

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 16, Number 2

February 2000



Newsletter Notes

Is this the last SCCARA-GRAM?

Based on comments made at the January meeting, it was obvious that almost nobody has been reading the *Newsletter Notes* column...hence, this more obvious placement.

To recap: We haven't been able to convince anyone to take the post of Secretary for the past two years and we were about to make it three in a row. So, I've decided to take the job myself and give up being editor. At the January general meeting, it became official.

My offer still stands to give up being secretary and go back to being editor if someone else steps forward for the secretary post. If someone volunteers for the editor post, that's OK with me too...I've been at it for seven years, I don't mind someone else taking a stab at it. Until then, this may be the last *SCCARA-GRAM* for a while.

Some have told me they like the *SCCARA-GRAM* and don't want me to do this. I appreciate that, but we must have a secretary. So, my question to the membership is: how badly do you want the newsletter to continue? Enough for one of you to step forward and take the secretary office? Don't make the mistake of thinking: "someone else will do it." If more than one person steps forward, that's no problem.

Hopefully this will put enough pressure on the membership to encourage more participation. That's my plan. I think there's at least one of you out there who will come through. I think this club is merely going through a *temporary* thin spell. I think we'll only miss one or two issues.

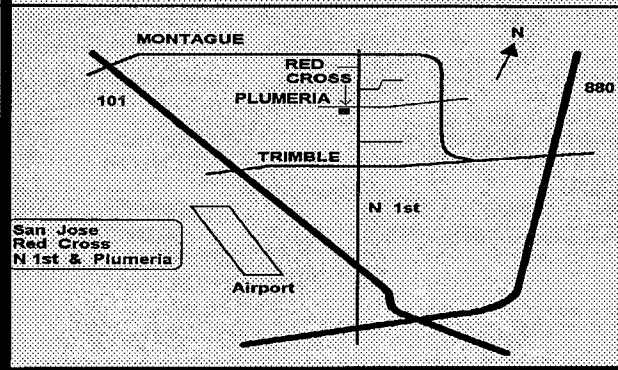
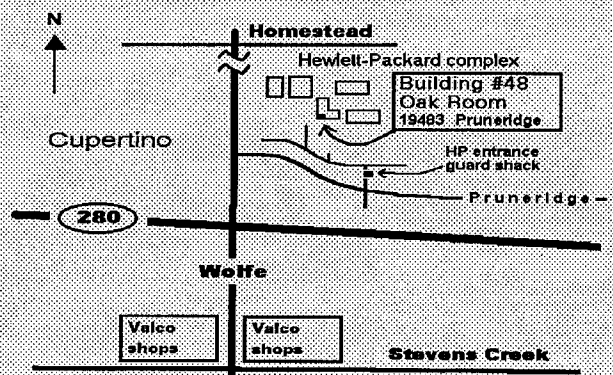
If I'm wrong, if the club no longer has the will and energy to be a fully active club, then perhaps ultimately it doesn't make any difference... So folks, what's it going to be? Members of SCCARA: please don't prove me wrong.

Calendar

- 2/14 SCCARA General Meeting
- 2/21 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 3/13 SCCARA General Meeting

General Meeting:

- Day: Monday, February 14, 2000
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: Hewlett-Packard's Oak Rm. Bld #48
- Featuring: Don Hayden KO6HH will talk about the moth ball oscillator.



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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>.

OFFICERS - DIRECTORS - STAFF

President	Barbara Britten, KD6QEI	293-3847
	e-mail: ka6ymd@juno.com	
Vice President	---	
Secretary	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	265-2336
	e-mail: wb6yru@aenet.net	
Treasurer	Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI	225-6769
	e-mail: ldevaughns@aol.com	
Station Trustee	Stan Getsla, WA6VJY	275-0735
	e-mail: stan.getsla@trw.com	
Director	Clark Murphy, KE6KXO	262-9334
	e-mail: cmurphy@izap.com	
Director	Don Apte, KK6MX	629-0725
	e-mail: kk6mx@aol.com	
Director	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	241-7999
	e-mail: wa6qys@aol.com	
Director	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
	e-mail: ka6ymd@juno.com	
Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU (out-going)	

COMMITTEES

Repeater	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
	e-mail: ka6ymd@juno.com	
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-ac6z@worldnet.att.net

First Class Postage

The timing on this may not be optimal, with the **SCCARA-GRAM** about to go into hibernation, but with this issue we begin the switch to first class postage. Club members shouldn't notice any difference, except those outside the San Jose area might get it a little faster.

Club Newsletter Exchange

Other clubs with which we exchange newsletters will remain on the list if we have been receiving their newsletter. To those clubs: if you got this issue, then you are indeed still on the mailing list--although in the near future it may not seem like it.

73, Gary WB6YRU, out-going editor

Secretary Says

Well, lookee here! We've got a secretary for a change! Yep, it's true...finally. I'm just sorry it took such an extreme measure.

So, what's going to happen?

Since our editor just switched over to be secretary, how will we know about club meetings and events? That's a good question. Perhaps it will take the form of a post card or something...at this point, we're just playing it by ear. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

Of course, the ideal solution would be if someone volunteered to be the new editor or to take over as secretary (and I'll go back to being editor).

Did you Renew?

Everyone's dues are due by January 1. As of mid-January, the roster indicates the following club members have not renewed their membership. If you did renew recently and your call shows up below anyway, perhaps it just didn't make it in time for this publishing--please check with me.

W6ACW N6ANE KC6BFQ W6CF WD6CGI
 KO6CI N6CMJ KF6DXQ AD6E KD6EFL
 KE6FBY KD6FJI W6FS K6GLY KO6HH
 KF6IFU KF6IFV KD6KGI KE6MEA K6MOB
 KK6MX KB6MXH KD6MZM KF6NEW N6OHK
 AB6OZ K6PBQ KD6QEI KD6QEJ K6RQ
 KC6SOC N6SWC W6SXO W6TQH N6TYI
 WN6U WA6UAR K6UF KA6UUS WA6UWF
 KF6VCH K6VIP WA6VJY WB6VXA KA6YMD
 KK6ZE KD6ZJJ KE6ZXU K6ZYY

Gary WB6YRU, secretary

News From ARRL

Amateur Restructuring is Here: Three License Classes, One Code Speed

NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 30, 1999--Amateur Radio will get a new look in the new millennium. The FCC today issued its long-awaited Report and Order in the 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review of Part 97--more commonly known as "license restructuring." The bottom line is that starting April 15, 2000, there will be three license classes--Technician, General, and Amateur Extra--and a single Morse code requirement--5 WPM.

"We believe that an individual's ability to demonstrate increased Morse code proficiency is not necessarily indicative of that individual's ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art," the FCC said.

Besides drastically streamlining the Amateur Radio licensing process, the FCC said its actions would "eliminate unnecessary requirements that may discourage or limit individuals from becoming trained operators, technicians, and electronic experts."

Although no new Novice and Advanced licenses will be issued after the effective date of the Report and Order, the FCC does not plan to automatically upgrade any existing license privileges. The ARRL had proposed a one-time across-the-board upgrading of current Novice and Tech Plus licensees to General class, but the FCC declined to adopt the idea. This means that current licensees will retain their current operating privileges, including access to various modes and sub-bands, and will be able to renew their licenses indefinitely.

Starting April 15, 2000, individuals who qualified for the Technician class license prior to March 21, 1987, will be able to upgrade to General class by providing documentary proof to a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator, paying an application fee, and completing FCC Form 605.

The FCC's decision not to automatically upgrade Novice and Tech Plus licensees means the current Novice/Tech Plus HF sub-bands will remain and not be "reformed" to higher class licensees as the ARRL had proposed. The FCC said it did not reform these sub-bands because there was "no consensus" within the amateur community as to what to do with them.

As it had proposed earlier, the FCC decided to lump Technician and Tech Plus licensees into a single licensee database, all designated as "Technician" licensees. Those who can document having passed the 5 WPM Morse code examination will continue to have the current Tech Plus HF privileges. "If documentation is needed to verify whether a licensee has passed a telegraphy examination, we may request the documentation from that licensee or the VECs," the FCC

said.

In addition to reducing the number of license classes from six to three and eliminating the 20 and 13 WPM code tests, the FCC also will reduce the number of written examination elements from five to three, authorize Advanced Class hams to prepare and administer General class examinations, and eliminate Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) station licenses. RACES will remain, however. "After review of the record, we conclude that we should eliminate RACES station licenses because RACES station licenses are unnecessary for amateur stations and amateur service licenses to provide emergency communications," the FCC said.

Under the new licensing scheme, there will be four examination elements. Element 1 will be the 5 WPM Morse code exam. Element 2 will be a 35-question written test to obtain a Technician license; Element 3 will be a 35-question written test to obtain a General license, and Element 4 will be a 50-question written test for the Amateur Extra license. The FCC has left it in the hands of the National Conference of VECs Question Pool Committee to determine the specific mix and makeup of written examination questions. Current Amateur Radio study materials remain valid at least until the new rules become effective in April.

The FCC's new licensing plan means someone will be able to become a ham by passing a single 35-question written examination. The plan also simplifies and shortens the upgrade path from the ground floor through Amateur Extra--especially since amateurs will only have to pass one Morse code test.

Elimination of the 13 and 20 WPM Morse requirements also means an end to physician certification waivers for applicants claiming an inability to pass the Morse code examination due to physical handicap.

The effective date provides a window of upgrade opportunity for current Advanced licensees. Between now and April 15, current Advanced holders may take the existing Element 4B, a 40-question test, giving them credit for having passed the current Extra written examination. Likewise, holders of a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for Elements 3B or 4B dated on or after April 17, 1999, will be able to qualify for General or Amateur Extra respectively when the new rules go into effect on April 15, 2000.

The FCC disagreed with the League's suggestion that it undertake a restructuring of operating privileges along with licensing restructuring. "We believe that in light of ongoing discussions concerning implementation of new and more modern communications technologies within the amateur service community, we should accord the amateur service community an opportunity to complete such discussions and possibly reach a consensus regarding implementation of new technologies before we undertake a comprehensive restructuring of the amateur service operating privileges and

frequencies," the FCC said in its Report and Order.

In its amendments to Part 97, the FCC's Report and Order refers to a "Club Station Call Sign Administrator," something that does not exist under the current rules and which was not explained in the R&O itself. An FCC spokesperson said the Commission plans to issue a Public Notice soon to explain the program and to solicit qualified entities to serve as call sign administrators for club station applications.

A copy of the entire Report and Order (FCC 99-412) is available at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt98-143ro.pdf> or at http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/1999/db991230/fcc99412.txt.

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Jan. 10, 2000



7:30 p.m. Meeting called to order by club president Barbara, KD6QEI.

The speaker for tonight is Bob Forster, N6PQI, and his topic is fractal antennas.

Business Meeting:

John Tanner, K6EJF, SK, left all of his ham equipment to SCCARA. Barbara, KD6QEI, said that he also left us a large wooden desk.

Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU: the BBS is up and running. Gary said that he is running for Secretary and would give up the editorship of the SCCARA-GRAM. There was a motion to nominate Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, for Secretary by Clark, KE6EXO, motion was second and passed.

Barbara, KD6QEI, regarding the station at Hammer Elementary School, SCCARA needs to go there and see how much room we have and what we need to put in it. As to the radio station at the hospital, Barbara has not had much luck contacting people at the hospital. There was a motion made by Barbara to put a plaque at the radio station in honor of John Tanner. Second and passed.

Don, K6PBQ, the Mount Madonna site has been reserved and it can be canceled with in the next few months if we decide to have Field Day at our new radio shack.

Don, KO6HH, wants suggestions for speakers at SCCARA meetings.

There was a discussion about the ham related activities

relating to Y2K. There were no major incidents reported.

9:30 p.m. meeting adjourned.

Lloyd, KD6FJI

Board Meeting, Jan. 17, 2000



Present: Barbara, KD6QEI; Wally, KA6YMD; Clark, KE6KXO; Don, K6PBQ; Lou, WA6QYS; Lloyd, KD6FJI; Bob, N6PCQ; Don KK6MX; Gary, WB6YRU.

Meeting called to order at 7:45 PM by president Barbara.

President's report:

HP (where we meet) needed proof of insurance through 2000. We renew in April. We will send a copy to them then.

Next meeting will be in a smaller room near HP's Oak room.

April meeting won't be at HP (we don't have a room). Maybe have a dinner meeting?

March 14 - April 9, I will be away on family business.

I will contact Harret Mannina (lawyer for John Tanner) after this week to see about the amateur equipment from John's estate. We will try for Jan. 29 (or the following weekend if the weather is bad) to lower John's antenna. I will send a letter to QST's Silent Key column about John.

Don Hayden is working on getting speakers for the general meetings.

Field Day--we need a chairman. Barbara & Wally will do the food again.

N6PCQ: I will help with a class if we have one. We could have a class at Alexian (there's a room).

K6PBQ: I will start making arrangements for the next Christmas meeting luncheon, probably Saturday, Dec. 2.

WA6QYS: We will host the October 14 flea market this year. The fee is \$1000.

K6PBQ: Maybe we should have raffles at the meetings again.
KK6MX: A better way to attract attendees at meetings is just to have very good speakers.

WB6YRU: The BBS is up and running again.

KD6QEI: What about raising dues? Not much consensus to

do so.

Discussion about school site for club station and use for Field Day or other emergencies.

Adjourned 9:15 PM

Gary WB6YRU, Secretary

General Meeting, Dec. 11, 1999



Christmas Luncheon.

Lunch was served at about 12:30 p.m. and after the meal, Club President Barbara, KD6QEI, introduced Och, K6CAY, installed the club officers for 2000.

Barbara, KD6QEI, handed out certificates of appreciation to Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, for being SCCARA-GRAM editor and for taking care of the packet BBS; Mike, KC6LCJ, and Don, K6PBQ, being Monday night net control; Don, K6PBQ, for being social event coordinator; Lloyd, KD6FJI, for being the unelected Secretary; Dan, WM6M, for his work as Field Day Coordinator.

Don, K6PBQ, lead the gift exchange. Jim Maxwell, W6CF, the new Pacific Division Director, said a few words.

2:20 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Lloyd DeV Vaughns, KD6FJI.

Board Meeting, Dec. 13, 1999



Present: Barbara, KD6QEI; Wally, KA6YMD; Clark, KE6KXO; Don, K6PBQ; Lou, WA6QYS; Lloyd, KD6FJI; Bob, N6PCQ; Gary, WB6YRU.

7:45 p.m. Meeting Called to order by club president Barbara, KD6QEI. John Tanner, K6EJF, passed away and left all of his ham radio equipment to SCCARA. SCCARA will take delivery in mid February 2000. There was a discussion about removing John Tanner's ham equipment.

Gary, WB6YRU, led a discussion about mailing the SCCARA-GRAM by bulk rate as compared to mailing it first class. There was a motion by Don, K6PBQ, that SCCARA change its mailing procedures from bulk mail to first class mail. Second and passed.

Gary, WB6YRU, said that the SCCARA-GRAM needs articles by members.

Barbara, KD6QEI, the school has asked her when does SCCARA want to move in. There was a discussion about moving our equipment out of the storage locker and into the school. We expect to move into the school site about the middle of January 2000.

Gary, WB6YRU, said that if we are going to have a radio room it should be a radio room with HF, 2 meters, 440, 220, and perhaps 1.2 GHz, ATV, SSTV, digital, etc.

Bob, N6PCQ, donated a 486 laptop computer to SCCARA. Bob will talk about Fractal antennas at the January meeting. Bob will also donate a copy of Quicken 99 to SCCARA.

Barbara, KD6QEI, led a discussion on getting speakers for the meetings.

Bob, N6PCQ, Quick Book Pro is a software program that is better than quicken. Bob said to let him know if we want it and he will get it.

Don, K6PBQ, will get mount Madonna park reservations for Field day.

Gary, WB6YRU, will run for secretary and give up the SCCARA-GRAM.

Lou, WA6QYS, with Don Hayden and #1 son removed the tower, base and rotor from Dan Dietz QTH.

9:45 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Lloyd, KD6FJI

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the packet network:

=====

Date: 7 Dec 97 06:47
From: AB7RG@KB7FRV
To: FARCE@USA
Subject: Things To Ponder.....

Okay, this should keep you thinking for a while. Here are some "facts" of life that sometimes you just have to ask; WHY?

THINGS TO PONDER:

=====

Why isn't phonetic spelled the way it sounds?

Why are there interstate highways in Hawaii?

Why are there flotation devices under plane seats instead of parachutes?

Why are cigarettes sold in gas stations when smoking is prohibited there?

Why do fat chance and slim chance mean the same thing?

If you can't drink and drive, why do you need a driver's license to buy liquor, and why do bars have parking lots?

Do you need a silencer if you are going to shoot a mime?

Have you ever imagined a world with no hypothetical situations?

How does the guy who drives the snowplow get to work in the mornings?

If a 7-11 is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, why are there locks on the doors?

If a cow laughed real hard, would milk come out of her nose?

If nothing ever sticks to Teflon, how do they make Teflon stick to the pan?

If you tied buttered toast to the back of a cat and dropped it from a really high place, what would happen?

If you're in a vehicle going the speed of light, what happens when you turn on the headlights?

Many packages say "Open Here." What is the protocol if the package says, "Open Somewhere Else"?

Why do they put Braille dots on the keypad of the drive-up ATM?

Why do we drive on parkways and park on driveways?

Why isn't "palindrome" spelled the same way backwards?

Why is it that when you transport something by car, it's called a shipment, but when you transport something by ship, it's called cargo?

You know that little indestructible black box that is used on planes, why can't they make the whole plane out of the same substance?

Why is it that when you're driving looking for an address,

you turn down the volume on the radio?

If you have your finger touching the rear view mirror that says; "Objects in mirror are closer than they appear", how can that be possible?

Why is it so hard to remember how to spell MNEMONIC?

If someone invented "instant water", what would they mix it with?

Why is it called a TV "set", when you only get one?

Why does your nose run and your feet smell?

Why does an alarm clock "go off" when it begins ringing?

If "pro" is the opposite of "con", is "progress" the opposite of "congress"?

Why does "cleave" mean both split apart and stick together?

Why is it, whether you sit up or sit down, the result is the same?

Why is it called a "building" when it is already built?

Why do they call them "apartments" when they are all stuck together?

Why is there an expiration date on SOUR cream?

If you keep trying to prove Murphy's Law, will something keep going wrong?

Why does flammable and inflammable mean the same thing?

How can someone "draw a blank"?

Shouldn't there be a shorter word for "monosyllabic"?

Why is the word "abbreviate" so long?

Why did Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?

What is another word for "thesaurus"?

When they ship styrofoam, what do they pack it in?

If 75% of all accidents happen within 5 miles of home, why not move 10 miles away?

Why doesn't "onomatopoeia" sound like what it is?

Why do "tug-boats" push their barges?

Why do we sing "take me out to the ball game", when we are already there?

Why are they called "stands" when they're made for sitting?

Why is there only ONE Monopolies Commission?

Why does one get in trouble for reckLESS driving?

Does a fish get cramps after eating?

Why does "slow down" and "slow up" mean the same thing?

What does Geronimo say when HE jumps out of a plane?

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

=====

Date: 14 Jul 94 00:27
From: WD4FHN@KF4OJ
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Who Saw what Saw

WHO SAW WHAT SAW

When I was down in Arkansas, I saw a saw saw, that could out saw any saw I ever saw saw. If you ever saw a saw saw that could out saw the saw I saw saw when I was down in Arkansas, I'd like to see the saw saw that could out saw the saw that I saw saw when I was down in Arkansas.

Saw on that for a while

by Bob, K6CNCB

From the Happy Club, 73 de Sergio,
WD4FHN @ 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@aenet.net

ARRL Pacific Division Update

February 2000

Pac. Div. Update to Continues

Happy New Year! With all the predictions of doom that were about and among us during the closing months of the 1900s, it was a pleasant relief to wake up on the morning of Jan. 1, 2000. (Don't the "1900's" seem absolutely quaint now?) We're still here, the world didn't stop spinning, so it is my pleasure to continue a tradition established by Brad Wyatt, K6WR: the tradition of a monthly Pacific Division Update. During Brad's six-year tenure as Pacific Division Director, he wrote an edition of the Update each month, without fail. There were fully 72 issues published without a miss. Brad wrote the Update each month, while I (W6CF) edited, published, and distributed it by email. The copies sent by regular USPS mail were printed, stuffed in envelopes, stamped, and mailed by a crew of volunteers consisting of W6CYX, AA6GU, K6JFW, W6NZQ, N6NAD, K6RQ, W6RN, K6WR, AA6Z, non-ham Jim Shriver, and others. The group has agreed to continue with their invaluable help, and I am therefore doubly pleased to acknowledge their contribution.

Restructuring Announced by FCC

The Big News of the month, of course, is the release, just before the turn of the century, of the FCC's Report & Order on Amateur restructuring. Briefly, the FCC has decided to reduce the number of Amateur license classes to three: Technician, General and Amateur Extra class. Technicians will continue to have all privileges in all Amateur bands above 30 MHz, Generals will have privileges in all Amateur bands with the exception of those segments reserved for the Extras, while Extras will enjoy all Amateur privileges. Technicians will continue to have no Morse code requirement, while the Morse requirement for Generals and Amateur Extras will be reduced to five words per minute. Existing Novice and Advanced class licenses will be renewable, but no new such licenses will be issued.

The chairman of the Question Pool Committee, Ray Adams, W4CPA, has stated that a revised question pool should be released by February 1, or very shortly thereafter. This new question pool will reflect the new examination requirements effective April 15.

A summary of the changes in the US licensing structure may be found in February QST, which will be arriving in the mail over the next few days. More complete

information is available on the ARRL Web Site at <http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring/> and at <http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring/faq.html>. Additional information will, of course, also be released in QST prior to April 15.

New ARRL Action on PRB-1 Extension

The ARRL wants the FCC to declare that its limited federal preemption policy known as PRB-1 applies to amateurs who live in areas governed by deed restrictions, covenants, CC&Rs, or condominium regulations just as it does to hams regulated solely by local zoning laws. Accordingly, in 1996 ARRL filed a Petition for Rule Making, asking that the Commission expand and clarify PRB-1. However, in November last year, almost four years after the ARRL's filing, the FCC rejected the petition. The FCC said PRB-1 excludes restrictive covenants in private contracts as "outside the reach of our limited preemption," although it strongly encouraged associations of homeowners and private contracting parties to "follow the principle of reasonable accommodation" with respect to Amateur Radio. But the FCC drew the line at proposing specific rule changes to bring private restrictive covenants under the umbrella of PRB-1. In December, therefore, ARRL filed a Petition of Reconsideration asking the FCC to rethink its November dismissal. In its December Petition, the League said the FCC's disclaimer "is no longer a valid premise" and no longer accurately reflects FCC jurisdiction over private land use regulations. Since the advent of PRB-1 in 1985, the ARRL pointed out, the FCC has made it clear that it has Congressional authority to prohibit restrictive covenants that could keep property owners and even renters from installing antennas to receive TV, satellite and similar signals. The League asserts the same principle applies to Amateur Radio, in which the FCC has said it has a "strong federal interest."

A copy of the ARRL's Petition for Reconsideration is available at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/prb-1/prb1-recon.pdf>.

Thanks, ARRL.

ARRL Purchases Communications Quarterly

The ARRL has purchased the Amateur Radio technical journal Communications Quarterly from CQ Communications and will merge the publication with the League's technical journal QEX. The change becomes effective for subscribers starting with the March/April issue of QEX. The new combined publication initially will serve a joint readership of more than 7000. The magazine will bear the legend, "QEX, incorporating Communications Quarterly."

Thanks, ARRL Letter.

KF6RCO Appointed East Bay Section Manager

Andy Oppel, KF6RCO, has been appointed by ARRL HQ to serve as Section Manager for the ARRL Easy Bay Section, to fill the post vacated by Bob Vallio, W6RGG. Oppel, ex-WB3FCV, has been East Bay Assistant Section Manager for the past eight years. Vallio resigned the position of Section Manager effective Jan. 1, 2000, in order to assume the duties of Pacific Division Vice Director.

Congratulations, Andy!

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.

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.

Thanks, ARRL.

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:

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, email larkswap@usa.com.

- "Radiofest2000" 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 wc6ox@arrl.net or the web site <http://www.k6ly.org/radiofest>. Talk in on 146.79.

Jim Maxwell, W6CF
Director, Pacific Division, ARRL

PO Box 473
Redwood Estates, CA 95044

(408) 353-3911 (Phone and FAX)

Packet: W6CF@N0ARY.#NCA.CA.USA.NOAM
Internet: w6cf@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

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League

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