band plan adherence with "good amateur practice," the FCC noted that a basic amateur principle is that "all frequencies are shared, and no frequency will be assigned for the exclusive use any station." The Commission suggested it was reluctant to expand its regulatory role beyond the existing limits on the emission

types that may be transmitted in different sub-bands. The Commission, however, did reiterate existing prohibitions against willful and malicious interference.

The FCC said the requested changes "would have the effect of transforming voluntary band plans into de facto required mandates," something inconsistent with current FCC policy.

In denying the ARRL's petition for changes in the RACES rules, the FCC said the League failed to demonstrate a separate rulemaking was warranted. The FCC noted that it's currently considering "the necessity of separate licenses for RACES stations" in another proceeding.

Radials for Vertical Antennas

by James R. Duffey, KK6MC

I am one of the folks that advocate radials for verticals. I would like to point out a few things about verticals and radials.

You need a good ground plane for a vertical to work. Unless you erect the vertical over salt water or a large metal plate the easiest way to provide the ground plane is with radials.

The ground serves several functions:

One is to provide a return current path on the braid of the coax to connect to the ground plane. This return current should be of equal magnitude to that in the antenna. It can be provided by a single resonant radial. If this is done, there will be some horizontally polarized radiation, so 2 radials are used which will result, theoretically at least, in no radiation from the radials.

An 8 ft ground rod will not provide this return current efficiently. There will be significant losses to the currents flowing on this rod due to the surrounding soil. If there are no radials the antenna will seek this return current elsewhere. The most likely place will be the outside of the coaxial cable. It will try to find some combination of coaxial-feeder-length, AC main grounds, station ground, telephone ground, or cable company ground until it finds a length that is resonant or nearly so. This will result in that whole length radiating. The radiated signal from this return current will likely be in unwanted directions, at high wave angles, and adjacent to lossy structures. It can also aggravate any interference.

A well defined radial structure, along with a choke balun at the feed-point, will usually resolve this problem.

A second purpose to the radials is to provide a low loss path for the ground currents induced by the antenna in the ground. These ground currents are partly responsible for the shape of the radiated signal from the antenna. Without them the radiated signal at low angles will be lower and the radiated signal at high angles will be higher.

L. B. Cebik, W4RNL explains all this better than I can at his web site: <<http://www.cebik.com>>. Look for "A Modeling Perspective on "Ground" Planes Parts 1-5" and "Half-Length 80-Meter Vertical Monopoles: the Best Method of Loading Parts 1-5." There is lots of other good stuff there as well.

Here is a typical statement: "I put in a set of radials, and if anything, the antenna performance deteriorated." Or: "In fairness, it didn't change enough to say it is worse, but it certainly is no better."

How did you determine the performance has deteriorated? Did you make base impedance measurements with and without the radials? If so did you infer a radiation resistance and hence an efficiency? Did the efficiency go down (worse performance)?

Did you make field strength measurements with and without the radials? If so, did the field strength go down (worse performance)?

Without making these measurements I don't think that you can say the performance of the vertical deteriorated. Anecdotal data is useful and powerful, but until measurements have been made the performance can not be defined.

Did you make SWR measurements? In this situation I would conjecture that the SWR went up, which to some people indicates poorer performance. The SWR will go up because the resistive component of the base impedance of the antenna will go down due to decreased losses.

Another possibility is that the feedline radiation has increased with the addition of the radials, particularly if they are not resonant in place. Unless you are using a choke balun at the feed-point you may see deteriorated performance due to this non-resonance.

The noise issue is interesting;

"Verticals are noisy."

Static, due to the antenna charging, is often called precipitation static. It is also observed when electrostatically charged dry winds blow. It can be reduced by installing a 50k ohm 3 watt non-inductive resistor across the antenna feed-point.

A high level of man made noise is often an indication of feedline pickup/radiation which can often be solved by a

choke balun at the antenna feed-point. Occasionally one is needed at the transmitter end as well.

"I have been using an antenna tuner to load it on all the bands 40 and up, and it works amazingly well. (totally useless on 80, however.)"

On some bands, 20M in particular, the antenna will have a very high impedance and hence high SWR on a coaxial cable. Losses will be quite high if the coax run is appreciable in length and especially high if small diameter, say RG-58U cable, is used.

On bands above 15 M there will be a lot of high angle radiation, which is not desirable for DX communication.

Every situation is different and there are few, if any, absolutes.

For your operating conditions and habits radials may not make a big difference to you. After all, if you are losing half your power due to lack of radials, you will only be down 3 dB or so from the ideal situation. If you usually work only strong stations you may not notice the difference. If you only work stations less than 1000 miles away, you may not notice the improved low angle performance.

Antenna theories and practices, as applied to vertical antennas, are fairly well understood and indicate that improved performance can be achieved with radials.

I will summarize what I think is necessary for a good vertical installation:

0) A good ground plane: Salt water, a large metal plate, or radials. If radials are used, it is probably preferable to have them elevated and resonant. If they are not resonant, then follow an antenna handbook guidelines for number and length of radials. You will generally be happier with many long radials.

1) A choke balun at the feed-point to minimize feedline radiation/pickup. See the handbook for choke balun dimensions, or go to: <http://www.berkshire.net/~robbins/technote/airbalun.html>. These air core choke baluns can be easily made from coax wound around a form.

2) In stubborn cases, a second choke balun at the transmitter may be required.

3) A good earth ground.

I have said this all before and others have as well. If you have a vertical antenna pay attention to the ground.

See you on the bands. - Duffey KK6MC/5

James R. Duffey

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[This article came from the North Hills Radio Club newsletter.]

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the packet network:

=====
Date: 1 Dec 98 14:00

From: AB7RG@K5LRS

To: FARCE@USA

Subject: The Pearly Gates...

Pearly Gates:
=====

A cab driver reaches the Pearly Gates and announces his presence to St. Peter, who looks him up in his big book. Upon reading the entry for the cabby, St. Peter invites him to grab a silk robe and a golden staff and proceed in heaven.

A preacher is next in line behind the cabby and has been watching these proceedings with interest. He announces himself to St. Peter. Upon scanning the preacher's entry in the big book, St. Peter furrows his brow and says, "OK, we'll let you in, but take that cloth robe and wooden staff."

The preacher is astonished and replies, "But I am a man of the cloth. You gave that cab driver a gold staff and a silk robe. Surely I rate higher than a cabby."

St. Peter responded matter-of-factly: "Here, we are interested in results. When you preached, people slept. When the cabby drove his taxi, people prayed."

73 & May the FARCE be with you! Clinton, AB7RG.
AB7RG @ K5LRS.#NWAR.AR:USA.NOAM

Floating around the internet...

=====
AT LAST...Some useful trivia...

Some interesting but unverified facts for you! Amuse your

friends!

1. In Kentucky, 50 percent of the people who get married for the first time are teenagers.
2. Kotex was first manufactured as bandages, during W.W. 1.
3. Einstein couldn't speak fluently when he was nine. His parents thought he might be retarded.
4. In Los Angeles, there are fewer people than there are automobiles.
5. About a third of all Americans flush the toilet while they're still sitting on it. /* Who studied this and why? */
6. You're more likely to get stung by a bee on a windy day than in any other weather.
7. An average person laughs about 15 times a day.
8. Research indicates that mosquitoes are attracted to people who have recently eaten bananas.
9. Penguins can jump as high as 6 feet in the air.
10. The average person is half an inch taller upon rising in the morning.
11. A sneeze zooms out of your mouth at up to 600 m.p.h.
12. Thomas Edison was afraid of the dark.
14. A Saudi Arabian woman can get a divorce if her husband doesn't give her coffee.
15. A Neanderthal's brain was bigger than yours is.
16. Donald Duck comics were banned from Finland because he doesn't wear pants.
17. The average bank teller loses about \$250 every year.
18. In 1980, there was only one country in the world with no telephones - Bhutan.
19. Every person has a unique tongue print.
20. Your right lung takes in more air than your left one does.
21. Women's hearts beat faster than men's.
22. Pollsters say that 40 percent of dog and cat owners carry pictures of the pets in their wallets.
23. Bubble gum contains rubber.
24. You can only smell 1/20th as well as a dog.
25. Only 55 percent of all Americans know that the sun is a star.
26. The sound of E.T. walking was made by someone squishing her hands in Jello.
27. If you cut off a cockroach's head, it can live for weeks.
28. Most American car horns honk in the key of F.
29. The world population of chickens is about equal to people.
30. Every time Beethoven sat down to write music, he poured ice water over his head.
31. In 75% of American households, women manage the money and pay the bills.
32. A monkey was once tried and convicted for smoking a cigarette in South Bend, Indiana.
33. About 70 percent of Americans who go to college do it just to make more money.
34. It's against the law to catch fish with your bare hands in Kansas.
35. Some toothpaste brands contain antifreeze.
36. Sigmund Freud had a morbid fear of ferns.
37. Millie the White House dog earned more than 4 times as much as President Bush in 1991. /* rightfully so ... but how? */
38. Bird droppings are the chief export of Nauru, an island nation in the Western Pacific.
39. There are more plastic flamingos in America than real ones.
40. Most lipstick contains fish scales.
42. Mosquitoes have teeth.
43. Spotted skunks do handstands before they spray.
44. Hypnotism is banned by public schools in San Diego.
45. The three best-known western names in China: Jesus Christ, Richard Nixon, and Elvis Presley.
46. When snakes are born with two heads, they fight each other for food.

47. Most cows give more milk when they listen to music.
48. 27 percent of U.S. male college students believe life is "a meaningless existential hell."
49. "Kemo Sabe" means "soggy shrub" in Navajo.
50. Aztec emperor Montezuma had a nephew, Cuitlahac, whose name meant "plenty of excrement."

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

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

Newsletter Notes

There are two new developments to report this month regarding the newsletter:

1. Bulk mail vs first class

The board has decided to switch from bulk mail to first class. This will cost a bit more on postage per newsletter, but the total postage cost won't be increasing that much since we must now mail out extras to meet the minimum number for bulk mail. Furthermore, reduction in copying costs will result in significant savings. This will also reduce the work it takes to prepare the newsletter for mailing.

Over the next month or two, we'll be adjusting the mailing list accordingly. The biggest change will be to drop the "courtesy" mailings to other clubs and groups who do not send us a copy of their newsletter. Clubs who currently send us their newsletter will stay on. With the current SCCARA membership, the number of newsletters mailed will drop by about half.

2. Editor vs Secretary

After much thought, I've decided to go ahead with my idea of resigning as editor and become secretary. The newsletter is important to the club, but so is having a secretary. Apparently nobody else will be secretary, so I will. If someone steps up and wishes to be secretary, I'll gladly yield and go back to being editor. If someone else would like to try their hand at being editor, that's fine too. I've been the editor for nearly seven years now, it's OK with me to let someone else have a go at it.

We'll see what happens at the January meeting. Stay tuned.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

ARRL Pacific Division Update

January 2000

Last Pacific Division Update by K6WR

This issue is the last in the series of the Pacific Division Updates by me as Pacific Division Director, as I am retiring at noon EST Jan. 1, 2000, at the end of my current term. With this issue I will have completed six years of monthly publication. Major thanks are due to Jim Maxwell, W6CF, Vice Director, for his assistance and patience as I worked through various stages of writing these Updates.

I have enjoyed bringing the Pacific Division news to all the clubs and members of the Division these last six years.

I also want to thank Jim Maxwell, W6CF, my Vice Director, the Section Managers, my Assistant Directors, Volunteer Counsels, Volunteer Consulting Engineers, Advisory Committee members, my Webmasters, the Mount Diablo ARC who put on all those wonderful conventions the last several years, and all the volunteers in the Division for their devotion to Amateur Radio and the Pacific Division.

Please join me in pledging our support for Jim Maxwell, W6CF, our new Pacific Division Director and Bob Vallio, W6RGG, our new Pacific Division Vice Director.

73, Brad Wyatt K6WR

The New Pacific Division Leadership

Jim Maxwell, W6CF, the Pacific Division Director-Elect will become the Pacific Division Director on Jan. 1, 2000. Jim has been my outstanding Vice Director for these last six years. On Nov. 19, Bob Vallio, W6RGG, was elected as the Pacific Division Vice Director-Elect also to take office on Jan. 1, 2000.

Thanks to Jettie Hill, W6RFF, and John Ronan, K3ZJJ, for running for Vice Director.

Again, congratulations to Jim and Bob! I am certain that you and your team will have great success in the years ahead.

See also January QST, page 74.

Y2K and Amateur Radio

The following is a summary of Y2K activities involving Amateur Radio from the international to the local points of view.

On the international front, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) and associated country organizations will be on the air to help determine what

problems, if any, may occur worldwide. NU1AW, the IARU club station in Newington CT, will be on the air in contact with member organizations worldwide.

In the US, W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, will be celebrating New Year 2000 on the air! ARRL staff will be manning W1AW and ARRL Headquarters beginning at 1200Z (1200Z is local New Year's day in New Zealand) on December 31, for at least the following 24 hours. W1AW will be fully prepared for whatever Y2K might bring, and the operators will be monitoring and checking into various Y2K nets. Additionally, W1AW will be operated on several bands and modes for general QSOs, including the ARRL New Year tradition of Straight Key Night and other modes such as SSB and PSK31 as time permits.

At midnight Eastern Standard Time (0500 UTC), W1AW will attempt to establish contact with special-event station M2000A on the prime meridian in Greenwich, England. You'll find more details about the M2000A operation on page 43 of your December QST.

If you work W1AW during the New Year 2000 operation, you will be eligible for a special certificate and QSL. Just send your QSL along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: W1AW 2000, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

See January QST, page 85, for further details.

On the California state level -- The following message is from Ben J. Green, WD8CZP, Assistant Chief, Telecommunications for the ACS Program in the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Sacramento:

The State of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, in preparation for the Y2K Event, is trying to determine if any Amateur Radio mutual aid will be required within the State. Many folks will be either out of town or have guests in for the event. Many won't be available for other reasons. In response to this, California State OES would like to know which California city/county ARES organizations will:

- 1: be activated
- 2: be on standby
- 3: not be participating.

Our Region ACS Officers will be in contact with each ARES SECs in order to determine this information. Please notify your ARES organization to poll their personnel to determine how many will be available for Mutual Aid to a community commencing December 30th at 0700(local) until January 3rd at about 1700hrs local.

Have this information available for our Region ACS Officers by 15 Dec 99 so that we may plan accordingly.

I assume that both Nevada and Hawaii and the Pacific Islands will have similar programs although as of publication time, I have not heard of any specifics.

On a local basis, many local clubs and ARES/RACES groups are already planning local activities for Y2K with municipalities and hospitals.

Are you participating? Please contact your local EC

for further information in your local area. See the Pacific Division web site at <http://www.pdarrrl.org> for further information on who to contact or contact ARRL HQ.

Amateur Radio License Restructuring

Knowledgeable sources in Washington say the amateur license restructuring issue has moved to the front burner at the FCC, and a Report and Order could be released before the end of 1999.

The Amateur Radio community has been awaiting license restructuring--known officially as the 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review of Part 97 (WT Docket 98-143)--for nearly one year now. While no one has mentioned a hard-and-fast date to wrap up the long-awaited proceeding, reports from several sources suggest that the R & O draft is in its final stages and could be complete within a month or so.

During a recent visit to top FCC officials in Washington, League officials pressed again for early action on the license restructuring rulemaking. They were assured that the issue was not stalled and that the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau was "working very actively" to move restructuring along.

There is no information on what the anticipated Report & Order will contain.

The restructuring debate generated more than 2200 comments to the FCC, many of them from individual amateurs. Once the FCC approves the Report & Order, a Public Notice will be issued, and the actual R&O will be released probably within a few days.

Thanks ARRL Bulletin. See also January QST, pages 75 and 89 for further details.

Uniform Licensing System (ULS) News

There has been no significant new news on ULS from FCC since the last Update. FCC is continuing to issue new licenses and some vanity calls, but changes to the on line operation of ULS is still some time off.

FCC also reports that relatively few hams have actually registered with ULS currently. FCC encourages all hams to register as soon as they can so that they will be able to do business with FCC to renew licenses, obtain upgrades, and vanity calls.

Hiram Percy Maxim Award Applications

Most of you have worked with young (under 21) hams. Do any of those young people stand out in your mind? Do you remember them because she/he made valuable contributions to your community using ham radio? This might include public service, recruiting new hams, or technical developments.

Please consider nominating this person for the Hiram

Percy Maxim Award.

They may win \$1000.00, a plaque, and a paid trip to a convention.

For more information and a nominating form, please visit <http://www.arrl.org/field/awards/hpm.html>

Your nomination form and support information must be sent directly to your Section Manager. (A list of Section Managers can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/field/org/smlist.html>.) The Section Manager will review it and send it to ARRL. It must be received at ARRL HQ before March 31, 2000.

Scholarships Available for Hams

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer seventy-three (73) scholarships for the academic year 2000 - 2001 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 Hamfest. The remaining sixty-three (63) 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, 2000 from: FAR Scholarships, PO Box 831 Riverdale, MD 20738.

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an exempt organization under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

Thanks, FAR.

Kid's Day is Coming--Jan. 1, 2000

Kid's say the "darndest" things! If you want to hear just what they're saying, join us on January 1, 2000 for Kid's Day. Between 1800 and 2400Z you will hear young people chatting with both adults and other kids. This event is a painless way for your kids or someone else's, to experience the fun of amateur radio. For more details on Kid's Day, visit <http://www.arrl.org/ead/kd-rules.html> or check out the December QST page 48.

Latest News on Spectrum Protection

It's round two in Congress for the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act. At the request of the ARRL, Rep. Michael Bilirakis introduced the 1999 version of the proposed legislation, HR 783, on February 23. As of Dec. 10, the bill had received 131 co-sponsorships including Pacific Division Congresswoman Mink (HI - 2), Delegate Underwood (GU), Congressmen Farr (CA - 17), Miller (CA - 7), Campbell (CA - 15), Abercrombie (HI - 1), Stark (CA - 13), and Congresswoman Lee (CA - 9) [in order of co-sponsorship]. Nationally, we now have more co-sponsorships than we had for the 1998 bill - but we need to obtain some 218 co-sponsorships to have a majority of the House as co-sponsors. Keep up the good work!

The bill is aimed at ensuring the availability of spectrum to Amateur Radio operators. It would protect existing Amateur Radio spectrum against reallocations or sharing with other services unless the FCC provides "equivalent replacement spectrum" elsewhere. Bilirakis, a Florida Republican, also sponsored last year's measure, which attracted upwards of 83 cosponsors on both sides of the aisle. Rep Frank Pallone Jr., a New Jersey Democrat, is the initial cosponsor of the 1999 bill.

ARRL Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Steve Mansfield, N1MZA, says the 1999 bill "is largely the same as last year's HR 3572." The major difference is that the 1999 version adds "Amateur Satellite Service" frequencies to "Amateur Radio Service" in detailing the frequencies that would be afforded protection under the act.

Specifically, HR 783 would amend the Communications Act to require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio and the Amateur Satellite Service in the event of a reallocation of primary amateur allocations, any reduction in secondary amateur allocations, or "additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce the utility thereof" to amateurs.

Mansfield said it's too soon to predict how HR 783 will fare in the new Congress, but said the fact that it has been introduced so early in the session "bodes well for our prospects." He said that a number of the cosponsors from last year already have indicated an interest in signing on again, "so I think we'll have a lot of support."

A copy of the measure and the current list of co-sponsors are available via the THOMAS Web site, <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Thanks, ARRL Letter, ARRL Bulletin, and THOMAS web site. See also, January QST, page 16.

Jim Maxwell Authors QST Article

Our new Pacific Division Director, as of Jan. 1, 2000, is the author of a very interesting article in the January 2000 QST entitled, "Amateur Radio: 100 Years of Discovery." The article begins on page 28 of the January QST.

Weak Signal VHF/UHF/SHF Nets

For those of you interested in VHF/UHF/SHF weak signal work, there is a Northern California net every Tuesday night at 8:00-8:30PM. It usually continues until 9 or 9:30 on 1,296.100 MHz USB or CW. You may work the Sacramento Valley from West of Chico through Sacramento to Fresno. Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area may also be worked on the net.

On Sunday nights at 8:00 PM, the Western States Weak Signal Society net meets on 144.250 USB. Roll calls begin from the S.F. Bay Area to Northern California down the SJV and into the southern part of California. After the 144.250 net closes the 432.100 net begins and roll call begins as well. There is plenty of activity on this net night. Check-ins are made from Nevada, Oregon and sometimes Washington. Plenty of DX stations may be worked for those who have the system to do. This is also an excellent opportunity for grid hunters to pick up a few new ones after the net is over.

Thanks, Don Righello, W6PJJ.

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 Cliff Chiba, KF6EII, (209) 835-6715, e-mail: larkswap@usa.com.

- "Radiofest 2000" sponsored by the Naval Postgraduate School ARC will be held on Feb. 19, 2000, at the General Stilwell Community Center, POM Annex, 4260 Gigling Rd, Seaside, CA, starting at 8 AM. Contact Will Costello, WC6OX, at (831) 375-8133, email at wc6ox@arrl.net or the web site at <http://www.k6ly.org/radiofest>. Talk in on 146.79.

Brad Wyatt, K6WR
Director, ARRL Pacific Division

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Packet: K6WR @ N0ARY.#NCA.CA.USA.NOAM
Internet: k6wr@arrl.org
Pacific Division Web site <http://www.pdarrrl.org/>



S.C.C.A.R.A. Membership Form for 2000

(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: _____ - Licence Exp: _____

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 RADIO 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 OR CUT FORM =====

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY
AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**

PO BOX 6
San Jose CA 95103-0006

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