

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 17, Number 5

May 2001



President's Prose

Over the last two months, I have been in Maine trying to finish the work of settling my mother's estate. I have completed enough of the tasks so that I can finish what has to be done by mail or fax. While I was gone, I didn't send Gary any President's Prose for the SCCARA-GRAM. This adds to his complaint that members are not sending him articles for the SCCARA-GRAM. I would like to offer a solution to that problem.

There is wealth of knowledge and talent in this club. Asking members to share that knowledge has been very difficult. No one wants to volunteer to share their knowledge. I had an idea of how to get members to share their knowledge. Starting next month, at the meeting, all the names of club member will be in a hat. Someone will draw a name from the hat of one of our club members. That person will have several topics to pick from, to write up an article for the SCCARA-GRAM. The topics could be in the following categories: Technical (i.e. "What is a Yagi Antenna?"); Anecdotal (ie, tell us how you became a ham, why you have stayed with the hobby, or some experience you have had while at a SCCARA event). There are more topics for articles than I have listed. Come up with your own suggestion. I would like to pick out names for the rest of the year and notify these people that their names were picked. This gives them some lead time to write the article and get it to Gary in time for printing in their designated month. Once the names are chosen, the list will appear in the SCCARA-GRAM. Other members can look forward to seeing what the articles will be. I think it is a fair solution to our problem.

I had wanted to do a biographical article on the members of the club too. I will put the names from the roster in a separate container and draw one name every month. They will be interviewed by me and I'll submit that interview to Gary for publishing. It will give our newer members a chance to find out about other club members. I had wanted to do this before but never followed through. This time I will follow through.

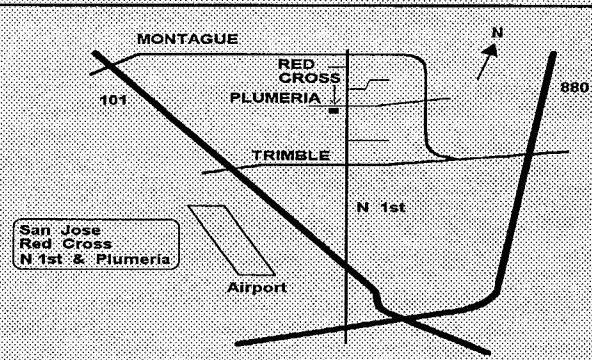
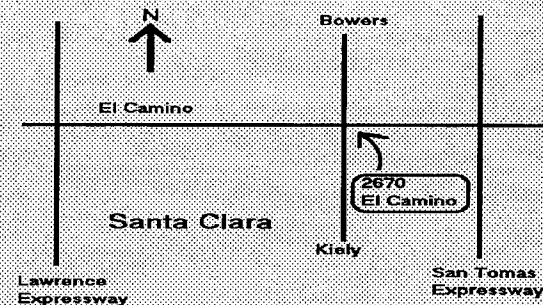
Calendar

- 5/12 Foothill Flea market
- 5/14 SCCARA General Meeting--Dinner!
- 5/21 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting:

Day: Monday, May 14, 2001
Time: 6:00 PM
Place: Country Harvest Buffet
2670 El Camino Real (near
Kiely) in Santa Clara.

Featuring: Dinner meeting!



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 K6PBO. 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

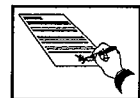
TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

Do any of the club members have any objection to my method? If so, please let me know, so your voice can be heard. I realize not all members can come to the meetings, but that doesn't mean that the members are excluded from participating in club activities or functions.

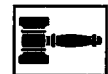
The SCCARA-GRAM is one of SCCARA's functions. Gary has been our SCCARA-GRAM editor for quite some time, but he should not be expected to carry the full load of acquiring articles for the SCCARA-GRAM. This new method of choosing people to write articles is fair. I hope it will solve an ongoing problem. Please let us know your position on this proposal. It will be discussed at the next meeting.

73, Barbara K. Britten,
 KD6QEI, President



Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, April 9, 2001



The regular meeting of SCCARA was held on April 9, 2001, at the Hewlett Packard campus, in the Oak Room. The meeting started promptly at 7:30 PM as the President had to leave by 8:30 PM to go to work. The meeting proceeded as follows:

Introductions: 17 members were present.

Speaker: None at present time. There will be one for next month, as the president will be taking over the vice president's task of locating speakers for the meetings.

Treasurer's Report: Checking account balance: \$2113.82; Savings account balance: \$8,812.75. Lloyd has not submitted the new signature card to the bank. The President asked Lloyd to do this by the Board meeting next week. Flea Market #'s: Total income from flea market = \$2786.00; Amount paid to Purham Foundation: \$895.00; Food net: \$891.13.

President: We have no Vice President to acquire speakers. If there are any objections to the lack of speakers, or the choice of speakers, then have those people volunteer to be Vice President.

Repeater Chair: At Kaiser Santa Teresa, Wally Britten reports that their maintenance crew will hang a metal bracket on the wall for us to put our repeater in. It will be more stable that way. They need to have the current system done with a Spectrum Analyzer and tracker. The telephone is set

up. Need to do reprogramming. At Regional Hospital: Wally has been in touch with Paul Tucker by voice mail, waiting for Paul to return his phone calls to set up the dates and times for measuring cables and determining what path the cables will take.

SCCARA-GRAM: Gary needs articles for the newsletter, from everybody, anybody.

BBS: SCCARA BBS is back to normal. The interference from an ATV is gone. The OO from the ARRL stepped in and issued a warning the person causing the interference. The problem has been solved.

Old Bus: None.

New Bus: Need Field Day Chairman. Wally had downloaded the Field Day Rules for 2001. More rules to come in the next QST. No Cabrillo format required for reporting results. Changes in passing messages are in this month's QST. Clark's home will not be available for Field Day. Shirakows School on Senter Road will be checked out by Wally and Barbara next week. We will need two port-a-potties for the weekend. Wally gave the prices of two companies that he checked on. We will have to bring our own barbecues for cooking the meal on Saturday. We still have the Mt. Madonna site. It will cost SCCARA \$15.00 to cancel the reservation. We have up to two weeks before the event to cancel our reservation. It will cost us \$450.00 to go to Mt. Madonna for the weekend. Our group participation is getting smaller, and the cost is not practical anymore.

Flea Market: This Saturday it is sponsored by SPECS.

May Dinner Meeting: Gwen will check out the Home Town Buffet on El Camino, and report back to me before the Board meeting.

Mike Hastings: Told us about a net held every night at 7:30 PM every night, on 145.21 (repeater). All are welcome to participate. He then showed us his new Motorola cell phone. The battery is not impressive. It is capable of doing: voice mail; direct connect, similar to simplex; two way conversations; internet ready; standard alpha paging; e-mail; stock quotes; no graphics; and speaker phone capabilities. Electromagnetic radiation is a concern for children in England.

Meeting Adjourned: Motioned by Bob Wharton, seconded by Jerry. Meeting adjourned 8:30 PM.

Board Meeting, April 16, 2001



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

News from the ARRL

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 20, 2001

SETI League bouncing signals off moon

With financial assistance from the American Astronomical Society, The SETI League Inc has placed on the air a transmitter that bounces microwave signals off the moon's surface for use in testing Earth-based radiotelescopes. Operating on 1296 MHz under the call sign W2ETI, the EME beacon enables amateur and professional radio astronomers to calibrate their receiving systems by providing a stable reference signal from a known point in the sky. The SETI League's EME beacon received its first shakedown in March, providing scientists at the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico with a weak, well-calibrated test signal for use in conjunction with the Project Phoenix targeted search for extraterrestrial intelligence. Project Phoenix scientists had formerly used a microwave transmitter aboard the Pioneer 10 spacecraft for this purpose. Twenty nine years after its launch, Pioneer 10 is now outside our solar system, seven billion miles from Earth, and its 8 W beacon is too weak to be received--even by Arecibo. The SETI League promotes a privatized search for extra-terrestrial intelligence. The organization boasts more than 1200 members in 60 countries, many of the Amateur Radio operators. Its executive director is Paul Shuch, N6TX. For more information, visit the SETI League Web site, <http://www.setileague.org/>.

Packet Pieces

Lifted from the packet BBS network...

=====

Date: 27 Mar 99 20:57
From: WA1GDJ@K1UGM
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: JAGUAR

Judi was bored with driving her BMW. She fancied something a bit more individual, perhaps an MG convertible. That week, she visited her local car dealer and spied a beautiful Jaguar XK140 convertible. It was wonderfully restored and she fell in love with its gorgeous red paint work. An empty check stub later and off she was tearing down the leafy country lanes enjoying her beautiful new car. Her long blonde hair was flowing in the wind,

music blaring from the radio - what could possibly go wrong?

At that thought, there was a splutter from the engine and the car slowly coasted to a stop. She got out and lifted the hood and concluded, after a few minutes, that she didn't have a bloody clue what was wrong. Luckily, she had her mobile phone with her and a quick phone call to the Auto Club and a short wait later, she saw a bright shiny yellow van pull up behind her.

"That's a lovely car," said the mechanic. "What seems to be the matter?"

Judi replied, "Well, it just conked out I'm afraid."

"Let me have look." He set to work and ten minutes later the engine was purring like a cat again.

"Thank goodness," she said. "What was the matter?"

"Simple really, just crap in the carburetor," he replied.

Looking shocked she asked, "Oh. How many times a week do I have to do that?"

73 - Gil, WA1GDJ @ K1UGM

Floating Around the Internet...

Facts You Probably Don't Know

The citrus soda 7-UP was created in 1929; the "7" was selected because the original containers were 7 ounces. "UP" indicated the direction of the bubbles.

Mosquito repellents don't repel. They hide you. The spray blocks the mosquito's sensors so they don't know you're there.

Dentists have recommended that a toothbrush be kept at least 6 feet away from a toilet to avoid airborne particles resulting from the flush. (eeewwwwwwwww!!)

The liquid inside young coconuts can be used as a substitute for blood plasma.

American car horns beep in the key of F.

No piece of paper can be folded more than 7 times. (Go ahead; try it)

Donkeys kill more people annually than plane crashes.

1 in every 4 Americans has appeared on television.

You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching television.

Oak trees do not produce acorns until they are fifty years of age or older.

The first product to have a bar code was Wrigley's gum.

The king of hearts is the only king without a mustache.

A Boeing 747's wingspan is longer than the Wright Brother's first flight.

American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating 1 olive from each salad served in first-class.

Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise.

The first CD pressed in the US was Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the USA."

Apples, not caffeine, are more efficient at waking you up in the morning.

The 57 on the Heinz ketchup bottle represents the number of varieties of pickles the company once had.

The plastic things on the end of shoelaces are called aglets.

Most dust particles in your house are made from dead skin. (all together now...eeewwwwwwwww!!!!)

The first owner of the Marlboro company died of lung cancer.

Barbie's full name is Barbara Millicent Roberts.

Betsy Ross is the only real person to ever have been the head on a Pez dispenser.

Michael Jordan makes more money from Nike annually than all of the Nike factory workers in Malaysia combined.

Adolph Hitler's mother seriously considered having an abortion but was talked out of it by her doctor.

Marilyn Monroe had six toes.

All US Presidents have worn glasses. Some just didn't like being seen wearing them in public.

Walt Disney was afraid of mice.

The sound of E.T. walking was made by someone

squishing her hands in jelly. Debra Winger was the voice of E.T.

Pearls melt in vinegar.

It takes 3,000 cows to supply the NFL with enough leather for a year's supply of footballs. (I wonder why they still call it pigskin?)

Thirty-five percent of the people who use personal ads for dating are already married.

It is possible to lead a cow upstairs, but not downstairs.

Average life span of a major league baseball: seven pitches.

A duck's quack doesn't echo and no one knows why.

The reason firehouses have circular stairways is from the days when the engines were pulled by horses. The horses were stabled on the ground floor and figured out how to walk up straight staircases.

Now, isn't e-mail educational?

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

Our president has come up with a plan to get articles from the membership. Her idea involves requiring people to specifically and personally turn down a request to submit something. It's a lot harder to say no to someone than just sit there and *not* volunteer. I can't imagine there is a member here who couldn't come up with *something*. Perhaps it will be fruitful, it's certainly worth a try.

The fact that such tactics have to be resorted to tells me that there isn't much enthusiasm left in the membership. That worries me a little. We can come up with all sorts of tricks and schemes to get people to submit stuff to the newsletter, but this doesn't get at the fundamental problem. Maybe we'd be better off working on tricks and schemes to make the club more vibrant and interesting, then the articles might follow on their own.

At a meeting a while back I asked what made each of us join SCCARA. Many joined because of a class that SCCARA had sponsored. Obviously a good way to get new members is to bring back our amateur radio class.

My question now is: what could SCCARA do that would make you more enthusiastic about the club and even about amateur radio in general? Let's be thinking about this and discuss it at a future meeting, (when we don't have a speaker and need something to talk about).

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

ARRL Pacific Division Update

May 2001

Nevada PRB-1 Action

On Thursday, April 12, the Nevada Assembly Government Affairs Committee moved to "amend and do pass" to remove Sections 3 and 5 (the sections dealing with CC&Rs) from Assembly Bill 61. Further, the Committee referred the amended Bill to the full Assembly with a recommendation that it be approved as amended. This leaves intact the Sections that would add the wording of the Federal preemption known as PRB-1 to the Nevada Revised Statutes.

No date has been set for the full Assembly to hear the Bill, but it is expected to happen sometime during the week of April 16.

At this time, except for the members of the Government Affairs Committee, few other members of the Assembly have even heard about AB 61! We need to change that very quickly and make them ALL aware of our support for AB 61 and ask for their support in return.

Please send e-mail or letters of support to your local Assembly representative and record your opinion with the Legislature Message Center via either the Internet at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/71st/opinions/> or by telephone.

When contacting members of the Assembly, please begin your message with "AB 61 was moved 'amend and do pass' from Government Affairs on Thursday. I am writing in support of this legislation because..." This will let them know up front what you are writing about and why.

Check <http://www.cvrc.net/ab61/> for the latest news as well as information on how to contact your Assembly representatives.

We are by no means assured of victory, but we have just overcome a major hurdle and now need to maintain our momentum through the Assembly and on into the Senate!

Thanks, W6OLD.

Amateur Spectrum Protection Act Introduced in the House and Senate

On March 1 the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2001 was introduced into the US House of Representatives. Rep Michael Bilirakis of Florida introduced the bill, denoted H.R.817. 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 allocations. The House measure has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Sen. Michael Crapo of Idaho introduced the Senate version of the bill, denoted S.549, on March 15. 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. If approved by both chambers and signed by President 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.

More information on the Spectrum Protection Act, including the full text of the bills, is available on the ARRL Web site, <http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/arspa.html>.

In order to have a chance of passage, your Representatives and Senators must know that you support the bill. Please write!

Thanks, ARRL Letter.

Redwood Coast Amateur Convention

Humboldt county's Amateur Radio clubs proudly host the ARRL San Francisco Section Convention, June 22-24, 2001.

The convention, held at the Humboldt County Fair grounds, Ferndale (near Eureka) will include a swap meet, commercial dealers, a fox hunt, early bird prizes, guest speakers, Field Day competition, and an ARRL Forum.

The Saturday night banquet will feature Pacific Division Director Jim Maxwell, W6CF, speaking on "What Ever Happened to Eric Palmer, Jr., a little-known event in US Amateur Radio History, in which Eric Palmer, Jr., a licensed ham, has his license suspended even though he hadn't committed any violations whatever. Banquet tickets are now on sale.

For more information, contact Bob, KA6ULG, 707-444-0242, Marci, KE6IAU, 707-442-3866, or Clem, WA6TVQ, 707-445-2336.

FCC Advises about Transmit-Frequency QRM while Operating Split

The FCC recently sent advisory notices to several hams who may have caused QRM on their transmitting frequencies while operating split to work SSB DX on 40 meters. The complaints stemmed from operations during February.

"While this may not have been malicious interference, please be advised that amateurs must operate in accordance with Section 97.101 of the Commission's rules,

which sets out the general standards for operation of an Amateur Radio station and specifically covers frequency sharing and interference," FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth wrote.

Since most of the rest of the world only has access to 7.000 to 7.100 MHz--still in the US CW subband--US stations working 40-meter SSB must listen for DX stations in the US CW band while transmitting "up" within the US 'phone allocation.

FCC Rejects Restructuring Petitions

The FCC has declined to make any significant changes to the way it implemented Amateur Radio "restructuring" last April. The Commission has turned down several requests for changes in the Amateur Service rules contained in five petitions for partial reconsideration of its Report and Order WT Docket 98-143, released December 30, 1999. The ARRL was among the petitioners.

In a Memorandum Opinion and Order released April 6, the FCC by and large denied all petitions for changes to its restructuring Order--although it did claim to grant one ARRL request--and it made some minor housekeeping changes to the amateur rules.

Among the issues was a request from the ARRL and other petitioners that the FCC continue to maintain records that indicate whether a Technician licensee has Morse code element credit. The FCC noted that its current Universal Licensing System software was modified to display a "P" (for Plus) in the field that indicates former license class when a Technician Plus class license is renewed. "This capability results in the amateur service database being able to provide a de facto Technician Plus licensee database," the FCC asserted in its MO&O. The FCC did not address how its database will distinguish current Technician licensees who subsequently earn Morse code (Element 1) credit. Those licensees have only a Certificate of Completion of Examination (CSCE), which will never be reflected in the database, even upon license renewal.

The FCC also decided to not extend Element 1 credit to all past licensees who had ever earned it--something else the ARRL had asked for. Under current rules, the holder of an expired Novice or a pre-February 14, 1991, Technician license can get Element 1 credit. The FCC said that "most examinees" who ever held a General, Advanced or Amateur Extra ticket also once held a Novice or a pre-February 14, 1991, Technician ticket that grants Element 1 credit.

Left out in the cold by the FCC's decision is anyone who went directly to Conditional or General class without ever holding a Novice ticket. The FCC also declined to extend permanent credit to Element 1 CSCEs held by Technicians to obtain HF privileges. These CSCEs are good for 365 days for upgrading purposes but confer only additional operating privileges for Technicians beyond that time.

The FCC refused to reinstate the 20-WPM Morse code exam for Extra. The FCC said that since restructuring went into effect nearly a year ago, "there does not appear to be any decline in the proper operation of amateur stations." The FCC also declined to ban the practice of allowing applicants to retake a failed examination element at a single test session simply by paying a second fee to the VE team. And the Commission did not go along with requests to set the total number of questions at 50 for the Technician and General class test and at 100 for the Amateur Extra test.

The FCC also declined to make any changes--at least for now--in the arrangement of mode-related Amateur Radio subbands, as some petitioners had requested. The FCC said it believed it should let the amateur community "reach a consensus regarding a comprehensive restructuring of operating privileges for all licensees" before making any changes.

Also denied were requests to: institute a new entry-level Communicator license class in the Amateur Service; elevate former "Class A" operators licensed prior to 1951 to Amateur Extra, instead of leaving them at Advanced class; give Element 4 exam credit to examinees who'd held a Conditional, General or Advanced ticket before November 22, 1968--when "incentive licensing" became effective.

The FCC MO&O is available at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt98-143-recon.pdf>.

Thanks, ARRL Letter.

ARRL, Industry Seek UWB Rulemaking

The ARRL has joined an industry coalition that's calling on the FCC to issue a further Notice of Proposed Rule Making before it takes final action to authorize ultra-wideband (UWB) equipment under its Part 15 rules. In addition to the League, signatories to the March 27 letter, addressed to FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell, included AT&T Wireless Services, the Air Transport Association of America, QUALCOMM, Rockwell Collins, Lockheed-Martin, World Com and the US GPS Industry Council along with several other major wireless-industry players. The signatories said a further NPRM is needed as "a matter of fairness."

The joint-industry group asked the FCC to provide an opportunity to comment on additional--in some cases pending--test results and then issue a further rulemaking proposal.

The FCC last May proposed amending its Part 15 rules to permit the operation of UWB devices on an unlicensed basis, saying the technology could have enormous benefits for public safety, consumers and businesses. In its initial comments filed last September, the ARRL advised the FCC to put its UWB proceeding on hold until more evidence was available on the technology's interference impact.

UWB proponents claim the devices are capable of operating on spectrum that's already occupied by existing radio services without causing interference. Possible UWB applications include low-cost, high-speed wireless networking

and devices that can see through brick walls. UWB skeptics say test results to date suggest the potential for UWB interference to GPS, PCS and even some governmental and public-safety systems. They also say that, because the FCC has not proposed any specific rules, the technical characteristics of UWB devices that might be authorized remain unknown.

The joint-industry group faulted the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making (ET Docket 98-153), issued last May, for being based on "preliminary and incomplete" information that also lacked sufficient public comment. Adoption of a final order "would be seriously premature" based on the information available in the current record, the signatories said.

The joint-industry letter said the way the FCC is handling the proceeding "uniquely raises the prospect of permitting intentional radiation by unlicensed devices in the restricted Part 15 bands in a manner that would be to the potential detriment of all licensed and unlicensed users." The letter calls on the FCC to make sure that those potentially affected have a chance to comment "on something far more concrete than has occurred to date."

In a Public Notice released March 26, the FCC requested comments on five reports that address the potential for interference from UWB systems. The reports were submitted for inclusion in the UWB proceeding by QUALCOMM, Time Domain, the NTIA, and the Department of Transportation. Copies of the reports are available on the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System, <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>. Comments are due no later than April 25, and reply comments are due by May 10.

The League has said that its own review supports a conclusion that UWB has potentially beneficial applications that should be accommodated under the FCC's Part 15 rules "subject to appropriate interference avoidance regulations."

ARRL's comments in the UWB proceeding are available at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et98-153/index.html>. A copy of the joint-industry letter is available on the ARRL Web site, <http://www.arrl.org>.

Thanks, ARRL Letter.

Europe Adopts 5 WPM 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 to T/R 61-02, which establishes requirements for the issuance of a Harmonised Amateur Radio Examination Certificate (HAREC), reduces the Morse requirement from 12 WPM. The HAREC provides a common licensing system for hams native to one participating

country who become residents of another participating country. The revision makes no change in T/R 61-01, which covers hams making short visits to other CEPT and to participating non-CEPT countries.

"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. Linton said the revision of the HAREC standards came in the wake of decisions by a number of European countries to adopt a 5 WPM examination requirement for operation on all bands and modes. Within CEPT, Belgium and Germany are the latest countries to lower their Morse code requirement for full HF access to 5 WPM.

According to minutes of the meeting held in The Hague, the decision was not unanimous. One administration felt it would be premature to adopt a change in Morse code examination requirements prior to the World Radiocommunication Conference in 2003, where a complete revision of the relevant provisions in the Radio Regulations is on the agenda. Another administration said 5 WPM was too low and proposed reducing the speed requirement to 8 WPM instead.

Non-CEPT countries whose domestic licenses meet the HAREC standard include Australia, Canada, Israel, Netherlands Antilles, New Zealand, Peru, Puerto Rico, South Africa and the US. Most of these non-CEPT HAREC countries already have or are about to lower their amateur code requirement to 5 WPM.

"In adopting the 5 WPM standard, most countries acknowledge that the mandatory Morse code amateur license requirement is unlikely to remain when ITU Radio Regulations governing the Amateur Service are reviewed at the World Radiocommunication Conference in 2003," Linton said.

Linton has posted additional information on his Morse code watch site.

More information on CEPT, including the full texts of T/R 61-01 and T/R 61-02, are on the ERO Web site.

Thanks, ARRL Letter.

"Wonderful Craziess" at QRP Gathering

New QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, was a featured speaker during a recent conference of low-power (QRP) operators. More than 130 QRP enthusiasts turned out March 30-31 in Timonium, Maryland, for the two-day Atlanticon QRP conference, sponsored by the New Jersey QRP Club.

After an introduction by QST "QRP Power" editor Rich Arland, K7SZ, Ford discussed the benefits of PSK31 with the overflow crowd. Using a CD player and a laptop computer running DigiPan software, Ford displayed a recording of actual PSK31 activity heard on 20 meters just a

few days before. Ford's presentation offered an opportunity for audience members to come up and experience how easy it is to receive PSK31.

PSK31 was the star of Atlanticon's Saturday evening activity session as well. More than 40 individuals had assembled PSK31 "Warbler" audio beacons--in just about every enclosure imaginable. Their work was judged for innovation and overall construction. Ford says the competition culminated with the activation of all the Warblers in a deafening chorus. With a laptop DigiPan display projected onto a large screen, the individual Warbler audio signals--picked up by the laptop microphone--were judged for modulation purity and signal strength. "Wonderful craziness" was how Ford described the scene.

John Cawthorne, KE3S, took first prize for a beautiful construction job and for being one of the earliest and cleanest signals to be copied. Prospective amateur Mike Korejwo captured second prize with his superb construction and next-in-line signal to be received.

Honorable mentions went to "KB2TOX-a" and "KB2TOX-b"--Christine and Marcus--the 10-year-old children of Dave Gwillim, KB2TOX. Each built a version of the PSK31 "Warbler" beacon in a perfboard arrangement.--thanks to George Heron, N2APB, for information concerning the beacon contest winners.

Thanks, ARRL Letter.

(Note - I've just received my Warbler kit and will be building it over the next few weeks. I'll report results once it's up and running. De Jim, W6CF)

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>.

Organizer Needed for Marathon

October 28th, 2001 marks the fifth running of the Silicon Valley Marathon in downtown San Jose CA. In past years I've organized 30 hams to support aid stations along the 26.2 mile course. Alas, I've recently moved away from Silicon Valley and must give up my tenure on the race committee. I pledged to search for a replacement ham organizer for 2001. Would YOU be interested in taking on this role?

The event organizers are already very familiar with hams and the communications expertise we bring to the

event. They are highly appreciative of our past efforts. The Silicon Valley Marathon is becoming a grand west coast event. We need to ensure that ham radio has a on going role here; it speaks very highly of our hobby.

The role requires some logistics, planning, and organization. In years past, we've been most successful with voice over repeaters. We've experimented with packet and APRS. This could be a perfect event for ARES or RACES team members to strut their stuff.

If interested or you have questions and would like to explore this further, please call 916.791.6395 or email jey@rcsis.com. I look forward to hearing from you!

73 de KQ6DK, Jey Yelland

Coming Events

- Foothill Flea Market - 2nd Saturday of each month from March through October at Foothill College, Los Altos.
- 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.
- 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.
- Humboldt Amateur Radio Convention, June 23-24, 2001, Ferndale, CA. See announcement, above.

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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: _____

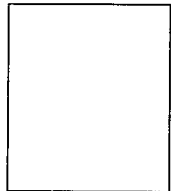
Give this completed form (or copy) with payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or mail to the return address below:

===== 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



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