

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 17, Number 2

February 2001



Where have all the members gone?

Opinion by Gary Mitchell WB6YRU

Elsewhere in this issue you'll find a current list of members (those that renewed for 2001). It's a shockingly short list given SCCARA's long history. We've dropped below the point where there are enough active members to fill the minimum officer positions or to chair various activities. So, what's going on here? Where have all the members gone?

This basic problem has been discussed several times over the past few years. One recent survey indicated a major reason that people joined in the first place is because of the amateur class we used to do. But attracting new members is only part of it--those new members need a reason to stay. It's not a simple problem, there don't seem to be any simple answers. The better we understand the cause(s), the easier it will be to find solutions. With that in mind, here's something I've recently learned:

I had a conversation with a friend recently who is in a computer club suffering from the same problem. It seems to me they have a much better handle on the cause. Their club originally functioned as a gathering place for small computer owners. There was a need for such groups back when the original PC came out. Computer owners had to be technically proficient to a large extent, but today that's no longer the case. Nowadays people buy fully loaded and working computers off the shelf. It's the same with software. That's not to say people don't have problems, but it's a different world.

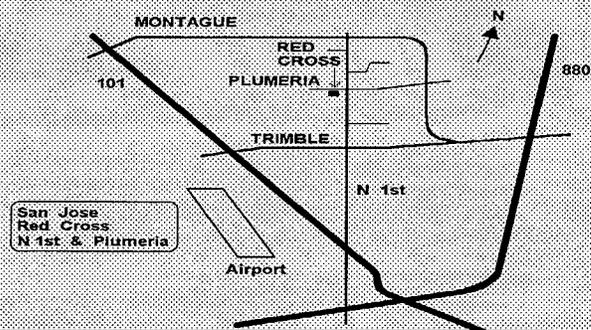
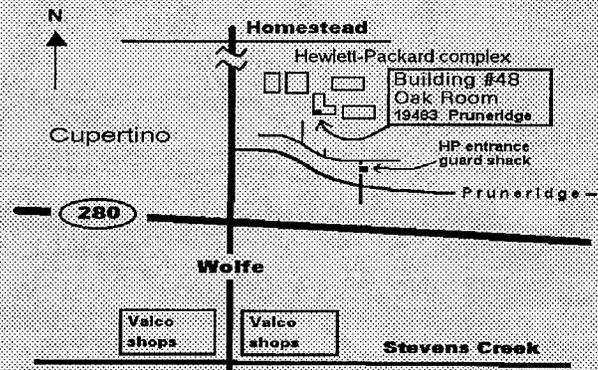
There are many similarities in the world of amateur radio. Years ago, an amateur had to also be an electronic radio technician. One could even list his/her amateur radio status in a job resume--and it made a difference! Not so much today. The term "appliance operator" is bandied about often. We rarely even look inside our rigs today, let alone

Calendar

- 2/12 SCCARA General Meeting
- 2/19 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 3/10 Foothill Flea Market--We host!
- 3/12 SCCARA General Meeting

General Meeting:

- Day: Monday, Feb. 12, 2001
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: Hewlett-Packard's Oak Rm. Bld #48
- Featuring: (TBA)



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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

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	e-mail: ka6ymd@juno.com	
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Secretary	- - -	
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	e-mail: murphycr@jps.net	
Director	Don Apte, KK6MX	629-0725
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	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 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). 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

work on or build them. Modern rigs are not like the rigs of yesteryear. So, it's a different world for us too.

I'm not claiming to have nailed down an answer to the dwindling interest in SCCARA, but I really believe that this is the root of the problem. We need to reconsider SCCARA's roll in the amateur radio community. Why join a club like SCCARA? What does it offer its members? Like that computer club, the need SCCARA filled years ago is gone today, for the most part. There are other needs and problems. The roll that computers and the internet play in society must be taken into account, especially for some modes such as packet. We need to make the club useful again.

Let's be thinking about how amateur radio is today and will be in the foreseeable future. Somewhere in there is a place for the right kind of amateur radio club. We can start by asking new members and visitors what exactly they hope to find in a club like SCCARA. And let's not wait for potential members to show up to a meeting, ask your non-member amateur friends what would they like in a club these days. Once a consensus becomes obvious, we need to make a serious effort to move the club in that direction.

Flea Market

It's SCCARA's turn to host the Foothill Flea Market, March 10. Lou WA6QYS has stepped down as chairman, but will help anyone to takes his place. This event is a major source of funds for SCCARA, please consider helping out. Most of all, we need a chairman--don't be afraid, Lou has all the information you'll need.

This will no doubt be one of the main topics of discussion at the February meeting (the last one before the flea market). Please be generous with your time and effort. If you've ever thought about volunteering for something at SCCARA, this would be a good choice.

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Jan. 8, 2001



{Nothing received by the deadline. -- Ed.}

Board Meeting, Jan. 15, 2001



Attendance: Don K6PBQ, Lloyd KD6FJI, Lou WA6QYS, Don KK6MX, Wally KA6YMD, Barbara KD6QEI, Gary WB6YRU

Meeting called to order by President Barbara KD6QEI at 7:45 PM.

KD6QEI: Stan Getsla wishes to run for re-election as Station Trustee. I won't be here for the next general and board meetings, Wally agreed to fill in. It's our turn to host the next Foothill Flea Market, March 10 (our fee to Perham is \$895). No word yet on speakers for meetings, we have no V.P. nor anyone else to find speakers.

WB6YRU: According to a note in the roster, Brad Wyatt was given honorary life membership for donating a 60 foot tower and antenna to SCCARA some time back. Does anyone know anything about it? Board: The antenna may be one of the two that we use during Field Day, but nobody knows anything about the tower...WB6YRU will ask around.

Treasurer's report, KD6FJI: Lloyd passed around a year-end statement. Total income for 2000: \$3380.00. Total expenses for 2000: 3716.70. Net for 2000: \$ -336.70.

KK6MX: We now have a 200 MHz Pentium desktop with Windows 98, cost us only \$54 (didn't come with a monitor or keyboard).

KK6MX: Motion to sell our old 286 desktops, (keep a monitor and keyboard for the new Pentium). We already have two newer laptops for Field Day anyway. Motion passed unanimously.

Repeater report, KA6YMD: Still nothing done about bolting down the repeater at the new location. Still no movement made on the club station at Regional Medical.

SCCARA-GRAM, WB6YRU: Don K6PBQ has an article, but that's it for the next issue--not good. Wally has been working on the roster database and needs to get an updated copy of it to me for the mailing list.

BBS, WB6YRU: BBS is working fine. The bad link we had to Oregon is fixed. The 220 forwarding port is still down, but that's not a major problem since those who would forward on that channel are currently using a backup path.

K6PBQ: We should go through the locker and decide what to keep, what works, and what to sell.

Adjourned 8:52 PM

Recording for the secretary, Gary Mitchell

Treasurer's Treatise

SCCARA Summary Financial Report
01/01/2000 Through 12/31/2000

INCOME

Dues	1,243.00
Field Day Meals	207.00
Foothill Flea Market Income	1,647.00
Misc Items	70.00
Sccara Badge	3.00
Xmas Party Meals	210.00

TOTAL INCOME 3,380.00

EXPENSES

2 meter Net expense	5.41
Badge Making Supplies	361.54
BBS Expense	226.17
Dining	438.01
Field Day expense	456.00
Field Day Food Expense	300.00
Foothill Flea Market Expense	895.00
Insurance	329.00
Insurance Equipment	269.00
Misc:	
From savings account	-1,000.00
Misc other	-188.56
TOTAL Misc.	-1,188.56
Note	0.00
Reimbursement	-11.84
Rent	50.00
Roster printing	29.23
Sccara Gram	632.79
Storage Rental	500.00
Trailer	41.00
Utilities:	
Telephone	383.95
TOTAL Utilities	383.95

TOTAL EXPENSES 3,716.70

NET for 2000: -336.70

Lloyd, KD6FJI, Treasurer

JOTA 2000

The 43rd annual *Jamboree on the Air* was held on the weekend of October 21, 2000. This is the 8th year I've participated with JOTA from my home station. I always get better a response to having the scouts over to my home

versus our club station.

This year I operated both Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday I had Girl Scout Troop 1025 over from Mt. View. This is the second year this troop came over. They had such a good time last year, they wanted to come over again. We were able to talk with scouts from Alberta, Canada (VE6DED) and Denton, TX (N5UM).

On Sunday I had Boy Scout Troop 218 over from here in San Jose. This was their first year participating in *Jamboree on the Air*. They really enjoyed it and were able to talk with scouts from Easton, PA (KB2ANG).

On both days I set up a code practice oscillator for them to practice sending their names. They also had fun working with the phonetic alphabet.

This is a fun activity and a good opportunity to introduce scouts to amateur radio. I always look forward to it each year. So lets start rounding up some scouting troops for this year.

73, Don Village, K6PBQ



Girl Scout Troop 1025
Jamboree on the Air

Boy Scout
Troop 218

Jamboree on
the Air



Current Membership

This is a list of those who have renewed their membership in SCCARA for 2001. Since we don't have a secretary, there may well be some mistakes in the database. Director Wally Britten, KA6YMD, has started to work on the database himself until we get a secretary. So, if your call is *not* listed here and you *did* renew, please contact Wally soon. If you didn't renew, now would be a good time (there's a form on the back page).

W6ACW	N6ANE	W6CFK	WD6CGI	KO6CI
N6CMJ	AD6EC	W6EOA	KD6FJI	KE6FTZ
KO6HH	N6HN	K6IIU	KB6LCJ	KB6LFZ
K6MOB	KF6NEW	AA6ON	K6PBQ	AD6QV
WA6QYS	KC6TDK	KD6UD	WA6UWF	K6VIP
WB6YRU	K6ZYY			

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
NTS & traffic handling:
QRP (HF low power, all modes): WN6U
Classes/license upgrading: W6ACW
Legal/FCC rules: WB6YRU
SCCARA (club inner workings):
KO6HH, 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

KO6HH, 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

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the packet network:

=====

Date: 27 Mar 99 21:02
From: WA1GDJ@K1UGM
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: DRUNKS

Two drunks were well into their cups at their favorite watering hole, when one spotted movement along the top of the bar.

"Whazz that?" he asked. "A bug?"

"Izz a Ladybug." his friend replied.

"Damn!" the first man gushed, "you have good eyesight!"

73 - Gil, WA1GDJ @ K1UGM

Newsletter Notes

My idea of having a technical column (kits, projects, etc.) in the *SCCARA-GRAM* was well received at the January meeting. Several people indicated a willingness to make contributions. Unfortunately, nothing has come in so far.

This is one of those things that will require considerable participation in order for it to be good. Don't be bashful, folks...this should be fun and interesting. Even if you're having a problem or question with a project, let's put it in here--someone is bound to have an answer for you. So, this can be a valuable resource too.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

News from the ARRL

From *The ARRL Letter*, December 29, 2000

NEW OSCAR NUMBERS ASSIGNED

SaudiSat 1A and 1B are now officially OSCAR 41, or SO-41, and OSCAR 42, or SO-42. AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, has delegated to past president Bill Tynan W3XO, the task of assigning OSCAR numbers. In a letter to Turki Al Saud, director of Space Research at the King Abdullazziz City for Science and Technology--the sponsoring agency--Tynan congratulated all involved with the two spacecraft. "I am sure that the world's Amateur Radio community will very much appreciate having SO-41 and SO-42 available for use," he said. SaudiSat 1A and 1B were launched September 26, 2000, from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, aboard a converted Soviet ballistic missile. Both satellites are in the commissioning stage, with initial housekeeping tasks under way. Each satellite will operate as a 9600-baud digital store-and-forward system as well as an analog FM (bent-pipe) repeater.

--AMSAT News Service

RTTY BY WF1B NOW A FREE PROGRAM

Just in time for the ARRL RTTY Roundup January 5-7, (see the 2001 ARRL RTTY Round-Up Rules at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/rtty.html> or December QST, page 111) Ray Ortgiesen, WF1B, has changed the way his RTTY contest software is distributed. From now on, RTTY by WF1B will be available free via the Internet. Users will pay a fee for support, however. WF1B is making the program's source code available and is soliciting suggested changes from programmers. For details, visit the RTTY by WF1B Web page, <http://www.wf1b.com/>.

From *The ARRL Letter*, January 12, 2001

WHO'S JAMMING WHOM? GETTING THE STORY STRAIGHT

It turns out that the 40-meter "wobble-and-buzz jammers" heard by many in the US over the past year or so are Iranian stations that are attempting to block Iraqi stations--not the other way around as recently reported (see "Mother of All Jammers Continues to Plague 40 Meters" in *The ARRL Letter*, Vol 20, No 1). Several members of the monitoring community had questioned the earlier ARRL report, which was based on information from typically reliable sources.

"I began to doubt our information on January 8, when I received second-hand reports from SWL DXers that the jammer and jammees were backwards," said ARRL Monitoring System Coordinator Brennan Price, N4QX. "Further investigation confirms their reports."

Larry Van Horn, N5FPW, the assistant editor of *Monitoring Times*, forwarded several SWL reports to ARRL that suggested the jamming signals definitely were coming from Iran and already were well-known within the monitoring community. SWL reports indicated that the signals typically operate in the range from 7020 to 7090 kHz.

The ARRL's sources said this week that the object of the jamming is an Iraqi pirate station--which several SWLs identified as The Voice of the Mojahadin--broadcasting in Persian into Iran on various 40-meter frequencies as well as in the Aeronautical Band. The pirate station operates on a specific frequency--or frequencies--until it's spotted by the Iranians, who then attempt to jam the signal. The broadcaster then hops to another frequency to avoid the jamming, which explains why the jammer will suddenly pop up on a frequency for several minutes at a time and then disappear.

IARU Region 2 Monitoring System Coordinator Martin Potter, VE3OAT, concurs with the ARRL's latest information. He says the jammer often puts "a thundering great signal into my antenna."

The jamming signals are broad and noisy. They typically land on multiples of 10 kHz and occupy some 10 kHz of bandwidth.

The Iranian and the Iraqi governments are reported to have ignored complaints by the US and the United Kingdom. Price says that in light of the strained relations between the US and both Iran and Iraq, there's not much hope that the problem will be resolved anytime soon.

CANADA PROPOSES REDUCED MORSE REQUIREMENT

Industry Canada--the Canadian equivalent of the FCC--has proposed to discontinue that country's 12 WPM Morse code requirement in favor of a 5 WPM requirement for full HF operating privileges. Radio Amateurs of Canada sought the action last year, urging IC to drop the 12 WPM requirement.

IC says it has received "a number of petitions" from those who contend there's no longer any justification for a 12 WPM Morse requirement.

RAC President Kenneth Oelke, VE6AFO, last year wrote the IC to recommend that full HF operating privileges be granted to amateurs who have passed a 5 WPM Morse test. At the same time, he requested that the IC consider beefing up written tests and to include more questions on modern modes of communication employed by radio amateurs.

Industry Canada has invited comments on its proposal--preferably via e-mail--from interested parties in Canada addressed to "Chief, Authorization" at dospaa@ic.gc.ca. Comments also may be sent by mail to Chief, Authorization, Spectrum Management Operations Directorate, Room 1588D, 300 Slater St, Ottawa, ON K1A0C8. Comments are due within 60 days. Comments received will be available for public viewing on Industry Canada's Web site, <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/spectrum>.

The RAC has said that a move to a uniform 5 WPM Morse requirement for HF access would "be in harmony with what is happening in other parts of the world and would simplify the negotiation and implementation of reciprocal operating agreements."

RAC says the proposal would give Canadian radio amateurs operating privileges similar to those currently accorded to US amateurs who successfully pass a 5 WPM Morse test. "Industry Canada is aware that a review of the international regulations governing the Amateur Services will take place at the next World Radio Conference currently scheduled for 2003," the RAC has said.

For more information, visit the IC "Radiocommunication Act" page, <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/sf05327e.html>.

ARISS PACKET SYSTEM TO BE ACTIVATED

The ISS Expedition 1 crew was expected to turn on the packet system sometime this week. The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station packet system will identify as RZ3DZR-1. It will uplink on 145.99 MHz and downlink on 145.80 MHz. When the system is activated and the ISS is within view, Earth stations can expect to hear a periodic beacon every two minutes. Earth stations may send unformatted informational (UI) packets to the ISS (ie, it should be operational for APRS beacons). Earth stations are asked to refrain from using the Packet Mailbox System at this time, however, since the crew does not have the computer hooked up to read messages. Do not transmit on the packet uplink until you have heard the packet beacon. If you copy the packet system, let ARISS know and save your information for a future QSL card. For more information on ARISS, visit the ARISS Web site, <http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov/>
--Frank Bauer, KA3HDO

From *The ARRL Letter*, January 26, 2001

ARRL BOARD ALTERS MORSE POSITION

The ARRL Board revised its position on whether Morse code proficiency should continue to be an international licensing requirement for operation below 30 MHz. The Board approved a resolution that "recognizes and accepts" that the Morse requirement likely will be dropped from Article S25 of the international Radio Regulations at the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference. But the Board held the line on retaining a domestic Morse requirement, saying that each country should be allowed to determine for itself whether it wants to have a Morse requirement.

The Board declared that Morse code deserves continued support as "an important operating mode" as well as in terms of spectrum and "should be retained as a testing element in the US." The resolution also calls on ARRL Headquarters staff to "develop a program designed to promote the use of Morse."

The resolution supersedes all previous Board policy statements regarding Morse code and Article S25.

The Board also established a committee to solicit membership input to update the ARRL's position on reforming the HF Novice bands "in light of the 1999 FCC license restructuring Report and Order." The five-member panel will be named by President Haynie. It will report to the board in one year.

HEARING SET FOR WASHINGTON PRB-1 EXPANSION BILL

Proposed Senate Bill 5002 that would set a 70-foot minimum regulatory height for Amateur Radio antennas in the State of Washington is set for January 29, 8:30 AM, in Senate Hearing Room 2, Cherburg Bldg, Olympia, Washington (on the Capitol campus). The proposed amendment would specify that local governing bodies could not restrict antenna height to less than 70 feet without a clearly defined health, safety, or aesthetic reason.

BELGIUM TO JOIN THE 5 WPM FOLD

The Belgian Minister of Telecommunications has signed a new decree on Amateur Radio that, among other things, reduces the Morse code requirement for HF access to 5 WPM. The decree will go into effect after official publication, which is expected to take a few weeks.

--Gaston Bertels, ON4WF

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
 Renewal ARRL member _____

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: _____

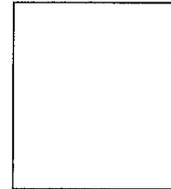
Give this completed form (or copy) with payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or mail to the return address below:

===== 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

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