

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 17, Number 4

April 2001



News from the ARRL

From the *ARRL Letter*, February 23, 2001

WWV SURVEY PLANNED

The National Institute of Standards and Technology plans to survey users of WWV and WWVH later this year. The time and frequency-standard stations have been airing occasional announcements about the upcoming poll in order to start building a mailing list of survey recipients. The announcements state that NIST "is seeking information on how listeners use the broadcast services offered on the WWV broadcast," but the survey will not begin for at least several weeks.

WWV Station Manager John Lowe says the announcements are being broadcast now as a heads up and to encourage early mailing list sign-ups. The survey itself will not be released until approved by the Office of Management and Budget, Lowe said, and he doesn't expect that to happen until May, although it could be sooner. The survey period likely would extend through the summer, he said.

According to Lowe, the last WWV-WWVH user survey was done in 1985. "We just don't know who our user base is anymore," he said. Lowe confirmed that the data collected ultimately could be used to determine whether WWV and WWVH remain on the air--especially given the popularity of NIST's other outlets, including its Web-based time server that gets in excess of 3 million hits a day.

"If we get only two people who say they're using WWV, then we've got a problem," he said. Lowe added that he does not think WWV and WWVH will be shut down, and he vowed to "fight for the radio stations," if it came down to that. "But the ultimate decision is not in my hands," he said. "We have to look at our budget and our users."

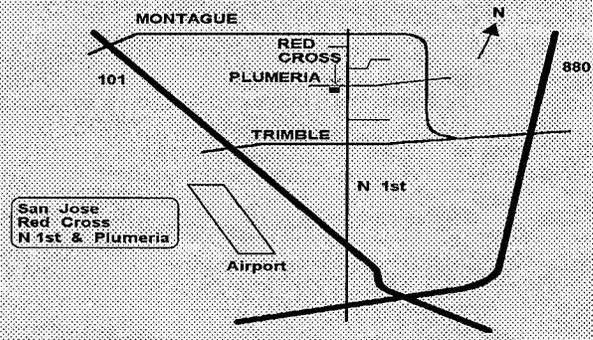
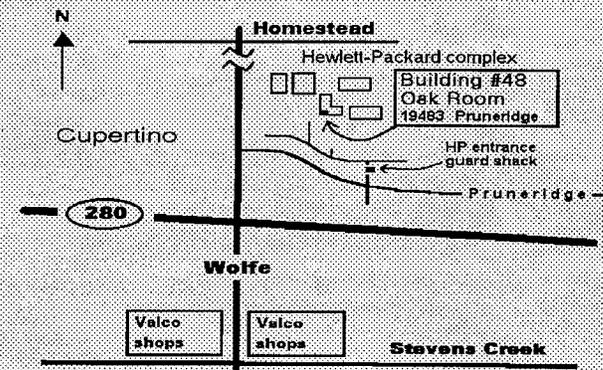
Lowe strongly encouraged WWV users to get on the mailing

Calendar

- 4/9 SCCARA General Meeting
- 4/14 Foothill Flea Market
- 4/16 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting:

- Day: Monday, April 9, 2001
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: Hewlett-Packard's Oak Rm. Bld #48
- Featuring: (to be announced)



The **SCCARA-GRAM** is published monthly by the **SANTA CLARA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**, PO Box 6, San Jose CA 95103-0006. Permission to reprint articles is hereby granted, provided the source is properly credited. **The deadline for articles is one week before the last Monday of the month.**

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). 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

list and to send in a survey when the time comes. He suggested, however, that more weight will be given to survey responses from corporate and institutional users of the radio service as opposed to individual users.

To be added to the NIST WWV-WVH survey mailing list, send your name and postal address to the NIST Radio Station WWV, 2000 E County Road 58, Ft Collins, CO 80524, or e-mail the information to nist.radio@boulder.nist.gov. Lowe urged WWV-WVH users to hold their fire until the survey begins.

WWV in Ft Collins, Colorado, and WVH on Kauai, Hawaii, broadcast continuous time and frequency information to millions of listeners worldwide. For more information, visit the NIST Web site, <http://www.nist.gov>.

From the *ARRL Letter*, March 9, 2001

AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT OF 2001 INTRODUCED

The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2001 is now officially HR 817.

Rep Michael Bilirakis of Florida introduced the bill on March 1 in the US House of Representatives. Last week, ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, and ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, visited the Congressman's office to thank him personally for his continuing interest in protecting Amateur Radio frequency allocations.

The measure has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. The bill seeks to amend the Communications Act of 1934. It would require the FCC to make no reallocation of primary Amateur and Amateur-Satellite allocations, diminish any secondary allocations, or make additional allocations within amateur allocations that would substantially reduce their utility without also providing equivalent replacement spectrum.

League officials traveled to Washington in late February and early March for a three-day round of visits with senators and congressmen and their staff members.

Haynie and Harrison also visited the FCC, where they spoke with Peter Tenhula, Chief of Staff to FCC Chairman Michael Powell. Haynie was upbeat about the impact of the visits. "Once again we had an opportunity to tell our story about Amateur Radio and the important function it serves, especially in public service and education," he said.

ARRL URGES FCC TO NIX PART 15 PETITION AFFECTING 420-450 MHz

The ARRL is urging the FCC to deny or dismiss a petition that seeks to boost the field strength and duty cycle of RF identification systems deployed as unlicensed Part 15 devices

in the 420-450 MHz band. The League filed comments March 1 in a petition filed by SAVI Technology Inc.

The petition, designated RM-10051, asks the FCC to change certain Part 15 rules affecting unlicensed, periodic, intentional radiators. SAVI, which markets radiolocation and wireless inventory control products, says it needs the rules changes to satisfy customer demand for increased RFID system capabilities.

The ARRL argues that the field strengths and duty cycles SAVI proposes for its RFID tags "are completely unreasonable and would undoubtedly seriously disrupt amateur communications in one of the most popular of the Amateur Service allocations."

The ARRL characterized SAVI's petition as another in a long series in which manufacturers of unlicensed RF devices seek to liberalize rules regarding permitted field strengths for such devices in bands allocated to the Amateur Service. The League said SAVI obviously did not have interference avoidance in mind when it chose the 420-450 MHz band. "It is among the worst choices SAVI could have made from that perspective," the ARRL said. The League suggested that SAVI would be better off deploying the devices in the 902-928 MHz band.

The ARRL said SAVI not only has failed to show that its unlicensed devices could operate at the requested field strengths and duty cycles on an itinerant basis without unduly risking harmful interference to amateurs, it hasn't shown why it needs such extremely high field strengths to communicate over paths of 100 meters.

The ARRL said its limited anecdotal studies of noise levels from unlicensed devices in certain metro areas indicate that manmade RF noise "is substantially increasing." The League warned the FCC to "be extremely careful in evaluating rulemaking petitions proposing substantial departures from present Part 15 rules."

For more information on Part 15 devices, visit the ARRL Web page, <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/part15.html>.

NEW FIELD DAY RULES FOR 2001

Field Day 2001 will run from 1800 UTC June 23 to 2100 UTC June 24--as always, the fourth full weekend in June. Typically a club or group event, Field Day is the most popular operating activity of the year--and one of the most enjoyable for hams of all skill levels. A few rules changes this year affect bonus points for Field Day scores.

* The non-traditional mode bonus has been expanded from 100 to 300 points for doing three separate demonstration modes.

* Packet is back and will be counted as one of the three

demonstration modes, but to claim packet credit, you must set up a portable digipeater system. Existing, permanent packet networks do not qualify for this bonus.

* You may earn a 100-point bonus if an invited local government official or representative of one of the agencies that ARES serves in an emergency visits your Field Day site. To earn this bonus, the invited official must actually visit the site, not just be invited.

* The message-handling bonus has been changed. You may now earn 10 points per message, up to 100 points total, for origination, relay, and delivery of formal NTS messages. In the past, only messages received and relayed were counted. The Field Day participation message to the Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator under rule 7.3.5 does not also qualify for bonus points under these rules.

This marks the last year that the extra Novice/Tech Plus station will exist in its current form. The Novice/Tech station is a non-counting transmitter, and its QSOs count for QSO point credit. The ARRL Membership Services Committee is considering several options to encourage participation by newly licensed hams.

The ARRL Contest Branch has compiled a 24-page Field Day 2001 Information packet, <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/01fdpack.pdf>. This document is available in hard-copy format by sending an SASE with four units of postage to Field Day Package, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

In addition to the dated Field Day pins that have proven so popular the past few years, the League now offers 2001 Field Day T-shirts. Pins are just \$5, and the T-shirts are \$9.95. For ordering information, visit the ARRL Products Catalog, <http://www.arrl.org/catalog>, or call toll-free 888-277-5289. The Contest Branch no longer handles orders for these items.

From *The ARRL Letter*, March 16, 2001

ARRL 160-METER BAND PLAN COMMITTEE READY FOR INPUT

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, has selected five amateurs to serve on the ad hoc 160-Meter Band Plan Committee. The panel is open for input from the amateur community regarding the current band plan for "Top Band" and recommendations for changes. The ARRL Board of Directors approved formation of the committee at its annual meeting in January.

"With the ever-increasing activity on 160, it is time to revisit the band plan," said ARRL Delta Division Director Rick Roderick, K5UR, who was named to chair the committee.

Also asked to serve on the panel were ARRL New England Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI; ARRL Dakota Division Director Emeritus Tod Olson, K0TO; Jeff Briggs, K1ZM, and Bill Tippett, W4ZV. All of the appointees are veteran amateurs and familiar with 160 meters and the issues facing the band. Briggs, a perennial Top Band contester and DXer, literally wrote the book on 160 meters, *DXing on the Edge--the Thrill of 160 Meters*. Tippett has more than 300 DXCC entities to his credit on 160.

ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, will serve as Headquarters staff liaison with the committee.

Unlike the other HF bands, 160 meters never has been divided by the FCC into mode-specific sub-bands. Most amateur transceivers didn't even begin to include the band until the influx of Japanese imports began in the 1970s. As a result of that and the elimination of the HF LORAN system, 160 meters has grown in popularity over the past couple of decades. Today, many modes--CW, SSB, AM, RTTY and other digital--coexist on Top Band, although not always harmoniously. Most operation also tends to cluster on the lower 100 kHz of the band, and the lines between which modes operate where are becoming increasingly blurred.

Roderick says the band plan committee is open for comments "from all parties--the digital folks, DXers, ragchewers, anyone." The e-mail address for comments is 160-BANDPLAN@arrl.org. All comments must include a subject line. The committee plans to report back to the ARRL Board of Directors with its recommendations at the Board's July meeting.

All ARRL band plans are on the Web, <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bandplan.html>.

ARRL SEEKS TO EXPAND ACCESS TO 216-220 MHz

The ARRL has suggested that the FCC expand the secondary amateur allocation at 219-220 MHz to provide hams with access to the entire 216-220 MHz band. The League commented this month in response to a Notice of Proposed Rule Making, ET Docket 00-221, that proposes to reallocate 27 MHz of spectrum in various bands, including 216-220 MHz, from government to non-government use.

In general, the FCC seeks to allocate the entire 216-220 MHz band to the Fixed and Mobile services on a primary basis. At 219-220 MHz, Amateur Radio now is secondary to the Automated Maritime Telecommunications System (AMTS). Within the 1 MHz of spectrum, amateurs may install and operate point-to-point digital message forwarding systems, including inter-city packet backbones, but only under strict limitations.

While the FCC has promised to protect AMTS and other operations from new interference, it extended no such assurances to amateur operations at 219-220 MHz. In its

comments, the ARRL expressed fears that additional co-primary users "will essentially foreclose what limited opportunities there are now for amateurs to make use of the 219-220 MHz segment."

The League suggested that in the face of such potential constraints at 219-220 MHz, permitting amateur access to the entire 216-220 MHz band on a non-interference basis would be one means to accommodate Amateur Radio operations in that portion of the spectrum. Such a move would, the ARRL said, "provide at least some opportunity for amateurs to engineer fixed links into the band, which would not be possible in the 219-220 MHz segment alone."

Last month, in comments filed in PR Docket 92-257, the ARRL suggested letting amateurs submit computer-generated field strength contours that demonstrate a lack of interference potential to AMTS sites, in lieu of having to get written permission. In this proceeding, the ARRL further suggested that amateurs who proposed to operate in the 216-220 MHz band be allowed to use "fixed-distance separations" in lieu of the present consent requirements, as a means to demonstrate the absence of interference potential to AMTS and other co-primary users.

A copy of the ARRL's comments in ET Docket 00-221 is available on the ARRL Web site, <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et00-221/index.html>.

From *The ARRL Letter*, March 23, 2001

AMSAT DETAILS LIKELY AO-40 FAILURE SCENARIO

AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, has issued a likely explanation of why AO-40 suddenly went silent in mid-December. Haighton's March 16 statement outlines a three-part failure scenario theorizing that AO-40's problems began with a fault in a helium valve.

"Initial thoughts were that the spacecraft was completely dead and that chances of recovery were remote, with the possibility that AO-40 was in multiple pieces," Haighton said. The satellite's 2 meter beacon quit while ground controllers were testing the onboard 400-newton motor system after anomalies with an orbit-shifting burn that lasted several minutes too long. It was almost two weeks before ground controllers were able to reset the onboard computers and restart a beacon on 2.4 GHz.

Ground controllers have been somewhat successful in regaining control of the next-generation amateur satellite since telemetry transmissions resumed Christmas Day, but Haighton concedes some onboard systems may not be recoverable.

Haighton said that while the Phase 3D team may never know exactly what happened, the likely scenario includes what

Haighton told ARRL was "a minor explosion" aboard AO-40, as out-of-place fuel mixed and then ignited as a result of a blocked exhaust port on a helium valve.

"We think it was a human error thing," Haighton conceded in an interview with the ARRL. He did not elaborate.

Ground controllers have used AO-40's magnetorquing system to reduce the satellite's spin rate to around 5 RPM and are optimistic that they'll be able to re-orient the satellite for communication with Earth. The satellite's omnidirectional antennas appear to be lost, but ground controllers hope the high-gain directional antennas still work and that reorienting the spacecraft will bring about a resumption of signals from other transmitters.

AO-40's heat pipe system--which could not work at the higher spin rates--has begun operating again too, considerably reducing internal temperatures. But ground controllers are pessimistic about being able to restore AO-40's 2 meter and 70 cm transmitters.

Yet to be tested is the onboard arc-jet motor, which ground controllers hope to use to reorient the satellite so that the high-gain antennas will face the Earth.

"Following the reorientation it will be possible to test the remaining systems on board the spacecraft and to determine which systems and bands will be available for future operations and under what conditions," Haighton said.

AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT

The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2001, introduced earlier this month in the US House, now is officially a Senate bill, S.549. Republican Sen Michael Crapo of Idaho introduced the bill in the upper chamber March 15.

Democratic Sen Daniel Akaka of Hawaii was a cosponsor. The bill has been referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. In introducing the Senate measure again this year, Crapo and Akaka referred to the importance of Amateur Radio in providing communication in times of disaster.

S.549 is identical in its wording to H.R.817, introduced in the House of Representatives March 1 by Rep Michael Bilirakis of Florida. If approved by both chambers and signed by Pres George W. Bush, the Spectrum Protection Act would require the FCC to provide equivalent replacement spectrum should it ever reallocate primary Amateur Radio spectrum to another service. The same requirement would apply if the FCC acted to diminish any secondary amateur allocations or to make additional allocations in ham bands that diminish their utility.

Bilirakis and Crapo introduced the Spectrum Protection Act in a past session of Congress at the request of the ARRL.

The League's Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Steve Mansfield, N1MZA, says he's encouraged by the fact that the Spectrum Protection bill is getting a head start with early introduction in both chambers this time around.

More information on the Spectrum Protection Act, including a copy of the House and Senate versions of the bill, is available on the ARRL Web site, <http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/arspa.html>.

"Boing-Boing" Intruder Moves Off 12 Meters

Some said it sounded like a squeaky spring; others said it sounded like marching. However one's ears interpreted the recent intruder on the 12 meter amateur band, it was gone by Monday, March 19, thanks to successful direction-finding, identification and diplomatic efforts by the FCC. Acting on numerous amateur reports--including one from ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP--the FCC agreed to utilize its HF direction-finding facility in Columbia, Maryland, to locate the source of the periodic, broadband transmission. The HFDF facility isolated the transmissions to Honduras. It also promptly identified the transmissions as Coastal Ocean Dynamics Applications Radar (CODAR), an ocean current-mapping technology used in meteorological and commercial applications. A quick phone call and e-mail to the provider of the CODAR equipment at the Honduras site set the wheels in motion to make the signals disappear from 12 meters. "As is often the case in many intrusions, the operator dialed in the wrong frequency," said Brennan Price, N4QX, administrator of the ARRL Monitoring System. "Fortunately, the equipment provider and operator of the CODAR equipment were very cooperative and wanted to do the right thing. We appreciate their efforts."

EUROPE ADOPTS 5 WPM AS MORSE CODE STANDARD

The Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations--CEPT--has effectively lowered the Amateur Radio Morse code test speed to 5 WPM for all European countries. The CEPT Radio Regulatory Working Group (WGRR), meeting last month in The Hague, adopted a revision of Recommendation 61-02 to include the 5 WPM standard. The European Radiocommunication Office published the revised version of T/R 61-02 this month. The revision, which establishes requirements for the issuance of a Harmonised Amateur Radio Examination Certificate (HAREC), reduces the Morse requirement from 12 WPM. "In revising what is known as the CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-02, it has in effect recommended to 44 European countries to adopt the 5 WPM standard," said Wireless Institute of Australia-Victoria President Jim Linton, VK3PC, who closely follows global developments in Amateur Radio Morse code trends. Additional information is available on Linton's Morse code watch site, <http://www.wiavic.org.au/mcw>. More information on CEPT is on the ERO Web site, <http://www.ero.dk>.



Our food booth



Our fearless leader, Lou Steirer, WA6QYS (left)

Meeting Minutes

Kids Day 2001

General Meeting, March 12, 2001



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

Board Meeting, March 19, 2001



The meeting convened at 8:00 PM as we were hoping more board members would arrive. As Barbara, KD6QEI is still in Maine, Wally KA6YMD continued to act as leader.

Present was: Clark, KE6KXO; Don, K6PBQ; Lloyd, KD6FJI; Wally KA6YMD.

Due to no quorum, no formal business was conducted. It was hoped that all board members will manage to attend the April regular meeting and the board meeting also. Plans for Field Day must be formalized. The Flea Market was reported successful, (those present wish to congratulate Lou - WA6QYS for predicting the hot dog count to within 1/2 dozen!), although the gate was a bit small. This probably due to questionable weather earlier in the week, the normal 4 month winter hiatus, and possibly late advertizing by Perham. The group adjourned around 9:15 PM.

Wally, KA6YMD reporting for the secretary

AE6M SK

Mr. Harry Wijtman became a Silent Key, February 28, 2001. Harry held the USA Calls WB6PRU and AE6M.

He was born in Indonesia in 1926. After the Second World War he and his Wife moved to Brazil. And then later he came to the USA. Worked for Intel as a Electronics Engineer for several years.

Harry was a member of the ARRL and SCCARA. While a member of SCCARA he taught ham classes. He loved the CW mode and 25 words per minute was easy for him. Harry had Alzheimers disease for several years.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE.

Alex Meyer, W6ZX (ex. WB6AFJ)

{Harry was a member of SCCARA from before 1979 through 1995. Wally Britten KA6YMD}

On January 6, I operated Kid's Day from the Children's Discovery Museum in San Jose, where I volunteer once a month or so. I talked with many kids at the museum that day. Most of the kids were very shy to talk on the radio.

The highlight of the day was when Chris came by the station with his family visiting here from London England. Chris was able to talk to four stations. He talked to JE1MMX from Japan, WA0MHJ from Ham Lake MN, W5RRR at the Johnson Space Center in Houston TX, and VE5BCS in Sask Canada.

I also have a code practice oscillator set up and several kids found that a lot of fun, sending their names in Morse code.

I think Kid's Day is held twice a year, in January and June. I plan to operate again in June from the museum.

73, Don Village, K6PBQ

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the packet network:

=====
Date: 27 Mar 99 20:57
From: WA1GDJ@K1UGM
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: PAPER WORK

I once listed the recipients of a report at work on the front page so that the first initials of the first names spelled out "BASTARDS ALL" vertically (including the space). It included three Directors and two VP's. Not a one noticed, of course, but it was posted in the lab for about a year as the "Standard" Distribution List, used by all for future report distribution.

Bless their pointy 'lil heads.

73 - Gil, WA1GDJ @ K1UGM

=====
Date: 27 Mar 99 20:58
From: WA1GDJ@K1UGM
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: WORRYING

"It's really amazing," the girl told her wealthy middle-aged

lover, as he was reclining on the bed. "You have a beautiful head of gray hair, but not a single one in your pubic area."

"Not so amazing as you might think." he replied. "My brain has to do all the worrying. 'That Guy' hasn't got a care in the world."

73 - Gil, WA1GDJ @ K1UGM

=====
Date: 27 Mar 99 20:58
From: WA1GDJ@K1UGM
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: THE BREW

Old man Murphy had worked down at the brewery for years, but one day he just wasn't paying attention and he tripped on the walkway and fell over into the beer vat and drowned. The foreman thought it should be his job to inform the widow Murphy of her old man's death. He showed up at the front door and rang the bell. When she came to the door, he said, "I'm sorry to tell you, but poor old Murphy passed away at work today when he fell into the vat and drowned." She wept and covered her face with her apron and after a time, between sobs, she asked, "Tell me, did he suffer?" "I don't think so," said the foreman, "He got out three times to go to the men's room."

73 - Gil, WA1GDJ @ K1UGM

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: WB6YRU
Packet Network (BBS, forwarding): WB6YRU
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
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

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

Newsletter Notes

Looks like we've fallen back into the ol' rut of almost nothing from the club finding its way into the club newsletter. The one bright spot is Don K6PBQ. Don has done a lot of contributing lately. Thanks Don!

I was thinking about that recently and realized if every member in the club contributed something to the newsletter just once or twice per year, this would be a *really active* club newsletter!

So, that's my challenge: One submission from each member per year. It can be anything even remotely related to amateur radio (advertisements don't count). If only a fraction of you meet this challenge, the difference in the SCCARA-GRAM would be enormous! And let's face, it's really not much of a challenge. If you have any doubts about that, just ask Don K6PBQ. It's not tough at all, is it Don?

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

ARRL Pacific Division Update

April 2001

CA PRB-1 Action

There is still considerable discussion within CA about the next steps to take after Gov. Davis vetoed our attempt in 2000 to enact PRB legislation in CA. We were successful in having the legislation pass both the Assembly and Senate only to have the Governor veto the bill. We are still working on getting a new bill introduced this year, but the prospects look a bit bleak at this time.

Nevada PRB-1 Action

Nevada's legislators have been more supportive than California's perhaps because Nevada's legislature is not tied up with electricity issues!

At a legislative hearing this week in Nevada, no one spoke in opposition to three sections of an Amateur Radio antenna bill that's under consideration there. The Nevada Assembly's Government Affairs Committee heard testimony on Assembly Bill 61 March 14 in Carson City and Las Vegas. A section of the bill that would prohibit antenna restrictions from future deed covenants, conditions and restrictions--or CC&Rs--in Nevada did generate some negative comments, however.

Introduced February 1 by Assemblyman Bob Beers, WB7EHN, AB 61 would require municipal ordinances to "reasonably accommodate amateur service communications" and "constitute the minimum level of regulation practicable to carry out the legitimate purpose of the governing body." The bill would not apply to historic or architectural preservation districts.

The contentious Section 3 of the Nevada measure would make "void and unenforceable" any provision in a deed covenant, restriction or condition that "precludes amateur service communications" or "unreasonably restricts the placement, screening or height of a station antenna structure" in a way that diminishes performance or precludes an alternative at comparable cost, efficiency and performance. The Nevada bill is believed to be the first Amateur Radio antenna proposal to address the issue of CC&Rs. Its provisions would not apply to CC&Rs in place when the bill takes effect, however.

Assistant Nevada Section Manager Dick Flanagan, W6OLD, said the Government Affairs Committee made no decision on the bill's disposition at this point. "It appears a subcommittee will be formed for the purpose of resolving the concerns raised by Section 3 and to recommend a course of action to the Government Affairs Committee," he said.

Flanagan urged Nevada Amateurs to register their opinions on AB 61 via the Internet at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/71st/opinions/>. AB 61 is one of the top vote getters on the Nevada Assembly's Web site polling page. More information on the bill is available on the Carson Valley Radio Club Web site, <http://www.cvrc.net/AB61/>.

The Nevada Real Estate interests are lobbying heavily against AB 61 and they are pushing their members to record Negative opinions against the bill. What started out at only a five percent negative opinion rating is now over twenty percent! It is vitally important that we increase the positive opinion rating on AB 61.

Please go to <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/71st/opinions/> and record an opinion In Favor of AB 61. The opponents of the bill are doing exactly that and we need to counter them with an overwhelming show of support for AB 61. Please help.

Thanks. W6OLD, NK7N, and the ARRL Letter.

National PRB-1 Action

The legislative program adopted by the ARRL Board of Directors at their January meeting includes a resolution urging congressional support to clarify the FCC's limited pre-emption policy PRB-1 governing Amateur Radio antennas to incorporate private land-use preclusions such as deed restrictions and restrictive covenants.

Free Crank-Up Mast in Menlo Park

Have you been looking for a deal in a 60 ft. crank-up mast? There's one available from the estate of Bill Orr, W6SAI, who recently became a Silent Key. All one must do to have it is to take it down and haul it away from its Menlo Park location. For info call Mrs. Kathy VanNatta, 650-323-7947 evenings.

New World Record on 76 GHz Set in Pacific Division

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association member Bob Johnson, KF6KVG, and his partner, Will Jensby, W0EOM, of the 50 MHz and Up Group, established the new record for 76 GHz on Feb. 1, 2001, in the Pacific Division. Bob was located south west of San Jose CA on Mount Loma Prieta using a 12 inch dish antenna driven with 1 milliwatt and Will was located near Vacaville on Mount Vaca using 5 milliwatts to an 18 inch dish. The total distance covered was 145 kilometers based on the "center of grid square to center of grid square" measurement approach. This measurement approach is the common method of measurement at these frequencies. Signal strength varied from S1 to S2 with fading. Water vapor absorbs signals at high frequencies so the trick is to transmit on cold, clear days at high elevations. Simply creating a signal is technically challenging as you go up in frequency. Doing it on an Amateur Radio budget is

even more impressive.

Adapted from PAARAgaphs March 2001. Thanks to Vic Black, AB6SO, and Will Jensby, W0EOM.

AO-40 Team Starts Slowing Spin Rate

Initial efforts to slow AO-40's spin rate have been successful. Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, of AMSAT-DL and the AO-40 team says magnetorquing has been able to decrease AO-40's initial spin rate from 17.59 RPM to 15.9 RPM. "The target is something in the area of 5 RPM," Guelzow said this week.

The onboard magnetorquing system--which consists of solenoid coils--makes use of Earth's magnetic field to control the spacecraft's spin and orientation. Magnetorquing is most effective when Earth's magnetic field is strongest, so it typically only takes place at perigee--when the satellite is closest to the Earth. Ground controllers have been making incremental adjustments during each perigee.

Guelzow said that as soon as the spin is favorable, AO-40's attitude will be adjusted to improve communication with Earth. De-spinning the spacecraft is a necessary first step to making any attitude adjustments, however.

Guelzow said the onboard YACE camera was used to take some photographs "for a quick attitude determination," but he said the digital photos were inconclusive. Additional pictures are planned once the spin rate is reduced and communication more reliable.

The AO-40 S-band (2.4 GHz) transmitter is active and transmitting telemetry as recovery efforts continue. When it met in Orlando late last month, the AMSAT-NA Board of Directors recognized that completing a full evaluation of AO-40 would take some time and that all of the satellite's de-signed functions may not be available.

Thanks, ARRL Bulletin

San Mateo Ham Claims Pedestrian Mobile Distance Record

Bonnie Crystal, KQ6XA, of San Mateo, California, (Pacific Division) and Max Pompe, ZL1BK, of Auckland, New Zealand, are claiming the record for the longest direct-path, pedestrian-to-pedestrian Amateur Radio contact. The two worked each other February 18 on 10 meters using compact SSB transceivers and homemade antennas.

On the New Zealand end, ZL1BK used a 1.8 meter homebrew telescopic whip mounted on his Yaesu FT-817 running 5 watts. Crystal had a 6 meter fishing pole strapped to an aluminum pack frame and ran 20 W using a Vertex/Standard VX-1200 HF Manpack transceiver, a radio that's not marketed in the US. "Both of us used 3 meter insulated-wire dragging counterpoises," said Crystal.

The 6500 mile contact began on 15 meters but ended on 10, because conditions were better there for that path. "Other stations in the HFpack group here in the US had been trying to make a go of it, but we just lucked out," Crystal said.

For his part, ZL1BK said, "I still can hardly believe we did it, but the Pacific gods smiles on us as we rode the airwaves today."

The HFpack Web site has more information at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hfpack/>. More information on Bonnie Crystal, KQ6XA, is available on her Web site, <http://www.qsl.net/kq6xa/>.

Thanks, ARRL Letter.

EMCOMM 2001 - March 31

It's still not too late to plan on attending EMMCOMM 2001, a one day seminar on emergency communications to be held Palo Cedro, California (just east of Redding) on Saturday, March 31, 2001. ARES, ACS, RACES, VIP, SKYWARN and other EMMCOMM personnel will be especially interested in the program, but others are welcome too, as are Oregon and Nevada operators. EMMCOMM 2001 is sponsored by the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, in co-operation with the California Office of Emergency Service, the American Red Cross the National Weather Service and other public safety agencies. See the EMMCOMM listing in the Coming Events listing at the end of this Update.

Pacific Section to Hold First Ever Pacific Section Convention in Honolulu, Oct. 13, 2001

This is a long lead-time announcement, to be sure, but who wouldn't enjoy a family ham trip to Hawaii? Although there have been Hawaii state conventions in the late 60's, this will be the first ever ARRL sanctioned Pacific Section Convention. Details are as follows.

Date: Saturday October 13, 2001, 8AM to 4:30 PM, gates open at 7:30AM.

Place: Pearl Harbor Community Park, Next to the Arizona Memorial visitor entrance.

Entrance fee: \$2.00 each or Family \$5.00. One drawing ticket is included in the price.

All Clubs will be given space for a display if they wish, although admission tickets will be required for exhibitors. Tables will not be supplied. Manufacturers and suppliers are encouraged to put up displays.

There will be a picnic area, vendors, flea market, displays, technical talks, VE exams, and lunch wagon(s).

At least three technical talks will be given in the morning, plus at least three more in the afternoon. In the morning and three in the afternoon.

Scheduled so far are VE exams, technical talks both morning and afternoon, a spectacular hot line display by Hawaiian Electric, an ARRL forum with Pacific Division Director Jim Maxwell, W6CF, and others.

Also, Christian Vallet from Canada France Hawaii observatory has promised to come and a contingent from JARL may be present.

Drawings will take place all day long with the final drawing at 4:30 PM. Extra tickets may be purchased.

Koolau ARC is the coordinator. See their web site, <http://www.chem.hawaii.edu/karc/index.html>, for updates and links.

Make your airline and hotel reservations soon!

Thanks Bob Schneider, AH6J, ARRL Pacific Section
Affiliated Club Coordinator

FCC Denies LA County 2.4 GHz Application, Cancels Experimental Grant to City

Following objections from the ARRL, AMSAT and others, the FCC has turned down an application from Los Angeles County, California, for an experimental license permitting airborne microwave TV downlinks (TVDL) in the 2402-2448 MHz range. The FCC also canceled an experimental license grant to the City of Los Angeles to operate an identical TV downlink system in same band.

Amateurs have a primary domestic allocation at 2402-2417 MHz and a secondary allocation in the rest of the affected band.

"Experimental licenses are not substitutes for regular radiocommunication service licenses," said Charles Iseman, deputy chief of the Electromagnetic Compatibility Division in the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology. OET issues all experimental licenses.

The ARRL, AMSAT and the Amateur Television Network had asked the FCC to deny the County's application. ARRL members Art McBride, KC6UQH, and Thomas O'Hara, W6ORG, also filed informal objections. The League, AMSAT and ATN also had objected to the City's experimental grant. The FCC gave the City until December 1 to terminate its operation but reserved the right to accelerate the cancellation date if interference occurs.

The LA County proposal, filed in August 1999, sought FCC authorization to develop a TVDL system on four 2.4 GHz channels for deployment aboard sheriff's and fire department airborne units. The FCC granted the City's WB2XEN experimental license based on a similar submittal.

In protesting the County's plan, the ARRL called the application a "foot in the door" toward gaining a permanent berth in the 2.4 GHz band. The County and the City already are authorized to operate TVDL systems under Part 90 rules in the 2.450-2.483.5 GHz band, but both told the FCC that they had experienced coordination and interference problems and sought the experimental TVDL authorization as a result.

Thanks, ARRL Bulletin.

FARS Offers Tech. Class in Palo Alto

The Foothill Amateur Radio Society (FARS) is offering a Technician licensing class over six Thursday evenings from April 26 - May 31, 7 PM to 10 PM, at the Terman Library Conference Room (next to the JCC), 661 Arastradero, Palo Alto. The examination will be given during the last class session. The fee, necessary to cover the cost of materials, will be \$15 for students under 18, \$25 for adults.

For reservations contact: Rich Stiebel, W6APZ at (650)494-0128, or email to W6APZ@arrl.net. Also, see <http://www.fars.k6ya.org/classes.html>.

Acknowledgment

Many thanks to Brad, K6WR, for helping in the preparation of this month's Pacific Division Update.

Coming Events

- Foothill Flea Market - 2nd Saturday of each month from March through October at Foothill College, Los Altos. It technically starts at 6 AM, but some show up even earlier. The March flea market was sponsored by SCCARA.
- 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, at 209-835-6715, email larks-wap@usa.com.
- EMCOMM 2001, Saturday, March 31, 2001, 8:30-5:00PM. Bishop Quinn High School, Palo Cedro, California (just east of Redding). Pre-register at www.qsl.net/k6soj. (Pre-registration is requested but not required.) Talk in: 145.45- and 146.55 simplex.
- International DX Convention, April 20-22, 2001. Visalia Holiday Inn, Visalia, CA. See <http://www.ncdxc.org/Ncdxc/Convention/idxc2001pre01.htm> for information, or contact Dick Letrich, W6KM, 3686 Kirk Road, San Jose, CA 95124-3816, phone 408-267-2624, email dlw6km@aol.com.
- Fresno Hamfest, Fresno, April 28, 2001, 7:00AM to 3:00PM at Coombs Ranch. From Hwy. 99 take Ave. 12 East, Cross Hwy. 41. Coombs Ranch is 1 mile beyond Hwy. 41 on Ave. 12. Contact Jim Haynes, KA6J, 559-294-8390. Talk-in 146.34/94.
- Valley of the Moon ARC Hamfest, Sonoma, April 28, 2001 at the Sonoma Valley Veterans Memorial Building, 126 First St. West, Sonoma. Take Hwy. 12 to Sonoma Plaza. North on First St., West 2 Blocks to the Veterans Building. Contact: Darrel Jones, WD6BOR, 358 Patten Street, Sonoma, CA 95476, phone 707-996-4494, email: wd6bor@aol.com.

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Pacific Division Web site <http://www.pdarrrl.org/>



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: _____

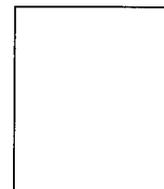
Give this completed form (or copy) with payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or mail to the return address below:

===== 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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