

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 19, Number 1

January 2003



President's Prose

The past year was an interesting one. We had a secretary, then lost him in September when he moved to Reno to stay employed. Wally Britten, KA6YMD, took over the roster. Wally found out that Willie had not made many changes to the roster. There were many mistakes that were corrected by Gary WB6YRU and Wally. Wally took over the roster maintenance (which is part of the secretary's job) to make the adds and deletions necessary to update the roster. Wally will maintain the roster until we get another secretary, so as to make sure that Gary has the right addresses to mail out the *SCCARA-GRAM*. Since Wally has taken over the roster duties, maybe we can get a recording secretary to take the notes at the meetings, and then get them to Gary to print in the *SCCARA-GRAM*. If we split the duties, maybe a member will be able to help out the club. We gained some new members. I hope they will participate in all club activities in the coming year.

When we had speakers at meetings, I thought they were interesting. I rely on all club members to help get speakers, as we don't have a Vice President. Thank you to all those who helped get speakers for last year.

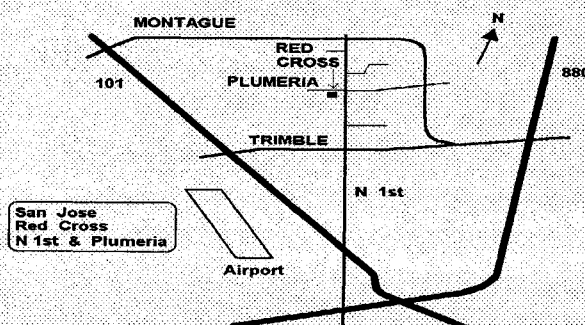
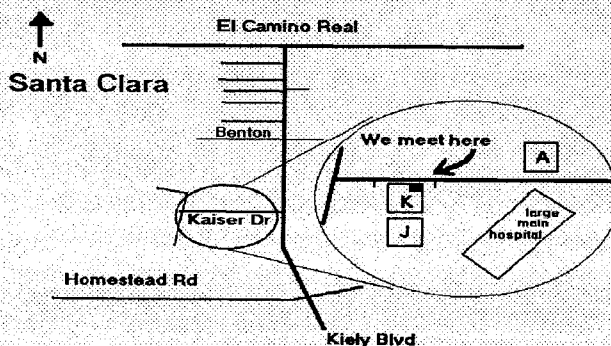
Progress was made on the various repeaters SCCARA has. Trish Gibbons, WA6UBE, has finally gotten the repeater closer to being placed in the City vault in Alum Rock Park at Eagle Rock. Ben Vickers, WB6FRM, from RACES, and Roy Metzger, K6VIP, were working on programming the various phone numbers into the programmer. When that is done, it will be ready to go up in the vault. Then testing must be done to make sure we do not interfere with the Sacramento machine, as we did last year. Then Wally and Trish can get it sanctioned. Wally, Ben Vickers, and Lou Stierer, went to the Kaiser Santa Teresa site on 12/22 to make repeater adjustments to improve repeater audio. **THANK YOU BEN!** The radio station at Regional Medical Center has been stalled due to cable path problems. The engineers need to find a path to the antennas separate from the one they originally wanted, which would have shared the CATV duct and risked RF

Calendar

- 1/13 SCCARA General Meeting
- 1/20 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 2/10 SCCARA General Meeting--pizza party

General Meeting:

- Day: Monday, January 13, 2003
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Bld K, Rm 1
- Featuring: ELE Craft



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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

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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
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

coupling. The ball is in their court now. Wally has promised to keep in touch with the engineering department. I hope it can be completed this year. Meanwhile, we still have a station at the Red Cross building at Plumeria and N First. We can hold contests here, have open house day for new hams, old hams etc. who want to practice using their ham radio knowledge. Arrangements need to be made with me to gain access to the radio room at Red Cross. Lou Steirer also has a key to gain entry to the room. Wally can help if I am not available in the evenings.

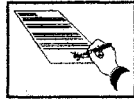
The social activities were a lot of fun, too. The dinner meetings, or should I say "food meetings," were enjoyed by all who attended. No one walked away hungry. If they did, it wasn't for lack of food. The summer picnic included a radio station. Most of the contacts made were to Europe. Everyone won a prize at Bingo. The Christmas luncheon was the final event of the year. Frank Glass, K6RQ, swore in the officers. The new officer was the License Trustee position, vacated by Stan Getsla, to the new trustee, Don Hayden, KO6HH. Stan is moving out of state soon with his company. There was a cake this year instead of pig cookies. The cake's decoration was of a pig pulling a sleigh. There were 3-D evergreen trees in two upper outer corners of the cake. The trees were ice cream cones, turned upside down, decorated to look like trees, and then sprinkled with confectioners sugar to look like snow on the branches. It was a beautiful and tasty cake. When Anna came to the restaurant to pick up her children for another event they were attending, I introduced her to the gathering and thanked her for her work. My gift to all diners was a recycled CD turned into a coaster with their name, call sign, and a decoration of a real "ham" with a radio.

Field Day was a success, too. Mike Hastings, KB6LCJ, was Chairman. He did a good job. His mobile home was the only one that had visiting mice. He had to close the door to the mobile home keep them out. The results put SCCARA at about the average point. We had a good time anyway, no matter what our standings were. As always, there was food. The Saturday dinner was a winner, so I was told. I enjoy doing the dinner even though it can be intense at times. I have gotten the food buying, preparation, and clean-up down to a science. Thanks this last year to Joan Hastings and Gwen Stierer for all their help.

Lastly I want to thank Gary Mitchell WB6YRU sooo much for being our *SCCARA-GRAM* editor. He's done it for nearly 10 years now. It takes lot of work to put a newsletter together. Gary does such a professional job. I have wished to supply several articles myself, but have lacked the time to complete needed research. We all should thank Gary for his efforts.

There has been a lot of healing amongst many of our members. I am glad to see those members came to meetings and social events. I hope this year does not have as many medical problems.

The year is over and a new has begun. I hope it is filled with health, happiness and prosperity for the club and it members. See you at the meetings, and hear you on the nets.



73 - Barbara K. Britten, KD6QEI, President.

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Dec. 21, 2002



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

Board Meeting, Dec. 16, 2002



MEMBERS PRESENT: Wally Britten, KA6YMD, Director; Clark Murphy, KE6KXO, Director; Don Village, K6PBQ, Director; Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, Director; Gwen Steirer, KF6OTD; Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, Pres/note taker.

MEETING CONVENED: 7:45, after the net was over.
 CHRISTMAS PARTY: Don Village reported that everything was all set at The Hungry Hunter in Milpitas. There was a relish tray with 1/2 cheese, 1/2 veggie. There was a cake this year instead of cookies. The cake was baked and decorated by Anna Jones, Barbara Britten's daughter.

FUTURE MEETINGS: January: Speaker - from ELE Craft invited. February: Pizza Party at the Kaiser Santa Clara meeting room. March: Meeting to be held at the Home Town Buffet in Santa Clara at 6:30 PM. April: To be announced.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TREASURER: Not Present. Excused.
 PRESIDENT: No report other than Christmas Party
 SCCARA-GRAM: Editor not present.
 REPEATER: City site - the auto dialer will have the same slots for the suffixes as other ARES systems. Ben Vickers, WB6FRM, from RACES is doing the programming. Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, is willing to go with Ben & Wally to the old repeater site to try to resolve the bad audio problem. Lou will check with Roy Metzger, K6VIP, regarding the new radio repeater bench testing progress. The process for completing this project was held up a long time ago for many reasons. Ben, Lou, and Wally planned to meet at Kaiser Santa Teresa Hospital at 2:00 PM to examine repeater. The 440 repeater has been sanctioned again. The 2M repeater sanction has not been cleared. NARCC keeps saying something is wrong with the 2M paperwork, but won't clarify

what the problem is. Stan Getsla has done the FCC paperwork to straighten out the fact that Stan was not registered to the FCC CORS system. Lou Steirer planned to talk Stan regarding NARCC.

The audio levels of the repeater at the Santa Teresa site need to be checked. Wally Britten will contact Tom Trich to set up the meeting. Ben Vickers, WB6FRM, and Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, to attend also.

The FLEA MARKET: The Perham Foundation folded as of 12/27/02. There will be no more flea markets unless someone steps in to take over coordination. Lou Steirer made a motion to propose \$750.00 seed money be given to "The Foothill Electronics Flea Market Association" - name still in development - (FEFMA?), to restart the flea market. A large part of SCCARA's operating revenue comes from participation in this event. The money is used to secure the lot, port-a-potties, Insurance demanded by Foothill, etc. Wally seconded. Motion carried. One person from each organization participating in the flea market is to be at the meeting, planned for 01/09/03.

STORAGE LOCKER: We need to have all club members that have SCCARA equipment in their homes, return it to the locker. We planned to make an inventory of all of the locker equipment, then decide what is good, what should we keep, sell, or junk. This topic was postponed until the next meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:00 PM.

Barbara Britten, KD6QEI

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, December 6, 2002

WRC-03 CONFERENCE PREPARATORY MEETING EXPANDS 40 METER OPTIONS

Paul Simon sang of 50 ways to leave your lover, but participants at the just-ended Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) for World Radio-communication Conference 2003 heard just five ways to fix 40 meters, plus a sixth that would just leave things as they are.

"The five options for change all represent improvements in the amateur band, although two fall short of fulfilling the 300 kHz worldwide requirement," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. He attended the Geneva gathering in his role as International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) secretary. "All six options maintain the existing 300 kHz exclusive amateur allocation in Region 2."

The objective of the CPM was to complete work on a 700-plus page extensive technical CPM Report, which outlines methods to address the more than three dozen items that are on the WRC-03 agenda. As for amateur issues, Sumner says 7 MHz realignment or harmonization "is one of the most difficult issues facing WRC-03." As he explains the situation, three major interests--amateurs, shortwave broadcasters, and users, mainly military, of the fixed and mobile services--have a stake in the outcome.

The IARU is on record as supporting a 300 kHz worldwide amateur allocation in the vicinity of 7 MHz. Sumner said achieving this would require the fixed and mobile services to make room for broadcasters and for the broadcasters to change their operating frequencies. The five methods for change the CPM Report describes include a variety of transition schedules to ease the impact on these other services.

- Method A would shift Region 1 and 3 broadcasters up by 200 kHz to 7300-7550 kHz in two stages and would provide the same band for broadcasting in Region 2.

- Method B is similar but would have amateurs in Regions 1 and 3 sharing the upper 100 kHz of their newly expanded band with fixed and mobile.

- Method C would provide just 200 kHz for amateurs in Regions 1 and 3. Amateurs in Region 2 would continue to contend with broadcasting interference from Regions 1 and 3 in the 7200-7300 kHz segment.

- Method D, proposed by Canada at the CPM, would provide 300 kHz worldwide for amateurs by shifting broadcasters in Regions 1 and 3 up by 200 kHz but would not expand the Region 2 broadcasting allocation. This plan would minimize the impact on fixed and mobile services in Region 2.

- Method E, proposed by the Republic of Korea at the CPM, would provide amateurs in Regions 1 and 3 with an additional 100 kHz shared with fixed and mobile (7100-7200 kHz). As with Method C, however, Region 2 amateurs would continue to face broadcasting interference from Regions 1 and 3 in the 7200-7300 kHz segment.

- Method F, proposed by Australia at the CPM, would simply maintain the status quo. This plan reflects concerns about the impact of realignment on military and national security communications capabilities.

"There is no guarantee that proposals will be limited to the six methods described in the CPM Report," Sumner said.

Amateur Radio was well represented at the CPM. Chairing the CPM was Eberhard George, DL7IH, of Germany. A three-member IARU team was headed by President Larry Price, W4RA, and included Sumner and Wojciech Nietyksza,

SP5FM. ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, served as a member of the US delegation. He also was named to chair the ad hoc group that dealt with the substance of the 7 MHz text. Several other amateurs were on their national delegations, some of them specifically to represent Amateur Radio and others in professional capacities. IARU Vice President David Wardlaw, VK3ADW, was on the Australian delegation.

Sponsored by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the CPM drew more than 1000 participants to Geneva during the last two weeks of November. Over the next three months, regional telecommunications organizations and groups (CEPT, CITEL, and Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, the African Telecommunications Union, and Iran and the Arab States) as well as individual administrations will be developing their proposals for WRC-03, which takes place in Geneva next summer.

FIRST AMATEUR TRANSATLANTIC HF DIGITAL VOICE QSO REPORTED

Radio communication pioneers Ten-Tec and Thales have announced that they've used an Amateur Radio linkup to span the Atlantic on HF digital voice for the first time. Ten-Tec's Doug Smith, KF6DX, and Thales' Didier Chulot, F5MJN, successfully transmitted and received HF digital speech signals November 22 between Paris, France, and Ten-Tec's Sevierville, Tennessee, headquarters.

"We view this as a significant accomplishment," said Smith. "Amateur Radio has long been at the forefront of technological development. It's nice to be able to show that our legacy is alive and well." Tests are being conducted under the auspices of ARRL's Digital Voice Working Group, which Smith chairs. A written report on the tests is due in January.

Calling it "a major breakthrough," a Ten-Tec news release said the two amateur stations "demonstrated the advantages of digital audio during the conversation, including noise-free, FM-like reception and the potential for simultaneous voice and data." The feat was accomplished on 15 meters using Ten-Tec transceivers and Thales Communications Skywave 2000 digital audio software. Operating as F8KGG, Chulot spoke with Smith for several minutes over the HF digital link, operating within a 3 kHz bandwidth.

Smith said he and F5MJN used unmodified Ten-Tec transceivers in upper-sideband mode, although AM or FM mode also would work. No additional hardware was required beyond the cables connecting the transceiver and the microphone to the PC sound card. Smith said audio quality was roughly the same as a conventional telephone circuit. An Amateur Radio version of the Thales system is expected to appear on the market early next year. "At this stage, the system is experimental-only for ham radio, but it looks like

it's going to take off," Smith predicted.

In terms of Amateur Radio, Alinco was the first manufacturer to come out with a digital voice option for some of its transceivers. ICOM debuted its D-Star digital "concept radio" system last May at the Dayton Hamvention--where Smith chaired the Digital Voice Forum--and demonstrated it at the ARRL-TAPR Digital Communications Conference in September. The unit, which operates on 1.2 GHz, was scheduled to hit the ham radio market this fall.

Technical details of the Thales system will appear in an article "International Digital Audio Broadcasting Standards: Voice Coding and Amateur Radio Applications" in the January/February issue of QEX, which he edits. The article is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/pdf/x0301049.pdf>>. He also has authored two articles on digital voice in QST: "Digital Voice: The Next New Mode?" <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/pdf/0201028.pdf>> in the January 2002 issue, and "Digital Voice: An Update and Forecast" <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/pdf/0202038.pdf>> in the February 2002 issue.

Additional images and background are available on the TAPR Web site <<http://www.tapr.org>>. Look for the Digital Voice Forum page and the presentation by Cédric Demeure. --Ten-Tec news release; Doug Smith, KF6DX.

FCC SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECTRUM POLICY TASK FORCE REPORT

Public comments are due January 9, 2003, on the recently released report of the Spectrum Policy Task Force (ET Docket 02-135) <see <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2002/11/07/103/>>. Reply comments are due February 10. The Task Force released its report to the FCC on November 15. The FCC notes that the Spectrum Policy Task Force Report was drafted by FCC staff and was neither voted upon nor approved by the Commission. "Accordingly, neither the Report nor any of the recommendations contained therein necessarily reflect the views of the Commission," the FCC added. The text of the Report and other Task Force documents are available on the Task Force Web site <<http://www.fcc.gov/sptf/>>. Parties are encouraged to file comments using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>>. Commenters should include full name, US Postal Service mailing address, and the docket number, ET Docket 02-135.

RS-20 IS NEWEST RUSSIAN AMATEUR RADIO SATELLITE PAYLOAD

On November 28, the Russian Space Agency launched the Algerian AlSat-1 satellite along with a new Russian bird known as Mozhayets--a navigational and scientific satellite.

One of its experimental payloads is an Amateur Radio telemetry beacon that has been christened RS-20. Mozhayets orbits at an altitude of 720 km, completing a turn around Earth every 99 minutes. The Keplerian elements for RS-20 are: 1 27560U 02054B 02332.86497891 -.00019965 00000-0 -47472-2 0 37; 2 27560 98.2411 217.5728 0044302 75.5447 285.0613 14.53325574 86. RS-20 is transmitting CW telemetry on 145.818 and 435.319 MHz. According to information provided by Alexander Zaitzev, RW3DZ, each telemetry frame begins and ends with the beacon call sign, RS-20. E-mail reports are welcomed at plis@kaluga.ru.

From the *ARRL Letter*, December 20, 2002

LEAGUE KEEPS EYE ON EMERGING RFI ISSUES

ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, attended a November 12-14 meeting of the IEEE C63 "RFI" committee in Baltimore. Hare's visit was in response to a committee invitation for a presentation on the possible impact of Power Line Communications (PLC) on Amateur Radio. Hare also attended a very high bit-rate digital subscriber line (VDSL) standards meeting in Atlanta November 18-19. Hare says that both technologies present a potential to radiate signals that could raise the noise floor on nearby HF receivers by tens of dB. "What ham hasn't looked up at a power line and thought, 'Now there's a heck of a longwire antenna!'" Hare quipped. "The problem with PLC is that if a company wants to supply Internet service via PLC, it's going to happen at HF, and it will radiate." Following the presentation, the IEEE named Hare chairs its ad hoc working group on PLC. VDSL presents somewhat less of a challenge than PLC, Hare said, but for overhead telephone wiring, it's important that the industry include protection for Amateur Radio. Hare said the ARRL will continue to work these and other industry groups and build on the successes Amateur Radio has had recently with the HomePlug group and Home Phoneline Network Alliance in reducing interference to amateur HF bands.

From *The ARRL Letter*, December 27, 2002

FCC SEEKS COMMENTS ON AMATEUR RADIO-RELATED PETITIONS

The FCC is inviting comments on two Amateur Radio-related petitions for rule making. Both have been put on public notice and are available for public review and comment. In his petition, designated RM-10620, Dale Reich, K8AD, has asked the Commission to automatically upgrade Novice and Advanced license holders to the "next" license class if the licensee has 20 or more years of operating experience. Reich has said such test-free upgrades would compensate for "the previous tougher exam that was past administered" and give credit for violation-free service records.

Among other proposed changes in his "merit and service upgrade" schedule, Reich asks that Novice phone privileges in the 2 meter band--rescinded in the 1970s--be reinstated for those still holding that license. In his petition, Reich asserts that Amateur Radio the proposed changes could augment public service abilities on the part of the affected licensees.

In another amateur-related petition, designated RM-10621, AMSAT-NA has asked the FCC to drop its presently required 27 month pre-space notification to the FCC's international branch for Amateur Satellite launches and substitute a pre-space notification within 30 days of a launch commitment.

The comment deadline for both petitions is January 17, 2003. Interested parties may view the Reich and AMSAT petitions and file comments via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>>. Commenters should include full name, US Postal Service mailing address and the applicable rulemaking number--RM-10620 or RM-10621.

K7IJ REPEATER SYSTEM ATTRACTS RENEWED FCC ATTENTION

The FCC has sent a Warning Notice to the owner of the K7IJ Grizzly Peak repeater system in California's San Francisco Bay area citing "numerous rule violations" on the machine since last April. In a November 26 letter, FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth reminded repeater owner Bruce Wachtell, K7IJ, of his responsibility to ensure proper control of his repeater. Almost four years ago, the FCC shut down the Grizzly Peak repeater after it determined the system was out of control of the licensee and his designated control operator.

"Since the repeater bears your call sign, it is important for you to understand that you are responsible for its proper operation," Hollingsworth told Wachtell, whose residence is in Carson City, Nevada. "The decision to operate a repeater is a totally voluntary one. Repeaters are a convenience in the Amateur Radio Service, not a necessity." Hollingsworth said repeater control operators "must ensure immediate proper operation" of the system, regardless of the type of station control. If Wachtell cannot regain control of his repeater, then he must shut it down, Hollingsworth concluded.

Violations cited included failure of users to identify--or to identify correctly, intentional interference from "certain users," use of the repeater by unlicensed operators and "lengthy carriers and key-ups."

Hollingsworth told Wachtell that it's his responsibility to prevent recurring and deliberate violations. "If you are unwilling or unable to prevent violations on your K7IJ repeater, then your operator and station licenses will be subject to enforcement action by the Commission," warned

Hollingsworth, who raised the specter of fines, suspension and license revocation.

In an unrelated repeater case, Hollingsworth sent a Warning Notice December 4 to Wayne Curley, WA6NRB, who operates a repeater in the Los Angeles area. Hollingsworth cited monitoring information that the repeater has been used by an unlicensed individual, Richard Burton, ex-WB6JAC. Burton spent three months in a federal jail last year after being convicted of unlicensed operation. Hollingsworth also reminded Curley that a repeater licensee is responsible for recurring violations and that enforcement action--fines, suspension or revocation--could result if he is unable to prevent violations on his repeater.

SPECIAL EVENT, SPACE CONTACT TO MARK MARCONI TRANSMISSION CENTENNIAL

Special event station KM1CC will be on the air January 11-19, 2003, to mark the 100th anniversary of Guglielmo Marconi's inaugural wireless transmission between the US and Great Britain January 18, 1903 (January 19 UTC). On that date, from the sandy Cape Cod cliffs overlooking the Atlantic, Marconi--using a powerful (35 kW) rotary spark transmitter coupled to a massive antenna system--transmitted a 54-word greeting from President Theodore Roosevelt to England's King Edward VII. The monarch promptly acknowledged receipt of the message via land line and cable, literally igniting the spark of global communication.

The Marconi Radio Club, W1AA, and the Marconi Cape Cod Memorial Radio Club, KM1CC, are working in partnership with the National Park Service at Cape Cod National Seashore to organize the celebration. The special event will take place at the former Coast Guard station at Coast Guard Beach in Eastham, Massachusetts, which is near the original Marconi site. Operation will include several amateur modes, including SSB, CW, FM, digital and satellite.

Marconi Radio Club President Robert J. "Whitey" Doherty, K1VV, says operators will be on the air 24 hours a day from January 11 through January 19. "We have a half dozen operators who will live at the station for the full period," he said. The special event station will open to the public from 9 AM until 5 PM EST (1400-2200 UTC).

An Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) school contact--the first of the new year with US students--is to be scheduled during the week-long celebration. Doherty says that selected students from three Cape Cod high schools will speak via KM1CC with a member of the new Expedition 6 ISS crew.

Marconi's daughter, Princess Elettra Marconi, is scheduled to attend the a reenactment of the ground breaking wireless transmission on January 18, when KM1CC will transmit the

text of Roosevelt's original message to King Edward VII.

KM1CC QSL card requests from US amateurs (include a self-addressed, stamped envelope) go via Barbara Dougan, KB1GSO, Cape Cod National Seashore, 99 Marconi Site Rd, Wellfleet, MA 02667. DX stations are invited to QSL via the W1 QSL Bureau.

Additional details are on the Marconi Radio Club Web site <<http://personal.tmlp.com/k1vv/w1aa/>>.

GERMAN AMATEUR RADIO PAYLOAD REACHES ORBIT

Oliver Amend, DG6BCE, and the German Amateur Radio Association report that the RUBIN-2 scientific satellite carrying the SAFIR-M Amateur Radio payload was successfully launched December 20 (1700 UTC) from Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome. As of December 22, he had not yet established contact with the satellite. The call sign, DPOAIS, stands for "Amateur Radio in Schools." Designed as a store-and-forward system for APRS-based messages, SAFIR-M is a project of the Working Group for Amateur Radio and Telecommunications in Schools <<http://www.aatis.de>> and developed in cooperation with the University of Applied Sciences in Pforzheim, Germany. "The main purpose of the satellite is to give students easy access to space communications," Amend says. He notes the satellite will be operational only when RUBIN-2 is in sunlight, so usable passes over Europe will be during the early morning hours and only for up to about five minutes with very low antenna elevations. Now in an approximately 650-km orbit at 65 degree inclination, SAFIR-M has a 1200-baud packet uplink at 437.275 MHz and a 9600-baud packet downlink on 145.825 MHz. There's also an optional voice message beacon on 2 meters. Amend welcomes reports with date and time (UTC) and position (WGS-84 or grid square) via e-mail <dg6bce@aatis.de>. The correct NORAD identifier for two-line Keplerian elements appears to be 27607. More information is available in German on the SAFIR-M Web site <<http://amend.gmxhome.de>>.

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

Late-breaking news: Our new repeater is on the air for testing and burn-in at the City Communications center. PL is 146.2 Hz (for now). The coverage may not be as good as it would be at the radio vault at Alum Rock, but even so, I suspect it might be better than our old repeater (which is still on the air). Wally suggests keeping your PL decode off (on RX) so the behavior of both repeaters can be noticed.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

S.C.C.A.R.A. Membership Form for 2003

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

Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: E A G T+ T N

Address: _____ Licensed since (yr): _____

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

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

E-mail: _____ Packet: _____

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

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

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

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

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

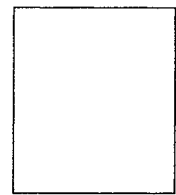
Give this completed form (or copy) with payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or mail to the return address below:

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

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY
AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**

PO BOX 6
San Jose CA 95103-0006

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS