

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 19, Number 10

October 2003



President's Prose

Well, it's September, again. The summer is over, kids are back in school, and peace has begun to reign in many homes. It is nice to come home to a quiet house after working all night. I can prepare for bed without hearing kids in the hall, running up and down the stairs, or yelling at one another. The house is also returning to a more normal routine. September also means a change of seasons, cooler temperatures, and color changes. Fall, is my favorite time of year as September is my birth month. I like the warm days, and cool crisp nights that will give way to winter.

Are you ready for Christmas? It's a little more than three months away. Start your shopping now and avoid the crowds and the rush. That way, you can spend this holiday season enjoying it instead of dreading it. Speaking of Christmas, think about joining us for the Christmas luncheon, December 20, at the Hungry Hunter in Milpitas.

We have speakers for October and November meetings. They are interesting speakers and will make the meetings interesting. Please come and join us. I look forward to seeing as many members of our club as possible.

October is the month for nominations of candidates for election. All of the current officers and directors have agreed to continue in their present positions. If anyone knows of someone in the club that has expressed a specific desire to vie for one of those offices, please make sure that person is at the October meeting. When a person is nominated for a position, the candidate will be asked if he/she will accept the nomination. The names will then be placed on a list for election in November.

I was sorry to hear of the passing of John Kerner KB6SRB. He will be missed.

I hope to see more of you at the upcoming meetings. I want to thank Lou Steirer for getting the September speaker, Chris Siggins, N6MTO of Underwriters Laboratories. I look forward to seeing you and your families at the picnic on 9/27, and at the next meeting.

73, Barbara K Britten, KD6QEI

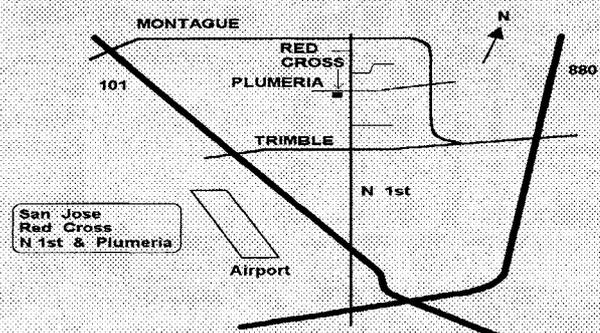
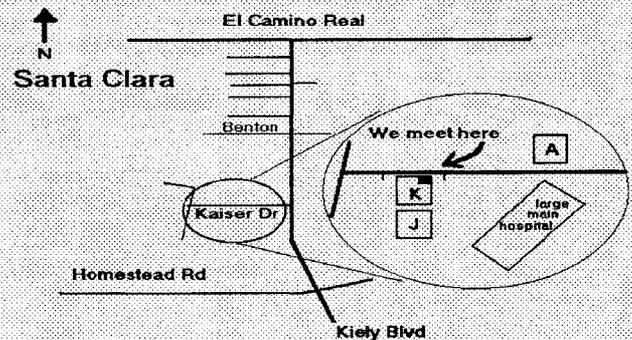


Calendar

- 10/11 Foothill Electronic Flea Market
- 10/13 SCCARA General Meeting
- 10/17-19 Pacificon '03
- 10/20 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting:

- Day: Monday, October 13, 2003
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Bld K, Rm 1
- Featuring: Bill Notley, head of emergency communications at NASA Ames



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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 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,
 Morris Jones, AD6ZH: 408 507-4698

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Sept. 8, 2003



MEETING BEGAN: 7:35 PM.

INTRODUCTIONS: Members present: 20; Visitors: 2

MOMENT OF SILENCE: For silent key, John Kerner, KB6RSB

SPEAKER: Gary Siggins: N6MTO, from U.L. Laboratories. Gary is a "product abuser". UL writes their own standards for products regarding safety issues, and then tests the product against those standards. If the product passes the tests, then the product receives the UL sticker.

The speaker for October will be Bill Notly of the NASA Ames Research center.

The speaker for November will be Dick Delp, KD6QG, from the Electronic and Computer Museums.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PRESIDENT: Speakers for October and November are finalized. The annual picnic is set for 9/27. Pacificon will be held 10/17-18-19/03 at the Marriott Hotel in San Ramon. It claims to have planned a better flea market. The keynote speaker will be Dewayne Hendricks WA8DZP of the FCC Technical Advisory Council. Hope to see you there.

December 20 is the Christmas luncheon at the Hungry Hunter in Milpitas. Hope to see many of our members there.

NOMINATIONS: October is the month for nominations of officers. November is election of officers. All of the current officers have agreed to stay in their present positions for another year.

TREASURER: Savings: \$4,923.57; Checking: \$2,895.28

REPEATER: Wally Britten reported there are no changes to current functions. He will try to submit our repeater to NARC for sanctioning. Don Hayden reports that NARC wants us to consider inverting our frequency pair despite our long history of being 146.385 (+) Subject to the Board's approval, we will be using tone squelch to clear up repeater-to-repeater problem. Sonoma is reportedly suing NARC. SCCARA has been using the same frequencies since 1962 when we were at the blockhouse. Trish Gibbons reports that the duplexers would be no problem. They may not have to be retuned. It's a matter of changing the Tx/Rx cables, and putting in new crystals. There is nothing new at Regional Medical Hospital. We are waiting for some of the

remodeling to be done with regard to the placement of cables from the roof to the basement for the radio station.

SCCARA-GRAM: There are many articles from the ARRL, minutes from the Board and regular meetings, but not much more. What else does the club want to see in the newsletter? There is another flea market besides the Foothill flea market. There is a flea market on the first Sunday of every month in Livermore that takes place year-round, rain or shine. October's Flea Market at Foothill will be sponsored by Palo Alto Red Cross.

BBS: Owen has not done the testing on the BBS. He will do it soon. The internet is not working. All else is the same. Pickup and forwarding are done over the local backbone. Frequencies are as follows for BBS: 2 meter @ 144.93; 70 Cm @ 433.37.

OLD BUSINESS:

FLEA MARKET: Thanks from Lou Steirer for help from SCCARA members for the August flea market. He donated 25 hot dogs and buns to the picnic. SCCARA to bring condiments to picnic.

September 13 was the meeting for the West Valley Association.

NEW BUSINESS:

Don Apte told the club about the Sobrante Foundation that is giving away free office space to nonprofit organizations for meetings, or Board meetings. Each organization pays for their own electricity and phone. The space is 1500 square feet, located at 237 and Milpitas.

JOTA: Don Village will be hosting JOTA at his house on 10/18. There is a convention for scouts. All scouts, (boys, girls,) that come in uniform will get in free to the convention.

PICNIC: Saturday, 9/27 @ 10:00 AM until ?? Barbara is to bring a cooler with ice the drinks.

ADJOURN @ 9:45 PM.

Board Meeting, Sept. 15, 2003



TIME BEGAN: 7:35PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Roy Metzger, K6VIP*; Wally Britten, KA6YMD; Clark Murphy, KE6KXO; Lou Steirer, WA6QYS; Gwen Steirer, KF6OTD*; Barbara Britten, KD6QEI; Don Hayden, KO6HH. (* Indicates a visitor). Lloyd DeVaughns, KE6FJI, excused.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PRESIDENT: The picnic on 9/27, at Mary Gomez Park, has

all aspects planned. Lou Steirer will go to the park in the morning and reserve the site. Wally brought a charged battery for the radio station. Don Village brought the radio and antenna. Gwen Steirer brought the Bingo cards, and hot dog buns. Barbara Britten brought the plates, utensils, and sodas from the storage locker. Joan brought the hot dogs.

TREASURER'S REPORT: No report. Excused.

REPEATER: Wally Britten reported that there are no changes to the system. He will be submitting the paperwork for the current conditions to NARCC. NARCC has requested that we invert the frequency pair to reduce the interference to other stations, mainly Santa Rosa. Santa Rosa says SCCARA is not on the band plan. (despite occupancy since 1962 and having been officially coordinated as 146.385 (+) for many years. We are not presently coordinated on 2 meters as a result of moving. We are coordinated on 440. There is no coordination on the Eagle Rock site yet. A Motion was made by Don Hayden, KO6HH, to submit renewal of coordination of current configuration of the 2 meter repeater to NARC. Seconded by Wally. Passed unanimously. The 440 repeater is not on the same renewal schedule. It expires in June. He suggested that it be renewed in February before it expires. Renewal is good for three years. Roy Metzger and Don Hayden are talking to Trish Gibbons, regarding the antenna changes. Our antenna at Eagle Rock is in place but not being used. (4 Bay commercial). SCCARA wants to try the bigger antenna in the receive, and continue to check for interference. The changes that are to be made are: 1) Increase power on the lower/output antenna. 2) Increase power on the upper/transmit antenna. 3) Change the receiver to the gin antenna. This has been part of the original plan, but it requires good weather for a crew to go up to the city vault to do the work.

BBS: The BBS has developed a problem. The internet connection is not working. Things are getting clogged up. The system needs to be reset. The internet port is the one that is not working. There has been no word from Owen, who has been working on making the corrections.

SCCARA-GRAM: There are no changes to be noted. Gary asked what does the Club want regarding the ARRL information. Is he to continue as he has been? What does the Club want. If so, is there something that they want emphasized? Gary can take photos from a digital camera sent by e-mail, or he can scan a photo for print in the newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS:

INVENTORY OF SCCARA EQUIPMENT: Some of SCCARA's equipment that should be in the storage locker is in the homes of some members. The Board is asking all SCCARA members who have equipment in their homes, to make a list of what they have, and let a Board member know, so it can be collected and put back into storage, and the list can be updated. We want to know what we have so it can be

evaluated for distribution, either kept, sold, or sold for scrap. Some radios (tube type) should be given to a museum. The Collins unit can draw up to \$2,000.00. It should be sold, as it is not really useable for Field Day. It's a military radio. A system needs to be set up similar to a library, regarding the "borrowing" of equipment, so SCCARA can keep track of its equipment, along with accountability. Gary has a list of what currently belongs to SCCARA for comparison.

NEW BUSINESS.

PACIFICON: October 17,18, 19 in San Ramon.

SVECS Breakfast: October 25, at the Santa Clara Senior Center.

Meeting adjourned: 9:07 PM

Free to a good home

BC348Q (military receiver) with home-brew power supply in working order. Covers 1.8-18 MHz and 200-500 kHz. Contact Dave 650 966-5305 M-F.

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, August 22, 2003

BPL ADVOCATES' COMMENTS LACK TECHNICAL SUBSTANCE, ARRL REPLY COMMENTS SAY

The ARRL says Broadband over Power Line (BPL) proponents failed in their comments to the FCC to substantiate their claims that the technology will not cause widespread interference. In reply comments filed August 20--the FCC's deadline to receive comments in the Notice of Inquiry, ET Docket 03-104--the League said that if the FCC is going to rely on industry statements in making decisions on BPL deployment, the industry should back up its assertions with technical studies and hard data and make these public.

"Unfounded assurances that BPL will not cause interference are no substitute for real-world measurements," the League declared, "and the FCC should rely on documented test results and an impact of interference potential based on scientific, not marketing, criteria."

A form of power line carrier--or PLC--technology, BPL would use existing low and medium-voltage power lines to deliver broadband services to homes and businesses using frequencies between 2 and 80 MHz. Some BPL proponents--primarily electric power utilities--already are testing BPL systems in several markets and want the FCC to

relax radiation limits.

"Power lines are ubiquitous, and attempts by the BPL industry to obtain relaxed emission classifications based on operating environment are obviously illogical and frivolous," the ARRL said. BPL would impact not only hams but public safety low-band VHF systems and other mobile systems, the League's comments added.

In contrast to the BPL advocates' "blanket statements" of no interference from BPL field trial sites, the ARRL said its own field tests "lead inescapably to the conclusion that BPL will, if deployed, create widespread harmful interference." It predicted signal levels of up to 30 dB over S9 on a typical amateur transceiver, "well beyond what would preclude amateur HF communications entirely."

To dramatize its point, the League urged the Commission to view video <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/#video>> shot during recent ARRL test-and-measurement forays to BPL field trial communities in four states. The ARRL said the type of degradation expected from BPL would transform 20 meters from a band with worldwide communication capabilities to one of limited regional communication capability.

"ARRL has, in fact, done what the BPL industry should have done--brought an amateur station to the trial area," the League said. "When it did so, the interference was manifest and widespread and would be so even to an untrained observer."

The League also noted that comments in the proceeding so far have been silent on the interference susceptibility of BPL to ham radio signal ingress. The League predicted that even as little as 250 mW of signal induced into overhead power lines some 100 feet from an amateur antenna could degrade a BPL system or render it inoperative.

The ARRL called on the FCC to stop acting like a cheerleader for BPL. "It is past time that the Commission acted in its proper role as a steward of the radio spectrum and recognized the interference potential of BPL to the sensitive incumbent licensed services in these bands," the League concluded. "The Commission cannot stretch the Part 15 regulations as far as would be required to accommodate BPL."

The League's complete reply comments are available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et03-104/reply-comments-index.html>> along with more information <<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2003/07/08/1/>>. Additional information and video clips are on the ARRL "Power Line Communications (PLC) and Amateur Radio" page www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/.

To support the League's efforts in the BPL fight, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/>>

development/donations/bpl/>.

<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/fccfilings/2003/bplcomm ents_08132003.htm>

NTIA EXPRESSES "BROAD CONCERNS" IN BPL COMMENTS

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has weighed in on the FCC's Broadband over Power Line (BPL) initiative. While urging the FCC to "move forward expeditiously" with its inquiry into BPL, the NTIA expressed "broad concerns" about interference to government users. The NTIA also has launched an extensive modeling, analysis and measurement program for BPL. A Commerce Department branch, NTIA administers spectrum allocated to federal government users.

"Notwithstanding BPL's potential benefits, the Commission must ensure that other communications services, especially government operations, are adequately protected from unacceptable interference," the NTIA said in late-filed comments in the BPL Notice of Inquiry. "In tailoring its rules to promote BPL deployment, the Commission must be certain to provide all communications stakeholders with adequate protections against BPL emissions that may cause unacceptable radio frequency interference."

Until releasing its comments this month, the NTIA has been largely silent on the issue since last spring. In an April 24 letter, then-NTIA administrator Nancy J. Victory applauded the FCC's decision to launch its inquiry into BPL, but called on the Commission to make sure that BPL does not cause harmful interference to other services.

In early July, Frederick R. Wentland, NTIA's associate administrator in the Office of Spectrum Management, told the FCC that the NTIA did not favor Current Technologies LLC's <<http://www.currenttechnologies.com/>> request for a permanent waiver of the field strength limit specified for Class B emissions under FCC Part 15 rules. A Maryland BPL developer, Current Technologies already is field testing and marketing the technology.

Wentland worried that the pole-mounted interfaces and outdoor power lines used for BPL could interfere with public safety communication in the 30 to 50 MHz range. He told FCC Office of Engineering and Technology Chief Edmond J. Thomas that the "unobstructed and ubiquitous nature of this BPL application, and perhaps other aspects of BPL, differs considerably from the situations presently found in typical unintentional radiators" operating under Part 15.

Wentland--named recently to succeed Victory as NTIA administrator on an interim basis--also invited the FCC to coordinate its own BPL measurement activities with those of the NTIA.

The NTIA's comments, which have not been posted on the FCC Web site, are available on the NTIA Web site

MORE COUNTRIES DROP MORSE CODE REQUIREMENT

Two more countries have joined the small, but growing, list of administrations that no longer require Amateur Radio applicants to pass a Morse code test to have access to HF. Others have indicated they will do so soon. Affected countries also have granted HF privileges to their amateurs who hold "no-code" VHF/UHF licenses.

Joining Switzerland, Belgium, the UK and Germany are Norway and the Netherlands. Waiting in the wings are Austria and New Zealand.

The actions are in response to the World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 decision to delete the requirement to prove Morse code ability from the international Radio Regulations, leaving individual administrations to decide if they want to retain it or not.

The Norwegian Post and Telecommunication Authority <<http://www.npt.no/>> reportedly has told the Norwegian Radio Relay League <<http://www.nrrl.no/>> that the three former license classes--with LA, LB and LC call sign prefixes--were combined into one class on August 19. Those holding LC call signs have been issued new LA-prefix call signs, and those holding LB-prefix call signs may apply for LA call signs if they wish.

The Netherlands Radiocommunications Agency <<http://www.agentschaptelecom.nl/>> announced this week that Morse proficiency will cease to be a requirement for HF access as of September 1. The Netherlands' Class A and C licenses--which correspond to CEPT Classes 1 and 2 respectively--will enjoy the same privileges, although they'll retain their distinctive call sign prefixes for now. The change does not affect the Class N license, which permits 2-meter and 70-cm operation only. A letter to all amateurs was to go out this week to all hams in the Netherlands.

Information from Austria's IARU member-society, the Austrian Experimental Radio Transmitters Union (OeVSV) <<http://www.oevsv.at/>>, indicates that country will grant provisional HF access to all CEPT Class 2 licenses "sometime in September," pending formal changes.

New Zealand telecommunications authorities plan to remove the requirement for Morse competency from the General class syllabus as part of the next round of updates to that country's radiocommunications regulations. The change is expected to go into effect later this year.

In the US, six unrelated petitioners have requested the FCC to delete the requirement that applicants pass the 5 WPM

Element 1 Morse code test to gain HF access and make related changes in the Amateur Service rules (Part 97). The FCC has not yet invited public comment on any of these petitions.--some information from RSGB, No-Code International and Kees Murre, PA2CHM

POPULAR SATELLITE SHUTS DOWN

The popular and heavily used UO-14 FM satellite has quit working, and some in the amateur satellite community worry that the venerable easy-sat could be down for the count. UO-14 (145.975 MHz up, 435.070 MHz down for Mode J) failed to appear on August 5 over the western Americas, but ground controller Chris Jackson, G7UPN, later was able to reset the satellite from the UK.

The reason for that shutdown remains a mystery. "Since the flight computer is not operating, we have no way of knowing why this event occurred and can only hope that it is not a sign of more problems to come," Jackson said at the time. His words turned prophetic a week or so later when UO-14 again failed. It was still not back in operation at week's end.

"It seems that there is a problem with the UO-14 power system--possibly a battery cell has a fault," Jackson said after the second shutdown. "This is causing the spacecraft to shut down during some eclipses." Jackson said since this was shutting down the whole spacecraft, it was impossible to implement an automatic routine to periodically cycle the transmitter and keep it on.

Jackson said UO-14 had been changed over to a secondary power system that does not shut down quite as easily, and he was running UO-14's downlink in telemetry mode to find clues to the problem on board. One possible fix was to make the satellite automatically switch its power back on each time it passes over its Surrey, England, control point.

"UO-14 is getting on toward 14 years and has completed something on the order of 74,000 charge/discharge cycles of its NiCd batteries--not bad really," Jackson said. "Let's hope it can manage a few more."

AMSAT-NA Vice President for User Services Bruce Paige, KK5DO--a regular satellite user--says many UO-14 users have migrated to another FM satellite, SaudiSat SO-50 (145.800 MHz up, 436.800 MHz down, 67 Hz CTCSS tone, for Mode J). "It is a bit more difficult to work as you have to have a 67-Hz PL tone," he said. "The polarity of the satellite changes many times during a pass." Paige notes that hams nonetheless have had success with handheld transceivers and very modest antennas. He said SO-50 is typically on over North America.--AMSAT News Service/AMSAT BB

From *The ARRL Letter*, August 29, 2003

FCC INVITES COMMENTS ON SIX MORSE CODE-RELATED PETITIONS

The FCC has invited public comments on six separate Morse code-related petitions for rule making, some of which would altogether eliminate Element 1, the 5 WPM Morse test, from the Amateur Service rules (Part 97). World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) made optional the requirement to prove the ability to send and receive Morse signals to operate below 30 MHz.

A petition from Peter M. Beauregard, KI1I, designated RM-10781, would give all Technician licensees current Novice/Tech Plus CW privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters and limited phone and image privileges on 80, 40 and 10 meters. Beauregard said the CW privileges would "encourage Technician class licensees to upgrade to General" by giving them a "practice area." He has proposed new Tech phone/image privileges on 3850-3900 kHz and 7225-7300 kHz. His petition would not eliminate Element 1, however.

Pete V. Coppola, KG4QDZ, and family--Tina Coppola, KG4YUM, and Pete A. Coppola, KG4QDY--have asked the FCC to eliminate Element 1 from the rules. The Coppolas' petition, designated RM-10782, would grant Tech Plus HF privileges to current Technician licensees. It also would retain the current CW-only subbands. The Coppolas asked the FCC to make the change effective immediately on a provisional basis.

Kiernan K. Holliday, WA6BJH, has asked the FCC simply to "remove all requirements for knowledge of Morse code" from the Amateur Service rules. Holliday said there is less reason to require Morse code in the Amateur Service today. In his petition, designated RM-10783, Holliday also said the code requirement limits the ability of handicapped individuals to get ham tickets. "The Commission's policy should be to encourage the use of Amateur Radio," he said.

Dale Reich, K8AD, petitioned the FCC to delete Element 1 for General class applicants but keep it in place for Extra class applicants. Under Reich's scheme, "no-code" Techs wanting HF privileges would have to upgrade to General first. Reich's petition is designated RM-10784.

Eric Ward, N0HHS, seeks immediate elimination of "proficiency in telegraphy using Morse code." The "immediate removal of the telegraphy requirement from Amateur Radio licensing is appropriate and clearly in the public interest," Ward contended in his petition, designated RM-10785.

In a detailed, nine-page petition, the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) is calling on the FCC to delete Element 1 and give "Tech Plus" privileges to current Technician licensees. The NCVEC also asked the FCC to "take expedited action" to allow volunteer examiner

coordinators (VECs) to discontinue administering Element 1 "as soon as possible."

"The Amateur Service community suffers from the loss to its ranks of a large number of potentially excellent operators who are turned away because of the CW requirement," the NCVEC petition said.

The organization, the umbrella group for the 14 VECs in the US, said there's "no longer any reasonable justification for requiring an applicant to demonstrate this antiquated skill," and that most applicants never use Morse after they pass the test. The NCVEC petition is designated RM-10787.

The ARRL-VEC abstained from voting on the NCVEC's petition question when it came up during the NCVEC's July 25 meeting in Pennsylvania. At its own July meeting in Connecticut, the ARRL Board of Directors affirmed its interest in reviewing members' input on the Morse issue as well as on other possible revisions to Part 97 arising from WRC-03. The Board's current position is to retain the Morse requirement for HF access.

Two more recently filed petitions--one from No Code International and another from two amateur licensees--are expected to be put on public notice in the near future.

Interested parties may file comments on any or all of these petitions using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>, which also permits users to view the petitions and all comments on file. There is a 30-day comment window.

To file a comment, click on "Submit a Filing" under "ECFS Main Links." In the "Proceeding" field, type the full RM number, including the hyphen, and complete the required fields. "RM" must be in capital letters, and you must include the hyphen between "RM" and the five-digit number. You may type your remarks into a form or attach a file. ECFS also accepts comments in active proceedings via e-mail, per instructions on the ECFS page.

While a Morse code exam element remains on the books in the US, Canada and elsewhere, a handful of countries--including Switzerland, Belgium, the UK, Germany, Norway and the Netherlands--already have moved to drop their Morse requirements. Austria and New Zealand are expected to do so soon.

BPL PLACES FCC AT REGULATORY CROSSROAD, AMRAD SUGGESTS

Encouraging Broadband over Power Line (BPL) technology puts the FCC at a regulatory crossroad, the Amateur Radio Research and Development Corporation (AMRAD) <<http://www.amrad.org>> has suggested. AMRAD's remarks came August 20 in reply comments filed in response to the

FCC's BPL Notice of Inquiry (ET Docket 03-104). The Washington, DC-based organization's comments also outlined its BPL testing and measurement efforts, which included laboratory and real-world conditions. AMRAD said any departure from the "current baseline" of Part 15 rules that govern unlicensed services would invite "troublesome unintended consequences" that could prove difficult to correct.

"The FCC is facing some serious decisions on whether to continue with past rules and historical enforcement or to dispense with their historical role and substitute rules which give the unlicensed Part 15 systems priority over the licensed systems such as the amateur radio service," AMRAD said. "Such changes to Part 15 rules would tip the responsibility of compliance so as to favor the unlicensed users and leave the FCC facing a large number of harmful interference complaints to resolve."

AMRAD recommended the FCC proceed "slowly and with caution" in advancing BPL as a viable and economical alternative to existing high-speed Internet technologies.

The non-profit scientific and educational organization expressed concerns as to whether the FCC would be able to enforce Part 15 rules as written in the face of neighborhood Internet service interruptions caused by "a single radio amateur or other FCC-licensed radio transmitter." It said its own testing has demonstrated that a 20-meter amateur transmitter running as little as 10 W in the vicinity of an in-house HomePlug standard BPL local network could seriously impair the system's throughput. A 100 W signal would cause it to collapse altogether.

Ironically, the HomePlug standard substantially notches out the amateur bands--something ARRL convinced the HomePlug Powerline Alliance to do after amateur complaints sparked a recall of HomePlug-standard devices. The new 60-meter band is not notched out, however.

AMRAD said its observations and tests demonstrate that broadband BPL signals that conform to Part 15 "are well above the ambient noise and will interfere with many forms of reception." It said other non-HomePlug-standard systems that don't notch out ham bands "could cause more serious interference problems."

In the final analysis, AMRAD said, the FCC "must proceed with great care and take actions now to conduct testing to gather critical information" before making regulatory assessments. "The FCC efforts should remain focused on providing broadband to the home and not focus on any specific technology," AMRAD asserted.

AMRAD member Frank Gentges, K0BRA, recently assisted ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, in the League's efforts to assess the impact of BPL on HF. Gentges gave Hare a guided tour of "hot neighborhoods" in Manassas,

Virginia, where BPL is undergoing field trials.

Although the reply comment window closed August 20, the number of comments in response to the FCC's BPL NOI was 4553 as of August 29 and counting, with some 100 comments filed since the deadline. Many comments in the BPL proceeding have come from the Amateur Radio community.

AMRAD's reply comments are available on the FCC Web site <http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6514683575>.

From *The ARRL Letter*, September 5, 2003

FCC PUTS NO-CODE INTERNATIONAL'S MORSE PETITION ON PUBLIC NOTICE

The FCC has invited public comments on another Morse code-related petition for rule making--this one from No-Code International (NCI) <<http://www.nocode.org/>>. It's designated RM-10786. When the FCC put six other Morse-related petitions in the sequence RM-10781 through RM-10787 on public notice, RM-10786 failed to show up on the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>. It remained missing through September 2. NCI calls on the FCC to delete Element 1--the 5 WPM Morse code exam--"totally" from the Amateur Service rules and grant "Tech Plus" privileges to current Technicians. It also wants the FCC to act on the matter as soon as possible, preferably in a separate rule making and without further ado.

"[T]he Commission clearly has the authority to modify its rules on its own initiative and without further public notice or comment," NCI asserted in its 20-page petition.

NCI notes that World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) made optional the requirement to prove the ability to send and receive Morse signals to operate below 30 MHz. As a result, "the Commission is no longer bound to maintain any Morse proficiency requirement." The Morse requirement, NCI contends, is keeping newcomers away from Amateur Radio.

Comments poured in this week from members of the amateur community on all seven petitions. Clearly ahead in the comment-collection race is the petition filed by the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators, RM-10787, which had collected more than 350 comments by week's end. The other petitions each have garnered more than 100 comments apiece.

Interested parties may file comments on any or all petitions now on public notice <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-238494A1.pdf> by using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS)

<<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>. The ECFS also permits users to view all comments on file. There is a 30-day comment window.

To file a comment, click on "Submit a Filing" under "ECFS Main Links." In the "Proceeding" field, type the full RM number, including the hyphen, and complete the required fields. "RM" must be in capital letters, and you must include the hyphen between "RM" and the five-digit number. You may type your remarks into a form or attach a file. ECFS also accepts comments in active proceedings via e-mail, per instructions on the ECFS page.

To view any comments already submitted for each petition, click on "Search for Filed Comments" under "ECFS Main Links" and type in the complete RM number, including the hyphen, in the "Proceeding" field. "RM" must be in capital letters, and you must include the hyphen between "RM" and the five-digit number.

Several countries--including Switzerland, Belgium, the UK, Germany, Norway and the Netherlands--already have moved to drop their Morse requirements. Austria, New Zealand and Australia are expected to do so soon.

December Meeting

Our annual Christmas meeting this year will be a luncheon again instead of a dinner. It will be held on Saturday December 20 at the Hungary Hunter in Milpitas, (Calaveras Blvd just off Hwy 680, old yellow house location).

Lunch is at 12 noon. Please note that on Saturday, there isn't a regular bar, but you will be able to order a bottle of wine for the table.

This year we will not be having the raffle prize drawings. Instead we will have a gift exchange. The way it works is that everyone brings a wrapped gift suitable for a man or woman costing about \$8-\$10. This type of gift exchange is always a lot of fun to participate in.

Reservations need to be in by Friday Dec. 12 (see sign-up sheet). Talk-in will be on our repeater, W6UU, 146.385+ (simplex if you can't hit the repeater). Why not renew your membership at the same time?

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there!

73, Don K6PBQ

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the packet network:

=====
Date: 27 Jun 2000 02:03
From: G7ALT@GB7BOB
To: HUMOR@WW
Subject: Fun Ads.

Lost:small apricot poodle. Reward. Neutered. Just like one of the family.

A superb and inexpensive restaurant. Fine foods expertly served by waitresses in appetizing forms.

Dinner Special - Turkey \$2.35; Chicken or Beef \$2.30; Children \$1.50.

For sale: Antique desk suitable for lady with thick legs and large drawers.

For sale: A quilted high chair that can be made into a table, pottie chair rocking horse, refrigerator, spring coat, size 8 and fur collar.

Four poster bed, 101 years old. Perfect for antique lover.

Now is your chance to have your ears pierced and get an extra pair to take home, too!

Wanted: Fifty girls for stripping machine operators in factory.

Wanted: Unmarried girls to pick fresh fruit and produce at night.

We do not tear your clothing with machinery. We do it carefully by hand

No matter what your topcoat is made of, this miracle spray will make it really repellent.

For Sale. Three canaries of undermined sex.

For Sale, eight puppies from a German Shepherd and an Alaskan Hussy.

8 ounces of choice sirloin steak, boiled to your likeness and smothered with golden fried onion rings.

Great Dames for sale.

Have several very old dresses from grandmother in beautiful condition.

Tired of cleaning yourself? Let me do it.

Save regularly in our bank. You'll never regret it.

Fashers!

During the past couple of months during the hot weather, there has been numerous complains to the police about the park flasher's. So the Police and Park Keepers have been on extra patrol duties to combat this problem.

A Police Spokesman said in the local paper that these occurrences are quite usual, but they tend to fall off in the winter!

Regards de Gordon.G7ALT @ GB7BOB
QTH Lostock Hall IO83PR
e-mail : gordong7alt@aol.com

=====
Date: 30 Jun 2000 23:36
From: AB7RG@AB7RG
To: QUOTES@WW
Subject: QUOTES # 046 !!!

... <== Grains of salt. Take this bulletin with them.

When in doubt, mumble.

If you think that I look stupid, try looking into a mirror.

If something sounds stupid but it works, it isn't stupid.

I'm so broke I'm in debt to myself.

If I wanted your opinion I'd give it to you.

I'd like to get on your level, but I can't get my head that far up my butt.

If you think you're confused now, just wait until you start reading the instructions!

Reality is merely an illusion.

Tired of Error Messages? Buy a Macintosh!

My dog thinks it's a human. My cat thinks it's a god.

Happiness is BEING the DX station.

Good Day: When you get W.A.S. on six meters.

Bad Day: When you call CQ for an hour, then realize that your coax isn't hooked up.

Oxymoron: Easy digging.

I bet you can't stop reading here... Hah! I knew it!

Sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic. (To most people that is...)

"I didn't lose it... It's around here, somewhere..."

The difference between stupidity and genius is that stupidity has no limits.

Famous Last Words: "A high SWR won't hurt anything!"

Oxymoron: Friendly Fire.

I'd sell you some of my reality, but it's in short supply!

Question: If a lawyer was an insect, which insect would he be? Answer: A mosquito of course!

When in doubt, call in an airstrike!

Failure is NOT an option.

Passion is the ultimate motivator.

They say that a smile is universal for friendship. Want to bet? Go try it with a lion...

This program has performed an illegal function. Now running FBI.EXE...

Without reason, there is only insanity.

The secret of great wit is saying much by saying little.

Ever stop to think, and forget to start again?

This bulletin is 100% guaranteed to have errors in it. If not, this Quote must be in error.

Good Day: When it's nice, sunny, and warm outside.

Bad Day: When you find the Statue of Liberty half-buried on the beach.

This Quote bulletin sent entirely on 100% recycled bandwidth.

Is it just me or is reality getting weirder in here?

You truly are sick when you can make fun of anything.

Ever notice how close the Enter and Delete keys are to each other?

"There's no place like home... Hey, wait a minute, what do you mean 'a mental home'???"

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

=====
Date: 21 Jun 2000 06:32
From: AB7RG@AB7RG
To: FARCE@WW
Subject: Going Shopping...

Tracy watched as the cashier rang up her purchases. "Cash, check or charge?" She asked after folding the items Jennifer had bought. As she fumbled for her wallet, the cashier noticed a remote control for a television set in her purse.

"Do you always carry your TV remote?" the cashier asked. "No," she replied, "but my husband Rob, refused to come shopping with me, so I figured this was the most evil thing I could do to him."

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

Newsletter Notes

Not a whole lot new to report this month...

Remember in the last issue I asked what the club would like regarding content and those ARRL News items? So far, not a peep. Either no one cares or no one is reading this. I even mentioned it at the last meeting, but the silence was deafening. Evidently, that puts it in the "no one cares" category. So, I guess I'll just keep going like I'm going.

On another subject...

This comes up each year, but it's worth mentioning anyway. October is the month we nominate officers and directors. Elections are in November.

The same people have been doing the same job for years now. How about someone new lending a hand for a change?

Participating in the club as a higher-up isn't hard work and it doesn't take that much time. For directors, most of it is just participating in one board meeting each month. That's not so tough.

We especially need a vice president and a secretary. Granted, those take a little more work than that of a director, but they are not killer jobs. I've got arguably the club's hardest job and even this isn't *that* bad.

Don't just *sit* on your hands, raise one of them at the October meeting when they ask for candidates! It's not that bad. C'mon, you know you want to.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

December Luncheon Meeting Sign-up

Our annual December christmas meeting will be a luncheon this time; on Saturday December 20, at the Hungry Hunter in Milpitas, Calaveras Blvd just east of Hwy 680 (old yellow house location), we've been there before. Luncheon is at 12 noon. Please note that on Saturday there isn't a regular bar. You will be able to order a bottle of wine for the table.

We will have a choice of four entrees. The regular lunch is \$15.00 each, children's choices are indicated below. Reservations need to be in by Friday, December 12. Talk-in on our repeater W6UU, 146.385+ (simplex if you can't hit the repeater). I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there. Why not renew your membership (back cover) at the same time? See "December Meeting" article for information on gift exchange.

-- Don K6PBQ

For the annual meeting in December, sign me up for the following lunch(es):
From the regular menu, \$15.00 each:

_____ Prime Ribs of Beef	_____ Forest Mushroom Chicken
_____ Salmon	_____ Vegetarian Pasta

From the Children's menu:

_____ Deli Burger, \$7.50	_____ Chicken Strips, \$7.50
_____ Fried Shrimp, \$8.75	Total for lunches: \$ _____

Please renew your membership (over) at the same time--combine both payments here -- GRAND TOTAL: \$ _____

Give this form (or copy) with payment to the Treasurer or mail to: SCCARA PO Box 6 San Jose CA 95103-0006

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

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: _____

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: \$15 Individual \$20 Family \$5 Student (under 18)

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

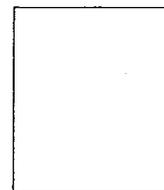
Give this completed form (or copy) with payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or mail to the return address below.

====> 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



FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED