

# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 18, Number 9

September 2002



## President's Prose

The on-line demonstration by Don Apte, KK6MX, was a success. I found out that my license is up for renewal on December 29<sup>th</sup>. Wally says that he plans to renew my license on line thanks to Don Apte's demonstration.

Things seemed to have slowed down this last month. Not much to write about. We have had a good summer, but now we need to look to the future. There are several things coming up. In September, we have the picnic at Mary Gomez Park. The information on this event is noted somewhere else in this newsletter. Remember to bring a white elephant gift for the Bingo game. Elections are coming up in November. The only officers that have agreed to run for another term are: me, Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, as President, (unless someone else wants to run for President. If so, I will run for Secretary); and Lloyd DeVaughns, KE6FJI, (incumbent), for Treasurer.

There has been some movement on getting the controller into the City vault at Eagle Rock site in Alum Rock Park. We have no exact date, but Trish Gibbons, WA6UBE, has put a date on her calendar to install it at the vault. I guess we will have to do another test to see if we still interfere with the Sacramento station. As far as the radio station at Regional Medical Center, we are waiting for them to tell us where and when the cables are to be installed. The hospital was supposed to decide which path the cables were to take from the antenna on the roof to the station in the basement. Putting the controller in this site would help with the transmission that is bad at the Kaiser Santa Teresa site. There is a large hill between Santa Teresa and most everyone else who uses that repeater. It doesn't work very well right now. In an emergency, the Santa Teresa location will not work very well. The club is trying to change that, but it takes cooperation between all parties. It has been a slow process, unfortunately.

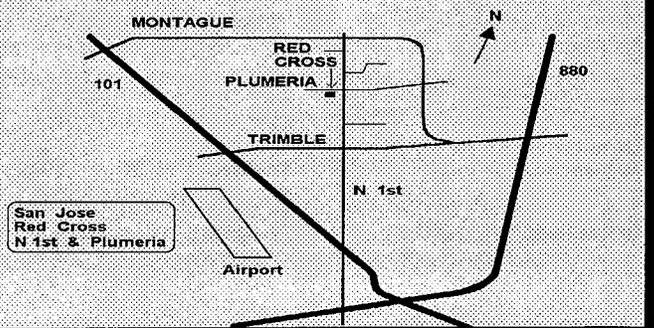
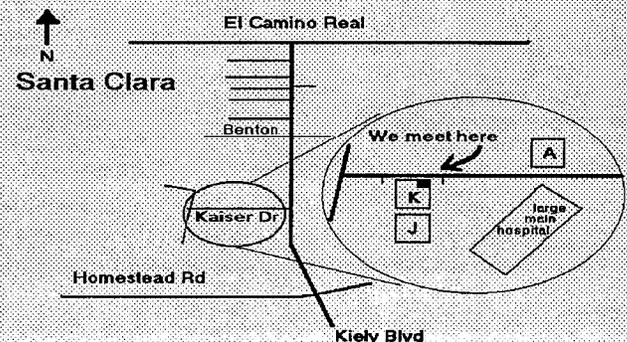
The health of our club members seems to be getting better. My leg is healing nicely. Joan Hastings has also healed nicely. John ?????, is still recovering from his cancer treatments. He has been to several meetings. Gwen Sterier,

## Calendar

- 9/9 SCCARA General Meeting
- 9/14 Foothill Electronic Flea Market
- 9/16 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 9/28 SCCARA Picnic

### General Meeting:

- Day: Monday, September 9, 2002
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Bld K, Rm 1
- 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>.

#### OFFICERS - DIRECTORS - STAFF

President	Barbara Britten, KD6QEI	293-3847
	e-mail: ka6ymd@juno.com	
Vice President	- - -	
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	e-mail: williemaq@hotmail.com	
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	e-mail: ldevaughns@aol.com	
Station Trustee	Stan Getsla, WA6VJY	275-0735
	e-mail: wa6vjy@juno.com	
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	e-mail: clarkcmurph@yahoo.com	
Director	Don Apte, KK6MX	629-0725
	e-mail: aptekk@aol.com	
Director	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
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	e-mail: wa6qys@aol.com	
Director	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
	e-mail: ka6ymd@juno.com	
Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	265-2336
	e-mail: wb6yru@aenet.net	

#### COMMITTEES

Repeater	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
	e-mail: ka6ymd@juno.com	
N0ARY BBS	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	265-2336
	e-mail: wb6yru@aenet.net	

#### SCCARA REPEATERS

SCCARA owns and operates two repeaters under the call W6UU:

2 meter: 146.385 + PL 114.8

70 cm: 442.425 + PL 107.2

Phone auto-dial and auto-patch is available. The two meter repeater is located at the Santa Teresa Hospital, south-west San Jose (near IBM). The 70 cm repeater and N0ARY BBS is located at the Regional Medical Center (formerly Alexian), east of downtown San Jose (north of 280 and 101).

#### SCCARA NETS

On our two meter repeater: Mondays at 7:30 PM, (not the second Monday--our meeting night). Coordinator: Don K6PBQ. On ten meters, 28.385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00 PM. Net control: Wally KA6YMD. Visitors welcome.

#### N0ARY PACKET BBS

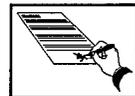
SCCARA hosts the packet BBS N0ARY (San Jose). User ports: 144.93 (1200 baud), 433.37 (9600 baud), telephone 408 259-8497, internet (by registration only, get info by sending e-mail to: [info@n0ary.org](mailto:info@n0ary.org)). Sysop: Gary WB6YRU

#### TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

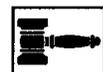
is mending well from her rotator cuff surgery. She has had help from her family at home, while her arm was in a cast and sling. If I have missed anyone, I apologize. Let me know if I have missed anyone and I'll put it in next months publication. Thanks.

Barbara Britten, KD6QEI



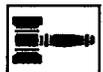
## Meeting Minutes

### General Meeting, Aug. 12, 2002



{No minutes received by the deadline. --Ed.}

### Board Meeting, Aug. 19, 2002



{Meeting was canceled. --Ed.}

## Picnic

The SCCARA picnic this year will be Saturday September 28, 10 AM until 4 PM or so, at Mary Gomez Park in Santa Clara. (Located at the north-west corner of San Tomas express way and Forbes. Enter from the west side--go west on Forbes, north on Bucher, then turn right into the small parking lot.)

The club will provide sodas, plates & utensils, condiments, and charcoal. Please bring your own meat and a dish to share.

## News from the ARRL

From *The ARRL Letter*, August 9, 2002

### The end of the line for Radio Amateur Callbook

Radio Amateur Callbook is throwing in the towel and will cease publication of its CD-ROM Callbook product effective with its winter 2003 edition, which will come out in November. "Due to accessibility to the FCC database via the Internet, sales have declined to levels that make it unprofitable to publish future editions," publisher Bob

Hughes announced in a recent news release. In 1997, citing "rising costs and increasing demand for electronic publishing" the company phased out its telephone-book-size paper North American and international editions in favor of its CD-ROM product. The 1997 Callbook--the 75th edition--was the last hard-copy version available. The Callbook began publishing in 1920.

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From *The ARRL Letter*, August 16, 2002

### **UNITED PARCEL SERVICE NOW NEUTRAL ON SAVI PROPOSALS FOR 70 CM**

United Parcel Service (UPS) now says it's neutral on SAVI Technology's petition to deploy RF identification tag devices at 433 MHz at much greater duty cycles than current Part 15 rules permit for such devices. UPS clarified its position this week in an ex parte filing to the FCC.

"UPS takes no position on the rule changes proposed in the SAVI Petition because they will have virtually no impact on UPS's shipping operations and are inconsistent with efforts to promulgate international standards for RFID tags," the shipping company said. The change in position is doubly significant because UPS has an equity interest in SAVI through its UPS Strategic Enterprise Fund.

RFID tags are used for tracking shipments and packages, among other applications. The ARRL has said that adopting SAVI's proposals would result in severe and harmful interference.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the League was pleased to learn that UPS had "done the right thing." Sumner had pointed out UPS's support of the SAVI petition in his "It Seems to Us ..." editorial in the December 2001 issue of QST.

"The ARRL is very gratified that, upon careful consideration, UPS has changed its position and now recognizes that the SAVI proposal for 425-435 MHz offers no benefit," Sumner said. "We are confident that if the FCC devotes the same attention to considering the issue, it will come to the same conclusion."

UPS said it wanted to clarify its position in light of the many comments filed in response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in ET Docket 01-278 that cited the shipping company's initial support of the SAVI petition. UPS has not directly commented on the NPRM previously.

UPS now says that, after further consideration, it sees no particular advantage to the changes SAVI has proposed. "UPS now does not envision any of its applications requiring a transmission duty cycle in excess of what is currently permitted under Section 15.231," UPS said.

UPS also cited concerns that the proposed operating frequencies "are not fully compatible with frequency allocations" in many of the more than 200 countries and territories in which it does business. "Thus, it is of limited benefit to global companies such as UPS should the FCC adopt the proposed 10 MHz-wide RFID band from 425 to 435 MHz."

More than 130 amateurs filed comments in opposition to SAVI Technology's RFID tags proposal, and most supported the League's position that the proposed rules are flawed and should not be adopted.

A copy of the UPS ex parte filing in ET Docket 01-278 is available on the FCC Web site <[http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native\\_or\\_pdf=pdf&id\\_document=6513287285](http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6513287285)>.

### **FCC SPELLS OUT UTILITY'S OBLIGATIONS IN INTERFERENCE CASES**

Electric utilities must correct equipment problems that cause harmful interference to stations operating in the Amateur Service. Following up on a recent pledge to get tougher on electric utilities that fail to promptly fix faulty gear that generates interference, FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth made that point doubly clear August 9 in an letter to Reliant Energy Company of Houston. The case involves unresolved interference complaints from Edward J. Gerber, W5GCX, of Houston.

"Reliant must do all things necessary, and bear any and all necessary costs, to comply with its obligations as an operator of unlicensed devices pursuant to the Commission's Part 15 regulations," Hollingsworth reminded the utility's attorneys. He asked Reliant to provide a written report in 30 days detailing steps taken to eliminate the interference to W5GCX. Hollingsworth said he'd hold off on enforcement action until he has the report in hand but added that the FCC "expects a complete solution without further delay."

In its reply to a May 23 letter from the FCC, Reliant had suggested that the interference Gerber was experiencing had come from an otherwise properly operating 250 kVA step-down transformer. The utility had proposed to relocate the transformer at Gerber's expense.

Hollingsworth pointed out that the utility may not pass on the cost of fixing the problem to the victim of the interference. "It is exclusively the obligation of the operator of the unlicensed device," Hollingsworth wrote, referring to the FCC's Part 15 rules.

Responding to the initial FCC letter, the utility's attorneys--Baker Botts LLP of Houston--had attempted to claim it was not obligated to avoid interference to amateur

stations. Hollingsworth called the attempted distinction "baseless."

A copy of the letter went to the office of Texas Public Utility Commission Chairman Rebecca Klein.

The League has worked with the FCC and utilities to resolve dozens of interference complaints. ARRL Electromagnetic Compatibility and Radio Frequency Interference Engineer John Phillips, K2QAI, applauded Hollingsworth's tenacious approach to dealing with interference complaints involving power companies. "Amateur Radio is very fortunate to have someone like Riley Hollingsworth in our corner," he said. "There is no way that amateurs could ever hope to resolve some of these problems without the backing of the FCC."

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## Packet Pieces

### Downloaded from the packet network:

=====  
Date: 21 Jun 2000 21:58  
From: AB7RG@AB7RG  
To: QUOTES@USA  
Subject: QUOTES # 057 !!!  
-----

QUOTES 57:  
=====

Some people act crazy. I'm not acting...  
If you're too busy to laugh, you're entirely too busy.  
If my cat were any lazier it would be in a comma.  
"Is this seat saved?" "No, but we're praying for it."  
Nothing makes one more tolerant of a neighbor's party than being there.  
Is it me, or is it getting even more odd in here?  
If today were any weirder, it would have to be called a state of insanity.  
In today's world, anyone who is not confused just isn't thinking straight.  
You know it's bad when you have to back-up your packet files on a zip disk...  
What's worse than finding a magnet on one of your floppy disks? Finding a magnet on your jaz disk.

We, the unwilling, led by the unqualified, have been doing the unbelievable for so long with so little, we now attempt the impossible with nothing...

I started out with nothing and still have most of it.

Therapy is extremely expensive. Popping bubble wrap is extremely cheap. You choose...

Sarcasm is just one of the many services that I offer.

It's much better living through denial...

Stress is when you wake up screaming and you haven't even fallen asleep yet.

I just want revenge. Is that so bad?

I want to die peacefully, in my sleep, like my grandfather; not screaming, terrified, like the passengers in his car.

You know, sometimes I make my own self laugh...

Charlie was a chemist, but Charlie is not more. What Charlie thought was H2O was H2S04.

"Suicide hotline... Please hold."

Alone: In bad company.

I'm always glad to share my ignorance -- I've got plenty!

Always proof-read carefully to see if you any words out.

Misspelled? What do you mean it's misspelled? Packet is an error-correcting mode!!!

Don't confuse me with the facts, my mind's already made up!

Don't talk unless you can improve the silence.

Facts are such stubborn things...

I'm not a complete idiot -- some parts are missing.

When in doubt, make it sound convincing.

If it jams, force it. If it breaks, it needed replacing anyway.

It's not just a hobby, it's an obsession!!!

Just do it.

Just did it.

Socialism is the equal distribution of poverty.

Southern DOS: Y'all Reckon? (Yep/Nope) ?

Was today REALLY necessary?

Error: File not found... Fake it? (Y/N) ?

Life without danger is a waste of oxygen.

All good things must come to an end, and so must this bulletin.

73 & May the FARCE be with you! Clinton, AB7RG.  
[ AB7RG @ KB7FRV.AZ.USA.NOAM ]

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

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## Need Help?

Amateurs have a long history of helping each other. An experienced amateur who helps another is traditionally called an "Elmer." If you have a question or problem, you are encouraged to ask one of SCCARA's Elmers. Below is a list of topics including who to contact for each.

If you consider yourself to be reasonably competent in at least one area of amateur radio and would be willing help others, please ask the club secretary for an Elmer survey form and fill it out.

Antennas, feed-lines, tuners: WB6EMR, K6PBQ, WB6YRU  
Lightning protection, grounding: WB6YRU  
Station set-up, equipment: K6PBQ  
TVI/RFI: WB6YRU

Homebrew projects, construction: KD6FJI, WB6YRU

Computers: KB6NP; IBM PC: 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

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## Newsletter Notes

As you can see in the *Meeting Minutes* column, the August board meeting was canceled. It just so happened that the big fire downtown was going on at the same time. Since this soaked up the Red Cross' attention and since the board meets at the San Jose chapter of the Red Cross, it was decided that we should stay out of their way.

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This isn't exactly about the newsletter, but while on the subject of the fire...

I have it on good authority that fire-related amateur emergency activity had to move off of the SCCARA repeater because its current location renders it nearly useless for much of the county. This should prompt SCCARA to redouble its efforts to get the repeater into the City radio vault--which has been in the works for years now. If that can't happen for whatever reason, we need to find that out and get moving on a good alternative.

At the moment, our new repeater controller is in the hands of the San Jose radio people, waiting to be hooked up to a new radio. (The city wants to take care of that since it's going into their radio vault at Alum Rock.) So, for now, we're waiting on others. They have their own priorities, but it wouldn't hurt to occasionally ask them how it's going.

And there are other things we can do. The question of possible interference with other repeaters has not been settled. Additional site tests need to be done to make sure we can operate the repeater at Alum Rock without any problems. And as long as such questions remain, we could do preliminary work on alternate sites, just in case.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

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**S.C.C.A.R.A. Membership Form for 2002**

(Fill in name and address if there is no mailing label below; make corrections if the label is incorrect)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: E A G T+ T N

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Licensed since (yr): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Licence Expiration Date (mo/yr): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Annual membership dues are payable at the first of the year and expire the following December 31. New members joining on or after July 1, pay half the membership dues.

Annual Membership dues:  Individual \$15  Family \$20  Student (under 18) \$5 \_\_\_\_\_

I want \_\_\_\_\_ SCCARA badges @ \$3 ea. Badge name & call: \_\_\_\_\_ ....

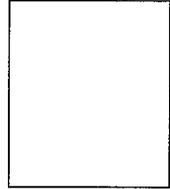
Please send the repeater Auto-Dial/Auto-Patch codes (no charge, circle): ..... Yes  
WE MUST BE ABLE TO VERIFY YOUR AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE  
BEFORE ANY REPEATER CODES WILL BE SENT TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

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

===== PLEASE DO NOT TEAR OR CUT FORM =====

SANTA CLARA COUNTY  
AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION  
  
PO BOX 6  
San Jose CA 95103-0006

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League



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