

# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association



Volume 16, Number 9

December 2000

### President's Prose

The last year has seen many changes. We have gained two radio rooms, lost one. Gained a store room and lost it. We have had two secretaries and lost both. Gary Mitchell was our first secretary. He resigned when Doug Eaton came back to the club and took over the secretary position. Since our last meeting, our secretary, Doug Eaton, has resigned and has turned over to me all of the secretary supplies and laptops. He has stated that he will not run for another term. So we are again in need of a secretary.

Our repeater sight has been changed. It has been moved to the top of the Kaiser Santa Teresa Medical building, located at 275 Hospital Parkway, at Santa Teresa Kaiser Hospital just off Cottle Road, near IBM. It is not yet fully set up, but will be soon. (Phone line setup and better mounting for the duplexer panel still need to be done.) That should be done soon.

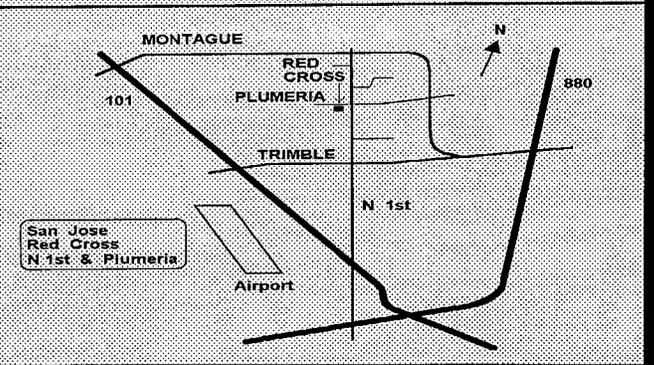
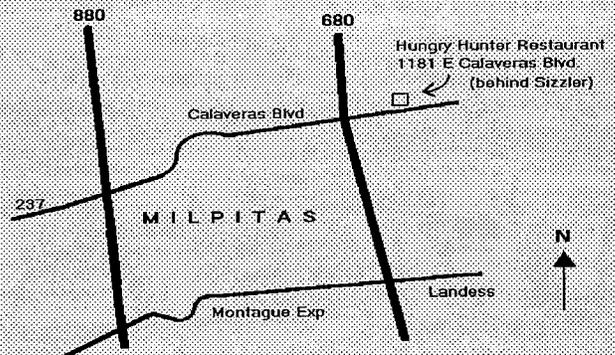
We have taken steps toward achieving a radio room at Regional Medical Center, formerly known as Alexian Brothers Hospital. This radio room will be easier to get into by club members as we won't have the same entry problems we do at the Red Cross. I hope that the Regional Medical Center radio room will be used by more of our members to enjoy the hobby of amateur radio. Our radio room will be a benefit to the hospital. They want us there for emergency communications and we need another more accessible room for club members to use. The hospital has also agreed to provide space for us to hold licensing classes. This is good because it provides a potential for new members, and the opportunity to help our club grow in new directions. In Connection with the hospitals, there is a net on Wednesdays at noon that we can participate in, and show that we are active members in our community, and in our club. This would be good for us as we will have a radio room at one hospital and our repeater on another hospital. It would give us the opportunity to practice our hobby on a regular basis, so we are prepared to act in an emergency. I would also like to see our members participate in more community events where our radios can provide a service, keep our club name

### Calendar

- 12/9 SCCARA General Meeting--Luncheon
- 12/11 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 1/8 SCCARA General Meeting

#### General Meeting:

- Day: Saturday, Dec. 9, 2000
- Time: 12:00 noon
- Place: Hungry Hunter, Milpitas (just east of Hwy 680 on Calaveras Blvd.)
- Featuring: Annual meeting



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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 at the Santa Teresa Hospital, south-west San Jose (near IBM). The 70 cm repeater and N0ARY BBS is located at the Regional Medical Center (formerly Alexian), east of downtown San Jose (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](mailto:info@n0ary.org)). Sysop: Gary WB6YRU

**TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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 ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group: 408 243-8349  
[me-a6bz@worldnet.att.net](mailto:me-a6bz@worldnet.att.net)

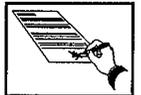
in the public eye, and keep our club members active and interested in furthering their club interests. There are races and parades throughout the year in which we can participate.

This club has over a 75 year history in this valley. The technology around us is changing the way we live. The one basic that will not change is that when all else fails, amateur radio will still be there for emergencies. We need to practice our hobby on a regular basis, in different types of events, so we are always prepared for the unexpected. In an emergency, a lot of people are going to be relying on us. We must train continuously to be able to meet that challenge. You, the members of this club, are the cornerstone of that preparedness challenge. Think about what you have to offer, come to a meeting and let us know what your ideas are, so we can all help each other and this club be the best in the Santa Clara Valley. Our history is rich, so is our future. Come and make it grow. Do you have an idea for an interesting speaker? Let on officer or director know. Do you want to come to a meeting but are having transportation problems? Let another club member know. We will try to get you to the meetings.

Thank you to all the members who have worked so hard this past year. Don Village and Mike Hastings for running the Monday night nets. Don Hayden, who has been acquiring speakers for our meetings. Don Village, who has been our social events coordinator. Bill Parent, who has brought donuts when he came to a meeting. To all of you who have come to a meeting and supported the club in your own way, thanks. Thank you to all of you for electing me and giving me the opportunity to be your leader. I admit I am not perfect, but I have grown better because of all of you. You have made me smile, laugh, and cry. I hope that I can give back to you as much as you have given to me.

I hope the coming holiday season brings you many happy memories, much fun, and happiness. Take care of each other, and yourselves. See you in January.

Barbara K. Britten, KD6QEI



## December Meeting

Our annual Christmas meeting this year will be a luncheon again instead of a dinner. It will be held on Saturday December 9 at the Hungary Hunter in Milpitas, (Calaveras Blvd just off Hwy 680, old yellow house location).

Lunch is at 12 noon. Please note that on Saturday, there isn't a regular bar, but you will be able to order a bottle of wine for the table.

This year we will not be having the raffle prize drawings. Instead we will have a gift exchange. The way it works is that everyone brings a wrapped gift suitable for a man or woman costing about \$8-\$10. This type of gift exchange is always a lot of fun to participate in.

Reservations need to be in by Friday Dec. 1 (see

sign-up sheet). Talk-in will be on our repeater, W6UU, 146.385+. Why not renew your membership at the same time?

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there!

73, Don K6PBQ

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## Meeting Minutes

### General Meeting, Nov. 13, 2000



Meeting began at 7:45 PM. The meeting started later to give more members time to get to the meeting due to bad weather (rain) and heavy traffic.

Introductions: 12 members present.

Speaker: None available for this meeting.

Presidents Msg: A wrap-up of the past year.

a) Have acquired equipment from John Tanner Estate. Some has been sold, some has been kept for use by SCCARA, and some has been sold for scrap.

b) We have acquired and lost a radio room and store room at Hammer Elementary School. Ron Edwards, Superintendent of San Jose Unified School District is supposed to be looking for other rooms for us in the district. I don't expect he will find something soon.

c) Field Day this year was good! Chairman was: Doug Eaton. We did not have as many participants as last year, but did well for what we had. It was probably our last year there, as the county has raised the rates to a price that was twice the rate of last year.

d) Our repeater has been moved from Trish Gibbons home to Kaiser Santa Teresa. Wally Britten and his team of Trish Gibbons, Gary Mitchell, and Clark Murphy, moved it in one weekend to have it on line for the Monday night net. More work has to be done, but it seems to be working fine temporarily. We are still getting interference from Sacramento.

e) We have sold a lot of equipment at the October Flea Market, which will help with the operating expenses for next year. We are solvent, and have decreased spending since last year.

f) We have had some god speakers thanks to the efforts of Don Hayden.

g) We had two secretaries: Gary Mitchell, and Doug Eaton. We still need a full time secretary for 2001, as Doug said he would not run for next year.

h) Our social events, (picnic, restaurant meeting, and Christmas party), were enjoyed by all who attended.

i) More people are checking in on the Monday night net.

This is good! Thank you to the net managers Mike Hastings and Don Village for your efforts.

j) The SCCARA-GRAM has been great as usual. Gary Mitchell does a great job putting it together. He needs more articles for the membership. We have maintained our membership at 69 (?).

THE FUTURE: Getting the radio station at Regional Medical Center (formerly Alexian Brothers Hospital) up and running is going to be our focus, now that we don't have Hammer School any more. We want to make sure the repeater at Kaiser Santa Teresa is working well. I would like to see licensing classes being held at Regional Medical Center. We have the instructors and equipment. These classes hold the potential for more members. Once the radio room at Regional Medical center is finished, I would like to see it used by our members for contests, and just general radio use, on a regular basis. We need to secure a secretary for 2001, who will help to bring continuity to the club. I hope that our Field Day results will be better than this year. I hope we add more members and we can once again grow and continue to provide a necessary service to the community we serve.

Secretary: No report. Not present.

Treasurer's Report: Checking has \$1000.00; Savings has \$1562.14 added from the Flea Market. Flea Market totals: Gate: \$1770.00; Food: \$852.00; \$ from sale of equipment, \$587.00; Amount paid to Perham Society, \$895.00. Current balances: Checking: \$1386.60; Savings: \$7977.34.

Repeater: Wally reported that the repeater is in place and functioning. He needs to mount the duplexer on the wall. We need to connect the phone lines or install our own. Wally will talk with Tom Tritch, hospital maintenance supervisor, about that. Tom was hoping to get that line paid for by the hospital. Wally says we need to activate the pl tone of 114.8 for the 2 Meter repeater. It was reported that the 440 seems dead, (Wally checked - all OK). We will not ask for members to pay anything for the phone patch, unless we are charged for the phone line.

SCCARA-GRAM: Photographs look good. More club participation, works better.

BBS: 2 meter needs new TNC. Gary has it, but has not installed it yet. He says the old PK88 has a short life span when it is on for a 24 hour continuous basis.

Election of Officers for 2001:

President: Barbara K. Britten, KD6QEI

Treasurer: Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6JFI

Directors: Don Apte, KK6MX, and Wally Britten, KA6YMD.

Don Village, K6PBQ motioned for a white ballot, seconded by Bob Wharton, and passed. The Station Trustee was left open until Barbara has a chance to verify that Stan Getsla will take the position again next year. She will report at board meeting.

Old Business: Christmas party to be held at Hungry Hunter Restaurant on Saturday Dec. 9, at 12 noon. Get your orders in to Don Village, ASAP. Those attending are to bring a gift for gift exchange. Barbara Will have the "ham cookies" as place cards that will also be desert.

December Board Meeting: To be held on Monday, December 11, at Red Cross, at 7:30 PM. This would be our regular meeting night. She wants to hold the board meeting early so people will have time for holiday happenings.

Clark Murphy mentioned that he had an e-mail from his Rumanian friend that had visited our club earlier in the year, when his friend was here for a two month internship. Clark said that their club needs an HF rig, as they have none now. It was suggested by Mike Hastings, that we could become their sister club and send them one of our HF rigs.

NEW BUSINESS: None discussed.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:52 PM.

Barbara K. Britten, KD6QEI

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## Board Meeting, Nov. 20, 2000



Attendance: Don K6PBQ, Lou WA6QYS, Clark KE6KXO, Don KK6MX, Barbara KD6QEI, Wally KA6YMD, Gary WB6YRU.

Called to order by President Barbara KD6QEI at 7:45 PM, Red Cross building, San Jose.

KD6QEI: Doug WN6U has resigned as secretary as of November 1. All of the secretary's stuff has been turned over to the president.

Repeater, KA6YMD: Our two-meter repeater has been moved to Santa Teresa hospital. The duplexer hasn't been mounted yet, will try to work on that next weekend.

Newsletter, WB6YRU: We had photos last time. There is one article in so far for the next issue, but no reports. We especially should have a repeater report. The President's Prose column for the December issue didn't mention the election nor the secretary resignation...Barbara will submit a revised copy.

BBS, WB6YRU: The two-meter port is down. I have a new TNC installed but it's not working...It looks like a serial interface problem. The 220 forwarding port is still waiting for a new TNC (on order).

KE6KXO: will look into the possibility of making SCCARA a sister club with the club of Eugen Moldovan YO5OMQ in Romania (he visited here recently).

K6PBQ: The December meeting luncheon has 33 people signed up so far, that's more than last time. There will be two gift exchanges: one for adults and one for kids (about \$10 value each).

KD6QEI: The next board meeting will be December 11, (our general meeting date).

KD6QEI: I will arrange meetings for 2001 at H.P. Will do so for our board meetings too at the Red Cross.

Badges, WB6YRU: All badge orders have been filled except for two, possibly three. I need info for those from the secretary's records. Barbara's research didn't accomplish much, only two or three responded, none of which are those I needed info on.

Some of the people who ordered badges were never entered into the membership database--this is a big problem that we need to address. The main problem is not having a secretary...and it looks like we again won't have one for next year.

Field Day, K6PBQ: We will make reservations for June 22 and 23 at Mt Madonna as a contingency plan in case we don't go somewhere else.

Adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU

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## 75 Year Award

Otho Lawrence K6CAY

Och was born in Stockton, CA on September 25, 1907. He attended elementary schools in Lathrop, CA; Mesa, AZ; Tracy, CA; Santa Clara, CA, and he graduated from the Santa Clara High School. While in high school he participated in tennis, football, track, and basketball.

It was during his high school days that Och became interested in amateur radio, because of Harry Engwich (W6HC) and Frank Quement (W6NX). Och was first licensed as 6CWD in 1924, but didn't appear in the call book until 1925. During those early years, Och was more interested in building and fixing rigs than he was in operating them.

After high school, Och attended San Jose State University for just over a year with a major in sports and a minor in math. Pacific Telephone Co. hired him as a basketball player in 1928 and the team won their industrial league games. A bit later, Och was the only member of the

team to pass a test given by the Superintendent of the company, and Och was made a Central Office Repairman. Eventually, he also did outside repairs, "and just about everything else."

During WWII, Och became a teletype repairman for the whole division (from San Luis Obispo to northern CA) and was involved with maintaining "code room" equipment. After the war, Och became a Supervisor for PBX, mobile radio, and teletypes. Because of the mobile radio, Och got his Commercial License, as well as reviving his post-war amateur license (K6CAY).

In 1952, Och was transferred to the Chief Engineer's Dept. where he worked on radio transmission and broadband carrier systems in Northern California and Nevada. Och was promoted to Staff Engineer in 1953 and held that title until his retirement in 1972. Och married his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife Ethel in 1987. The couple are avid golfers.

Och says, "I am very happy to have been in ham radio for 75 years. I have made friends all over the World. Lately I only enjoy working the nets!"

Och is also a member of SARO, ARRL, SIRARC, SCCARA, IEEE, and the Islam ARC. He is a Blue Lodge Mason, Scottish Rite, Shrine, Argonauts (travel), and OCTA (Pioneer Trails West). His other hobbies are travel, golf, sailing, and gardening.

Congratulations on 75 years, Och!

*From the QCWA Journal, Fall 2000 issue. Permission to reprint this article was granted by Jim W7LVN, of the Quarter Century Wireless Assn., Nov. 6, 2000.*

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## **ARRL News**

*The ARRL Letter, November 3, 2000*

### **U.S. TO RECOMMEND DROPPING MARITIME-MOBILE SERVICE MORSE REFERENCES**

At the September 21 meeting of U.S. Working Party 8B (maritime, aeronautical, radio determination), US and International WP 8B Chairman Richard Swanson announced that he will recommend to the Conference Preparatory Meeting for WRC-2003 the suppression of all references to Morse code in the International Radio Regulations with respect to the Maritime-Mobile Service.

*The ARRL Letter, November 17, 2000*

### **IT'S ALIVE! PHASE 3D IS NOW AO-40**

Alive and well and in orbit around Earth, the satellite known for the past decade as "Phase 3D" has a new name. AMSAT-NA Board Chairman Bill Tynan, W3XO, this week announced that Phase 3D now will be known as

AMSAT-OSCAR 40, or AO-40.

"We have been calling it Phase 3D for far too long," Tynan said. "Henceforth it will take its place in the long line of OSCARs, satellites built by the Amateur Radio community for the Amateur Radio community throughout the world."

Tynan said he got the official go-ahead from Phase 3D Project Leader Karl Meinzer, DJ4ZC, to assign an OSCAR number. It's been 40 years since the first OSCAR satellite launched. AMSAT-OSCAR 40 was dedicated to the memory of one of its principal builders, Werner Haas, DJ5KQ, and operates under the call sign DP0WH. Haas died earlier this year. A plaque aboard AO-40 is dedicated to his memory.

Tynan, whose tenure as AMSAT-NA President covered the early years of the Phase 3D project, was overjoyed to see the satellite finally in orbit. "Congratulations and thanks to all who participated in any way to this wonderful achievement," he said.

Following a one-day postponement, Phase 3D was successfully launched November 16 at 0107 UTC and placed into a geostationary transfer orbit, from which it will be nudged into its final high elliptical orbit. When the Ariane 5 launcher successfully deployed Phase 3D at 0153 UTC, cheers erupted from the AMSAT team monitoring the flight's progress in the Arianespace control room. The satellite is not expected to be ready for general use for about nine months.

"It was a textbook launch," said Phase 3D Mission Director and AMSAT-DL Executive Vice President Peter Guelzow, DB2OS. Guelzow, who's filling in for Phase 3D Project Leader Karl Meinzer, DJ4ZC, said the satellite appears to be in excellent health. A "general beacon" was transmitting on approximately 435.450 MHz. The AO-40 PSK beacon has been monitored on or about 145.898 MHz--slightly different from the expected frequency.

This week's Phase 3D launch culminated a decade of planning, design, construction and testing as well as an ambitious fund raising campaign. The ARRL was among the major contributors to the Phase 3D project.

Newly elected AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, hailed the news of the launch. "It expands the capabilities of radio amateurs to work with higher frequencies and develop advanced communication techniques," he said. "Once more, Amateur Radio operators will be at the leading edge of experimentation in communications."

The satellite now is in orbit some 585 miles above Earth at the closest point. Phase 3D's final elliptical orbital configuration will put the satellite some 2500 miles away from Earth at its nearest point, and some 29,500 miles at its farthest.

At 630 kg (1380 lbs) and some 20 feet across when the solar panels are deployed, Phase 3D is the largest Amateur Radio satellite ever put into space. Three other satellites, the giant PanAmSat PAS-1R communications satellite and the smaller STRV-1C and 1D mini-satellites, joined AMSAT Phase 3D--now AO 40--for the ride.

For more information, visit the AMSAT-NA Web site, <http://www.amsat.org>.

*The ARRL Letter*, November 24, 2000

## BOARD TO CONSIDER MORSE CODE POLICY REVIEW

The ARRL Board of Directors will review the League's position on the Morse code as an international licensing requirement when it gathers for its annual meeting in January. Because the issue is expected to come up at the IARU Region 2 Conference next October, the ARRL Executive Committee decided at its November 11 meeting in Irving, Texas, to place the issue on the Board's January agenda.

The ARRL's Morse policy was formalized by Board resolution in 1993. It supports the retention in the International Radio Regulations of the provision obliging administrations to require that applicants demonstrate ability to send and receive Morse code before they may operate below 30 MHz. Consistent with that policy, ARRL International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, cast the lone dissenting vote earlier this year at the IARU Region 3 Conference in Australia on a motion calling for the eventual elimination of Morse as an ITU requirement for HF operation.

In January, the Board may decide to reaffirm this policy, to modify it, or to seek additional input from members. In the past, a majority of members has supported the policy.

The Executive Committee also proposed that the Board determine a process for soliciting membership input on possible re-partitioning of the HF bands in restructuring's wake. As part of its original restructuring package, the League had proposed "re-farming" the current Novice bands to allow for more efficient use of the most crowded HF allocations. The FCC has declined to take up any possible re-partitioning, however, until it's had a chance to gauge the effects of restructuring. Amateur Radio license restructuring became effective last April 15.

In other action, Stafford and ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, reported briefly on preparations for WRC-2003. Stafford is focusing on developing support for the Amateur Radio 7 MHz position within Region 2. The IARU seeks a 300-kHz worldwide amateur allocation in the vicinity of 7 MHz. Sumner has been named to the core IARU delegation to that conference.

The Executive Committee also heard a wide-ranging update of other FCC matters, including the League's efforts to gain primary amateur status at 2400 to 2402 MHz and at 2300 to 2305 MHz.

Sumner observed during the meeting that the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act bills--HR 783 and S 2183--were not likely to be enacted during the "lame duck" session of Congress that's just ahead. Principal sponsors of both bills are returning to Congress in January and may be asked to reintroduce the legislation.

The Executive Committee also briefly discussed legislative restrictions on the use of cell phones that have been popping up in various localities. Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, noted that an effort is under way in New Jersey to exempt Amateur Radio operation from the effects of such legislation.

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## Opinion

### Should we continue requiring CW proficiency?

The ARRL was the only one to vote in favor of maintaining CW testing at the IARU meeting recently. The ARRL board will be reconsidering this position at its January meeting.

If you like CW, that's fine, have fun. Nobody is advocating we do away with this mode. But let's be honest and realistic--it doesn't hold the importance it once did. I really think it's a mistake to continue requiring CW proficiency in order to get an amateur license.

There was a time when it was very important for people involved in radio communications to know CW. There was also a time when it was very important for drivers to know how to hitch horses. CW and horses are still used today, but proficiency in them is no longer important, those times have passed. Requiring CW proficiency of amateurs today makes about as much sense as requiring cab drivers to demonstrate horse-hitching proficiency to get their license.

Where technology and communications are concerned, times change. We need to change with it. CW isn't what it used to be. All other CW users realize this and are abandoning this mode. In the *ARRL Letter* (elsewhere in this newsletter) is yet one more example of this fact.

Some people claim CW "can get through when nothing else does," but that's not true. At AMD in the early 1980's, I worked in a department where we developed a modem on a chip. To our surprise, that thing was able to give almost perfect copy of a signal that we could barely detect by ear!

I think it makes amateurs appear backward to require proficiency in a mode that most people consider to be antiquated. This won't help us in our effort to hang on to spectrum. New communications devices and techniques come along and want spectrum. How do you think it makes amateur radio seem when they notice we still require proficiency in Morse code?

The "sour grapes" argument should be dismissed out of hand, (i.e. "I had to learn it, so should everyone else").

The argument that CW testing provides a kind of hurdle to keep out the "undesirable" is nonsense because we have to pass other technical tests. Plus, we certainly shouldn't be making it more difficult for people to become amateurs...not these days.

It seems to me CW isn't something that requires proficiency testing anyway. If you aren't any good at it, nothing bad happens. Like riding a bike, you almost have to be reasonably good at it anyway or you won't be able to do it. The other reasons for knowing CW don't exist anymore.

There is plenty in amateur radio that has nothing to do with CW. You can be a very active amateur without every hearing a dit or touching a key.

We don't require proof of proficiency in any other mode, not even the newer ones. At first that might sound like a silly argument because of all modes, you have to be skilled at CW. But even that is no longer necessarily true. You can send and receive CW just fine with a computer without spending so much a one minute studying code.

We should be looking to the future, not hang on to the past like grim death. It's time to let this one go.

... just my two-cents worth, Gary WB6YRU

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## Bits & Pieces

### What does the Space Shuttle have in common with a horse's butt?

Plenty, it turns out. The size of a major component is based on the width of a horse's butt. Read on...

The US standard railroad gauge (width between the two rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. They built them that way in England and the US railroads were built by English expatriates.

The first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge

they used. That's because they used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.

If they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts. Those first rutted roads are based on the first long distance roads in Europe (and England) which were built by Imperial Rome for their legions. The roads have been used ever since. The initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels, were first formed by Roman war chariots. Since the chariots were made for (or by) Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. The United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches derives from the original specification for an imperial Roman war chariot.

Specifications and bureaucracies live forever. So, the next time you are handed a specification and wonder what horse's ass came up with it, you may be exactly right, because the Imperial Roman war chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the back ends of two war horses.

Now the twist to the story and the answer to the original question:

When we see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs.

The SRB's are made by Thiokol at their factory at Utah. The engineers who designed the SRBs might have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site.

The railroad line from the factory had to run through a tunnel in the mountains. The SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So, the major design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a Horse's Ass!

*[Courtesy of Paul Lusardi NOVLR, published in the August 2000 issue of the Amateur Radio News Service.]*

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### 25 SIGNS THAT YOU'VE HAD TOO MUCH OF THE 90's

1. You just tried to enter your password on the microwave.
2. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.
3. You call your son's beeper to let him know it's time to eat. He emails you back from his bedroom, "What's for dinner?"
4. Your daughter sells Girl Scout Cookies via her web site.

5. You chat several times a day with a stranger from South Africa, but you haven't spoken with your next door neighbor yet this year.
6. You check the ingredients on a can of chicken noodle soup to see if it contains Echinacea.
7. You check your blow-dryer to see if it's Y2K compliant.
8. Your grandmother clogs up your e-mail inbox asking you to send her a JPEG file of your newborn so she can create a screen saver.
9. You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home.
10. Every commercial on television has a web-site address at the bottom of the screen.
11. You buy a computer and a week later it is out of date and now sells for half the price you paid.
12. The concept of using real money, instead of credit or debit, to make a purchase is foreign to you.
13. Cleaning up the dining room means getting the fast food bags out of the back seat of your car.
14. Your reason for not staying in touch with family is that they do not have e-mail addresses.
15. You consider second-day air delivery painfully slow.
16. Your dining room table is now your flat filing cabinet.
17. Your idea of being organized is multiple-colored Post-it notes.
18. You hear most of your jokes via e-mail instead of in person.
19. You get an extra phone line so you can get phone calls.
20. You turn off your Modem and get this awful feeling, as if you just pulled the plug on a loved one.
21. You get up in morning and go online before getting your coffee.
22. You wake up at 2am to go to the bathroom and check your E-mail on your way back to bed.
23. You start tilting your head sideways to smile. :)
24. You're reading this.
25. Even worse; you're going to forward it.

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## 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, K6PBQ, WB6YRU  
 Lightning protection, grounding: WB6YRU  
 Station set-up, equipment: K6PBQ  
 TVI/RFI: WB6YRU  
 Homebrew projects, construction: KD6FJI, WB6YRU

Computers: KB6NP; IBM PC: WN6U, WB6YRU  
 Packet Network (BBS, forwarding): WB6YRU  
 Other digital modes (AMTOR, RTTY): WN6U  
 Code operating and installations: WB6EMR, K6PBQ  
 DX (long distance/propagation): WB6EMR  
 Emergency operating/preparedness: WA6QYS  
 FM (VHF/UHF, repeaters): WA6VJY  
 HF operating techniques (SSB, CW): WB6EMR, K6PBQ  
 Mobile operating: WN6U  
 QRP (HF low power, all modes): WN6U  
 Classes/license upgrading: W6ACW  
 Legal/FCC rules: WB6YRU  
 SCCARA (club inner workings):  
     K06HH, K6PBQ, WA6VJY, WB6YRU, WA6QYS  
 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

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) 225-3736  
 packet: home BBS NOARY internet: wn6u@aol.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

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## Newsletter Notes

In this issue I submitted an article of my own (besides this column). It's an opinion about CW testing to go along with a couple of other items in this issue.

Two points: 1) Almost submission related to amateur radio is fine. They can be technical articles, equipment reviews, or opinions. 2) Please feel free to submit rebuttals. It would be a great change of pace to have a debate on this topic in the newsletter.

How did everyone like the photos in the last issue? Maybe I should have saved some of them for this issue...spread them out a little. Photos, like articles, are far too rare. I hope it provided a little encouragement to the membership to submit a few more things.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

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# ARRL Pacific Division Update

December 2000

## World Radio Conference, 2003

Almost before the memory of the Istanbul World Radio Conference (WRC) has faded, preparations are underway for the next one, probably to be held in Geneva sometime in 2003. Several matters scheduled for consideration at the conference will have a profound effect on the future of Amateur Radio. A good summary of issues can be found on the International Amateur Radio Union's (IARU's) web site at <http://www.iaru.org/cal-181.html>. Of major importance is a proposal to "harmonize" worldwide Amateur assignments on the 40-meter band; that is, have (perhaps!) a single exclusive worldwide assignment for Amateur Radio rather than the patchwork arrangement we now have.

Also of great importance to many is the matter of Morse testing for Amateur HF licenses. This may well turn out to be the Great Debate of 2001. Here's the story.

Article S25 of the ITU regulations governing worldwide Amateur Radio require that all Amateur operators demonstrate proficiency in sending by hand and receiving International Morse code by ear in order to be licensed for operation on any Amateur band below 30 MHz. This is old stuff, but there is a new wrinkle: we've expected for years that S25 would be reviewed and perhaps modified at an upcoming WRC, but it's now really coming: a review is on the preliminary agenda for the 2003 conference. In anticipation for such a review, member societies of the IARU have been working together for several years to establish an Amateur position on the various elements of S25. These preparations have been discussed within the pages of QST on a number of occasions.

As we draw closer to the next WRC, efforts of member societies of the IARU are intensifying. Recently, IARU Region III met in Darwin, Australia. One of the topics of discussion was S25, including the Morse requirement. (The ARRL is a member of the Region III organization by virtue of its possessions in the west Pacific.) It was proposed at the Darwin meeting that the Morse requirement be eliminated from S25. The proposal passed with only one dissenting vote. That negative vote came from the ARRL representative, Rod Stafford, W6ROD. He voted against the proposal as a consequence of a Standing Order of the ARRL Board of Directors which opposes any change in the international Morse requirement.

IARU Region II will have a similar meeting in 2001, and the same subject will undoubtedly be discussed.

Now comes the question! Is the ARRL policy that

opposes any change in the S25 requirement for Morse testing still appropriate? This question will almost certainly come up at the ARRL Board meeting in January.

What are your views, pro and con?

Note that this ongoing discussion related to S25 concerns the ITU requirement ONLY. The question of whether or not Morse should be required for a FCC issued HF license is a separate, although related, issue.

Vice Director Vallio and I would appreciate hearing your views on this matter. Please email your thoughts to me at [w6cf@arrl.org](mailto:w6cf@arrl.org), and to Bob at [w6rgg@arrl.org](mailto:w6rgg@arrl.org).

## Bad News from FCC

The FCC has denied an ARRL Petition for Reconsideration calling on the Commission to declare that PRB-1 applies to amateurs living in areas governed by CC&Rs or condominium regulations just as it does to hams regulated solely by local zoning laws. The FCC Order also seeks to "amplify" the definition of the oft-cited "reasonable accommodation" phrase in PRB-1 with respect to local land use and zoning.

The FCC Order said the League failed to demonstrate any "significant change in the underlying rationale of the PRB-1 decision" that would necessitate revisiting the issue.

"The Order provides some additional clarification on the extent of PRB-1 preemption, but it falls short of providing the relief that ARRL was seeking," said ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. Because Deputy Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Chief Kathleen O'Brien Ham issued the November 13 Order under what's known as "delegated authority," the ARRL was mulling whether to submit an application for review by the full Commission.

Sumner said the ARRL believes the issue is "critically important." He said the League continues to gather additional information and to plan on how to present its arguments more persuasively before the FCC.

The FCC Order said that even if the Commission does have authority to address CC&Rs within the context of Amateur Radio facilities, "this alone does not necessarily warrant revisiting the exclusion of CC&Rs" from PRB-1. The ARRL has argued that the FCC 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 same principle, the ARRL asserts, applies to Amateur Radio.

The FCC Order says, however, that ham antennas are not like over-the-air reception device antennas, "which are very limited in size in residential areas." Regardless of the extent of the FCC's discretion with respect to CC&Rs generally, "we are not persuaded by ARRL's arguments that it is appropriate at this time to consider exercising such discretion with respect to amateur station antenna preemption," the Order said.

In its initial denial a year ago, the FCC strongly encouraged associations of homeowners and private contracting parties to "follow the principle of reasonable accommodation" with respect to Amateur Radio.

The FCC Order also took the opportunity to clarify by example what PRB-1 means by "reasonable accommodation" in terms of amateur antennas. The Order says the FCC does not believe that zoning that provides for extreme or excessive prohibition of amateur communications "could be deemed to be a reasonable accommodation." As an example, the Order said, "we believe that a regulation that would restrict amateur communications using small dish antennas, antennas that do not present any safety or health hazard, or antennas that are similar to those normally permitted for viewing television" is not reasonable accommodation or minimum practicable regulation.

On the other hand, the Order said, communities wanting to "preserve residential areas as livable neighborhoods" would be free to adopt zoning that forbids antennas "commonly and universally associated with those that one finds in a factory area or an industrialized complex." The FCC conceded that while such rules could constrain amateur communications, "we do not view it as failing to provide reasonable accommodation to amateur communications."

The FCC Order also stuck to the earlier conclusion that the current standards for "reasonable accommodation and minimum practicable regulation" spelled out in PRB-1 "are sufficiently specific to cover any concerns related to unreasonable fees or onerous conditions."

The Order said the FCC continues to believe that it should "not specify precise height limitations below which a community may not regulate, given the varying circumstances that may occur."

The Order combined the FCC's response to the ARRL petition with its response to a similar filing from Barry N. Gorodetzer, N4IFE, and Kathy Conrad-Gorodetzer, KF4IDH, of Ft Lauderdale, Florida. The FCC Order is at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/rm8763.html>.

Thanks, ARRL Letter.

## **Kid's Day 2001**

Every day we miss opportunities to spend "quality time with our children." By 9 PM we find ourselves wondering where the day went and why we haven't managed to "connect" with the kids. Kid's Day on January 6, 2001, offers a chance to restore that "connection" and spend some "quality time" with youngsters--yours or someone else's--by sharing your ham station with them for a day.

Sponsored by the Boring (Oregon) Amateur Radio Club, Kid's Day began in 1994 as a one-hour time slot, and kids exchanged their favorite color. The initial event drew fewer than 50 participants, but more than 1000 have turned out for recent Kid's Day events in January and June. Kid's Day now is sponsored and administered by the ARRL with the cooperation and assistance of the BARC. During Kid's

Day, youngsters--licensed or not--are encouraged to enjoy ham radio under the supervision of a licensed parent or other adult. Kid's Day isn't really a contest but a chance for young people to experience Amateur Radio firsthand--to try it on for size. First and foremost, Kid's Day is meant for the participating youngsters to have fun and maybe absorb a bit of the ham radio spark that could flare up into a lifelong interest down the road. Some suggestions: During periods of slow activity, have the kids make drawings that reflect their feelings about ham radio and Kid's Day. Whether it's an antenna, a radio or a big smiley face, ARRL wants you to send it in. "We are collecting these drawings--they can be done by computer or crayon--and will use some of them to design a new Kid's Day certificate," says the ARRL's Jean Wolfgang, WB3IOS. Submittals should include the child's name, age and contact information (including e-mail, if available) for the sponsoring amateur. Send the artwork to [jwolfgang@arrl.org](mailto:jwolfgang@arrl.org) or to ARRL, Kid's Day Artwork, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

"The kid sitting beside you may or may not be a ham in the years to come," Wolfgang says, but I bet you will both have a good time--and who knows what the future will bring?"

More information about Kid's Day 2001 appears on page 45 of the December QST and on the ARRLWeb.

Thanks, ARRL Letter.

## **Retransmission of Shuttle Audio on 145.585 MHz**

STS-97 is scheduled to launch on Nov 30. Ames Amateur Radio Club's station, NA6MF, provides a continuous (24 hours per day) real-time retransmission of Space Shuttle air-to-ground communications with Mission Control on 145.585 MHz. Retransmissions are normally active from prelaunch to landing. They also include crew press conferences during all Space Shuttle flights. For more information see the AARC webpage at <http://hamradio.arc.nasa.gov>

Thanks, KG6BFK.

## **Pacificon 2000: A Rare Treat**

For those of you who missed Pacificon2000, you have only yourself to blame for the loss of a terrific weekend. In my opinion this was the best Pacificon of all, which in a way creates a problem for the Pacificon staff: how can they top this next year?

Attendance was up and the lecture sessions were heavily attended, starting with the Friday antenna seminar. Concurrent with the antenna seminar, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and Pacific Division Volunteer Counsel Coordinator Harry Styron, K6HS, conducted a legal seminar.

The convention formally opened Saturday morning at 9:00 AM to the tune of the Keynote Speech, presented by ARRL Executive Vice President Dave Sumner, K1ZZ. The

banquet was well attended; demand was so high to hear the banquet speaker, Riley Hollingsworth that additional tables had to be squeezed in at the last minute.

Other presentations throughout the weekend were generally standing room only. The ARRL Forum, Sunday afternoon immediately prior to the prize drawings, was also packed.

Vendors reported brisk sales out in the exhibit hangar.

All in all it was a memorable weekend. See you in Concord in 2001?

### 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.
- Radiofest 2001 - February 17, 2001, 7:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Sponsored by the Naval Postgraduate School Amateur Radio Club. This popular event will be held this year at the General Stilwell Community Center, Ord Military Community

(old Fort Ord), 4260 Gigling Road in Seaside. Already scheduled are a radio exposition, flea market, ham radio/computer vendors, door prizes, demonstrations of ATV and Packet, APRS, MARS, community emergency demonstrations, and forums. Speakers will include various leadership officials from the ARRL Pacific division and the Santa Clara Valley section. Talk-in 146.97- PL 94.8. Go to <http://k6ly.org/radiofest> for additional information.

Jim Maxwell, W6CF  
Director, ARRL Pacific Division



PO Box 473  
Redwood Estates CA 95044  
(408) 353-3911 (phone & fax)

Packet: W6CF @ N0ARY.#NCA.CA.USA.NOAM  
Internet: w6cf@arrl.org  
Pacific Division Web site <http://www.pdarrl.org/>

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## December Luncheon Meeting Sign-up

Our annual December christmas meeting will be a luncheon this time; on Saturday December 9, at the Hungry Hunter in Milpitas, Calaveras Blvd just east of Hwy 680 (old yellow house location), we've been there before. Luncheon is at 12 noon. Please note that on Saturday there isn't a regular bar. You will be able to order a bottle of wine for the table.

We will have a choice of three entrees. The regular lunch is \$14 each, children's choices are indicated below. Reservations need to be in by Friday, December 1. Talk-in on our repeater W6UU, 146.385(+). I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there. Why not renew your membership (back cover) at the same time? See "December Meeting" article for information on gift exchange.

-- Don K6PBQ

For the annual meeting in December, sign me up for the following lunch(es):  
From the regular menu, \$14 each:

_____ Prime Ribs of Beef	_____ Forest Mushroom Chicken
_____ Salmon	

From the Children's menu:

_____ Deli Burger, \$7.50	_____ Chicken Strips, \$7.50
_____ Fried Shrimp, \$8.75	

Total for lunches: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please renew your membership (over) at the same time--combine both payments here -- GRAND TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Give this form (or copy) with payment to the Treasurer or mail to: SCCARA PO Box 6 San Jose CA 95103-0006

**As of this publishing, the deadline is almost here! At this point, if you plan to go, please call in your order to Don Village K6PBQ at 408 263-2789, then send in the form. Don needs to place the orders to the restaurant by the deadline, it's OK if your payment arrives a few days later.**

# S.C.C.A.R.A. Membership Form for 2001

(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 Expiration Date (mo/yr): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  New Member  I'm also an ARRL member  
 Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Packet: \_\_\_\_\_

For family memberships (at the same address), please fill out a separate form for each. Indicate the "primary member" (for mailing purposes) name and call:

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: \_\_\_\_\_

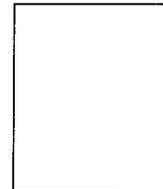
Give this completed form (or copy) with payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or mail to the return address below:

===== 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



**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**FIRST CLASS**