

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 19, Number 11

November 2003



Attention All SCCARA Members!

Club Station Survey

Would you use the club station once in a while if it had a wide variety of modes and capabilities? Yes/No

SCCARA's club station has always had a HF rig, but that's about it. Nearly all of you have that, so there isn't much of a reason for members to go out of their way to use the club station.

However, what if the club station were really nice and had many things available? What if it had satellite capability, RTTY, slow and fast scan TV? Would you be interested in trying meteor scatter on 6 meters? How about keyboard to keyboard on packet? Or any other modes and capabilities that you may not have at home?

SCCARA needs to know if it should put in the investment to really spruce up the club station. We have the money, it's a question of whether you'd use it.

The club editor (Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU) will be collecting your answers. All we need is your call sign and whether you might occasionally use an enhanced club station. Please e-mail your response to wb6yru@ix.netcom.com, telephone at 265-2336 (leave a message), or tell Gary at the next meeting.

President's Prose

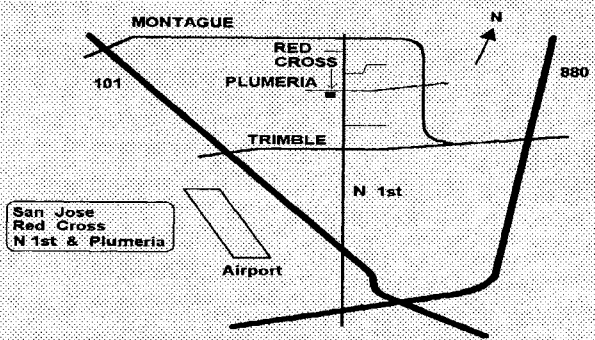
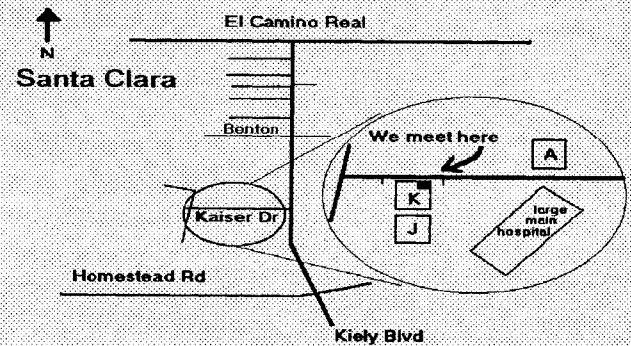
This year has been a busy one for me. I am still recovering from the spider bite of last year. There were several relapses of cellulitis, which required antibiotic therapy. I want to thank all of you for your interest and support for my problems. I have tried not to let them keep me from my

Calendar

- 11/2 Livermore Electronic Flea Market
- 11/10 SCCARA General Meeting--elections!
- 11/15-16 Phone Sweepstakes (see page 2)
- 11/17 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting:

- Day: Monday, November 10, 2003
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Bld K, Rm 1
- Featuring: Dick Delp KD6QG, Electronic & Computer museum



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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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Secretary	- - -	
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	e-mail: ldevaughns@aol.com	
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	e-mail: clarkmurph@yahoo.com	
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	e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net	
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

duties as president.

October is a busy month. There was the regular meeting at which the scheduled speaker didn't show. There were nominations of offers for election in November. They nominated the same officers for next year as last year. There were no nominations for Vice President or Secretary. If anyone wants to be secretary, it would only be for one year as this year is my last as President. Next year I will take the position of secretary. It was nice to see Kailash Gupta at the meeting last month. He is becoming a regular visitor. He announced at the October meeting, that he had passed the test to become a licensed ham. It took about three days to get the answer that he had passed his test and would be licensed in the USA. When he goes back to India, he will have the privilege of using either license for transmitting. Kailash explained that in India, it takes three years to get licensed once you pass the test. Kailash visited Pacificon. Pacificon took place on October 17, 18, and 19, in San Ramon. Wally went up on Saturday morning, and bought two new ICOM radios. He said it had been over eight years since we had purchased any new radios. He plans to send the Alincos back to the shop for repairs. They will be used as back-up radios. Do any of you have a back up HT in case of emergency? October 17 was the anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake. It is also a good time to review the emergency preparedness steps that you have put into practice at your homes and offices.

The speaker for November will be Ben Vickers, WA6FRM. He will be talking about weather stations that are used by CDF at remote fire locations. Hope to see you there. November is also election of officers. Come to the meeting and support your club.



Barbara K. Britten, KD6QEI, President

Sweepstakes

Phone Weekend

November 15-17, 2003

2100 UTC Nov. 15 — 0300 UTC Nov. 17
 (1 PM Sat. to 7 PM Sun. PST)

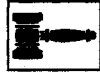
This year SCCARA will operate the phone weekend of the ARRL Sweepstakes contest on Saturday only from our club station at the Red Cross on First St. This is a great contest with lots of practice in sending traffic. It's always a lot of fun to operate as a club. Please mark your calendars and call myself, Lou WA6QYS, Wally KA6YMD, or Barbara KD6QEI for sign-ups and info.

Lets all make this a great fun activity for SCCARA.

73, Done Village, K6PBO

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Oct. 13, 2003



CALL TO ORDER: 7:35 PM

PICNIC: Great! Thanks to Don Village for the cake for Barbara Britten's birthday. Contacts made at the radios station included a special events station at the USCG Auxiliary in Hawaii, and a QSO party in Texas.

INTO'S: 12 regular members; 1 visitor, Kailash Gupta, KG6SQR. He took the test to be licensed in the USA. It took three weeks for him to get his US license vs three years to get his Indian license. When he gets back to India he will be able to use either call sign for transmitting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PRESIDENT: NASA speaker Bill Notley is a no show (the second time he has done this). There is no known reason why. Barbara will call him to find out why he did not show or call to cancel. Pacificon is October 17,18, & 19. Keynote speaker at the Saturday night banquet will be Joel Harrison, First Vice President of the ARRL.

TREASURER: Checking: \$2,376.56, Savings: \$4,923.57

REPEATER: No formal report from NARCC regarding sanction. They might be sitting on our application as we are the opposite of what NARCC wants us to be. There is no 2 meter band plan. Roy Metzger, K6VIP, will try to get the NARCC president to attend the next Board meeting. Another alternative for getting sanctioned is to be sanctioned by San Jose Races since we are tied to them. Don Apte, KK6MX, said that he would get information on RACES/SCCARA sanction and bring it to the Board meeting. Gary Mitchell, KB6YRU, said that we can change the bylaws, and it's done. The sanctioning has to be part of the Charter. Trish Gibbons, WA6UBE, has ordered the crystals for the radio at Eagle Rock. Once the crystals are installed in the radio, a test will be conducted. Roy Metzger will check with Trish as to how long the test will be, (one day or longer). NARCC doesn't let repeater owners know when the end of the sanctioning contract has occurred so that it can be renewed before the end of the sanctioning period. Subject was tabled until the Board meeting until more information was obtained.

NEWSLETTER: No changes to report.

BBS: Gary Mitchell reported that he reset things and it worked for a while. The modem is not answering recently. E-mails that were stacked up, were cleared out, then the modem went down. The reason why the modem is not working may be a power problem.

OLD BUSINESS:

CLARK MURPHY HAS AN ANTENNA FOR ANYONE WHO WANTS IT.

Clark has a 6 meter antenna in his backyard he wants to get rid of. Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, said that he would contact the West Valley Club to see if they want it. Price of the antenna was not discussed. Clark also has a 50+ foot disc cone antenna. If no SCCARA member wants it, he will ask PAARA club members if anyone wants it. He also has some loose tubing. If no one wants these things, he will sell them for scrap.

COLLINS RADIO: Dave Shaver, a member of the Collins Collectors Club, is interested in buying the Collins Radio. Lou Steirer said the value of the Collins is about \$2,000.00. The amplifier's approximate value is \$1,500.00. Each option for the radio is about \$300.00 each. Lou will contact Dave and report at the Board meeting. Clark Murphy is to talk to his E-Bay contact for selling the Collins, and then report to the Board.

BREAK: 8:30 PM to 8:40PM.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2004:

Nominees: President: Barbara K. Britten, KD6QEI
Vice President: None
Secretary: None
Treasurer: Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI
Station Trustee: Don Hayden, KO6HH
Director: Clark Murphy, KE6KXO
Director: Lou Steirer, WA6QYS

NEW BUSINESS:

CLUB STATION: No news on the Club station at Regional Hospital. There is a smaller station that is seldom used at the American Red Cross. Gary Mitchell suggested that SCCARA beef up all modes. Don Apte, reported that there is an activity in November that club members might like to participate in. There is a sweepstakes on two weekends in November, one for phone and one for code.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON: 12/20 at noon at the Hungry Hunter in Milpitas. The price for dinner is \$15.00, and there are three choices of meal. Bring a gift for gift exchange. **JOTA ON THE AIR/** Scouting on the Air: Milpitas, KM6BSA; Saratoga, K6BSA; Don Village, K6PBQ; and at a station set up at Pacificon. Stations will be on the air from 10:00 AM onward.

SVECS: The next SVECS quarterly breakfast is 10/25 at the Santa Clara Senior Citizens Center, at the corner of Monroe and Forbes. The speaker will be Ben Vickers, WB6FRM. His topic will be the remote weather stations used in the field by the CDF.

ARC STATION: There is room in the Red Cross station to put more modes in for use by the club members. Lloyd

DeVaughns made a motion to find out if more people would use the station if more modes were available. Seconded by Gary Mitchell. Motion passed. People who would use the station more are to e-mail their answer to Gary Mitchell at WB6YRU @

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:25 PM.
Barbara K. Britten KD6QEI

Board Meeting, Aug. 18, 2003



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

News from the ARRL

From *The ARRL Letter*, September 26, 2003

ARRL REBUKES FCC COMMISSIONER'S "BROADBAND NIRVANA" REMARKS

The ARRL has strongly objected to FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy's suggestion that Broadband over Power Line (BPL) technology will contribute to what she described as "broadband Nirvana." Addressing the United Powerline Council's annual conference September 22 in Arlington, Virginia, Abernathy expressed unabashed enthusiasm for BPL and recommended a combination of regulatory restraint and the elimination or substantial modification of existing rules as steps along the "path to Enlightenment," as she put it. In a terse response faxed September 25 on behalf of the League's 155,000 members, ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, asserted that Abernathy overlooked some significant issues in her Nirvana analogy.

"Nightmare is more like it," Sumner declared. "The technical showings submitted by the ARRL and others in response to the Commission's Notice of Inquiry (NOI) in ET Docket No. 03-104 clearly establish that BPL is a significant source of radio spectrum pollution. It cannot be implemented without causing harmful interference to over-the-air radio services."

Sumner told Abernathy that while BPL industry groups, such as the one she addressed this week, prefer to deny the evidence, the FCC is obliged to work to a higher standard.

In its comments in response to the FCC NOI, the League characterized BPL as "a Pandora's Box of unprecedented proportions" and said the Commission's Part 15 rules "should be modified so as to prevent interference to users of the HF and low VHF spectrum" from the outset.

Abernathy's speech, "Reaching Broadband Nirvana," never broached the topic of BPL's potential to interfere with other radio services. Recently, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) <<http://www.ntia.doc.gov>>--which regulates spectrum allocated to federal government users--expressed "broad concerns" about interference to government users and launched an extensive modeling, analysis and measurement program for BPL. In his letter, Sumner reminded Abernathy that the radio spectrum is a precious natural resource.

"To squander that resource simply to add a redundant, unnecessary, and relatively poorly performing 'last mile' connection for consumers, is unconscionable," he said. Sumner expressed the hope that Abernathy will give the League an early opportunity to explain its BPL concerns to her in person.

In her remarks to the UPLC gathering, Abernathy contended that it's been regulatory restraint rather than heavy-handed regulation that has allowed nascent platforms such as direct broadcast satellite (DBS) to become competitively viable. "When the Commission completes this rulemaking," she said, "I expect that we will eliminate many existing rules and substantially modify others; the central question is the degree of regulation that will remain during the transition to a more robustly competitive market."

Individuals may e-mail Abernathy via her FCC Web site <<http://www.fcc.gov/commissioners/abernathy/mail.html>> or directly <kabernat@fcc.gov>. The text of her prepared remarks also is available on the FCC Web site <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-239079A1.doc>.

The League's initial 120-page package of comments and technical exhibits <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et03-104/>> and its reply comments <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et03-104/reply-comments-index.html>> are available on the ARRL Web site. Additional information and BPL video clips are on the ARRL "Power Line Communications (PLC) and Amateur Radio" page <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>>.

To support the League's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>>. To date, more than 4600 comments--many from the Amateur Radio community--have been filed in response to the FCC's BPL NOI. They are available for viewing via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>.

AMATEUR RADIO ENFORCEMENT "THE RILEY WAY" MARKS FIVE YEARS

Close to 1000 Amateur Radio enforcement cases have crossed his desk since Riley Hollingsworth was tapped five

years ago to resurrect the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement efforts. That doesn't include countless ham radio "situations" he's resolved through informal counseling on the telephone or through an exchange of e-mails. At the time he took the job in the fall of 1998, Hollingsworth--whose official title is Special Counsel for Enforcement--called it "a new day for Amateur Radio" after years of amateur enforcement neglect on the Commission's part. As he sees things today, rules compliance and on-air behavior have improved since the new sheriff rode into town, but there's still lots to do.

"I'm fairly satisfied with the progress that we've made in five years," Hollingsworth said in modest acknowledgment of the milestone, "but I think we need at least five more years of this type--of this level--of enforcement, because the bands have quite a long way to go. It's no time to rest."

Five years ago, Hollingsworth began with a "top-10" list of alleged high-profile Amateur Radio offenders. By and large, he's slowly--and most would say successfully--worked his way to the point that many of today's cases appear comparatively mundane. But they get the same level of attention.

"The biggest problem we have now, I think, stems from conduct-type problems--lack of courtesy, taking serious offense and reacting to what is perceived as deliberate interference," Hollingsworth said this week. "Ninety percent of the interference that's reported to me is not deliberate." As he regards all enforcement cases, the remaining 10 percent are "serious."

"I think a lot of the 'radio rage' has subsided, but I wish that people would be a little more aware of just how valuable Amateur Radio is and how they sound on the air," said Hollingsworth. That's a message he's repeated often on the hamfest circuit.

"Maintenance mode" is a goal he'd like to see enforcement achieve. Hollingsworth explained that's when the number of enforcement cases is perceived to be in balance with the number of licensees. "I don't think we're there yet in the Amateur Service, but I think that we can get there," he said. Hollingsworth credits the amateur community's desire for strong, even stern, enforcement for his program's success.

"Probably 99 percent of the reason it's worked is everybody wants it," he said. "In this service they plead for enforcement. In every other service, they don't want to see you coming." This attitude, he believes, stems from a sincere desire by licensees to keep Amateur Radio a self-policing service. He counts keeping the support of the amateur community among his major accomplishments.

Looking out on the Amateur Radio enforcement horizon, Hollingsworth said he'll "keep pedaling" and chipping away at the enforcement workload. He'll also continue to look to the assistance and cooperation of his fellow radio amateurs, whom he called "just good people."

Amateurs "have got to stick together and cooperate and stay away from the infighting because they've got some very serious external threats," Hollingsworth said, citing BPL as just one example. "To the extent that they're not rowing together, it makes those threats more dangerous."

In his many public appearances--including several at Hamvention--Hollingsworth has stayed "on message" over the five years of his amateur enforcement tenure. "I just want everyone to realize what they have," he said. "We have incredible frequencies, power, modes, and so forth." He said a realization of the value of Amateur Radio itself is a deterrent to potential rule breakers, but he said Amateur Radio enforcement is "permanently ensconced" at the FCC.

While he's had some very interesting assignments and enjoyed nearly every day of his tenure with the FCC, he says the past five years have been the highlight of his 30-year FCC career.

"My greatest satisfaction is thinking that I may have paid back a debt," said Hollingsworth, who's been licensed since age 13. "It's the most rewarding thing I've ever done with the Commission."

From *The ARRL Letter*, October 3, 2003

HUNDREDS COMMENT ON MORSE PETITIONS

Although the bell has sounded ending Round 1 of the comment period on the initial seven Morse code-related petitions for rulemaking, members of the Amateur Radio community continue to post their opinions. Some of the petitions called for altogether eliminating Element 1, the 5 WPM Morse test, from the Amateur Service rules (Part 97). The FCC recorded a total of nearly 2300 comments on the petitions, although the number of commenters is likely much smaller since many individuals commented on more than one petition. While some were content to express a brief comment pro or con, a few put forth recommendations that were nearly petitions in themselves. The tenor of many comments reflected the fact that Morse code remains an emotional issue.

"The CW issue, as expected, is a very gut-wrenching issue for many hams," ARRL Great Lakes Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, observed recently. "Sometimes we mortals let issues to which we have emotional ties get out of perspective."

The ARRL did not comment on any of the seven initial petitions for rule making and has no plans to comment on any future such petitions. ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, explained that there's no particular urgency to the issue and ample reason for the League to devote its attention to issues having more immediacy such as the Broadband over Power Line (BPL) threat.

"There have been numerous proposals submitted to the FCC with regard to amateur licensing qualifications and privileges," Sumner said. "No doubt there will be more. There is no need for the ARRL to react to each and every one."

The Petition for Rule Making filed by the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC), designated RM-10787, attracted the most attention, logging more than 600 comments. The NCVEC reported the tally on its proposals was 56 percent in favor of dropping Element 1 and 43 percent opposed, with 1 percent of the comments either undecipherable or taking no position.

Other Morse-related petitions were filed by Peter M. Beaugard, KI1I, Pete V. Coppola, KG4QDZ, and family, Tina Coppola, KG4YUM, and Pete A. Coppola, KG4QDY, Kiernan K. Holliday, WA6BJH, Dale Reich, K8AD, Eric Ward, N0HHS, and No-Code International <<http://www.nocode.org>>.

The FCC has yet to put another five Morse code-related petitions for rulemaking on public notice and invite comments. Sumner predicted it would be "months, if not longer" before the FCC takes any action on any of the petitions. In the meantime, he said, "there is plenty of time for the ARRL to receive considered input from its members and either to formulate a reasoned proposal for change or a rationale for maintaining the status quo."

At its January 2001 meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors reaffirmed the League's position to retain the Morse code examination requirement for HF access. World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) left it up to individual countries to decide whether or not they want a Morse requirement for HF privileges.

In the wake of WRC-03, the ARRL Executive Committee has been working on its own comprehensive Amateur Radio licensing proposal, of which the Morse requirement would be a part. Once completed, the proposal will go to the ARRL Board of Directors for consideration and possible action at its January 2004 meeting. "There is simply no urgency to address it any sooner than that," Sumner said.

The most recent countries to summarily drop the Morse requirement are Ireland, Singapore and Luxembourg. Switzerland, Belgium, the UK, Germany, Norway, the Netherlands, Austria, New Zealand and Australia also have moved to drop their Morse requirements or are expected to do so this year.

From *The ARRL Letter*, October 10, 2003

WORLD'S BROADCASTERS JOIN ANTI-BPL CHORUS

A subcommittee of an International Telecommunication

Union (ITU) <<http://www.itu.org/>> panel of technical experts responsible for terrestrial broadcasting issues has joined a growing chorus of concern about the interference potential of power line telecommunication (PLT)--better known in the US as Broadband over Power Line (BPL). ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) Sub Working Group (SWG) 6E1 expressed the view that interference produced by systems employing PLT as well as by Industrial, Scientific and Medical (ISM) equipment and short-range devices, would compromise broadcast reception.

"SWG 6E1 is of the opinion that any increase in the amount of noise due to these systems is unacceptable," said a statement from the group's chairman to the chairman of Working Party 6E (WP 6E). "In particular, broadcast services should be protected from unwanted emissions from PLT systems," the panel asserted, "as these emissions are a byproduct of a system that is not itself a user of the radio spectrum." The panel recommended the formation of a group representing all users of the radio spectrum "to coordinate development of limits to be imposed on the radiation from these systems."

WP 6E says it will continue to study the effects of PLT/BPL, ISM equipment and short-range devices on terrestrial broadcasting and send the results to ITU-R Working Party 1A, which is responsible for spectrum engineering techniques. WP 1A is scheduled to meet in Geneva October 30 to November 5.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, expressed strong support and appreciation for the SWG's conclusions and the ongoing efforts of parent Working Party 6E to study the issue. "If BPL is a problem for broadcasters," Sumner said, "it's easy to see that it would be a disaster for us."

Broadcasters themselves also have exhibited increased concern about the potential of PLT/BPL to prevent their signals from reaching listeners. The Research and Development branch of the highly regarded British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has released a White Paper <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/rd/pubs/whp/whp067.html>> reporting on a brief trial in Scotland. The two competing PLT/BPL systems in operation in the town of Crieff both interfered with HF reception. Tests were conducted at four locations.

"The forms of access PLT that were tested in Crieff were found to have demonstrable potential to cause interference to indoor reception of broadcasting in relevant bands," the White Paper concluded. Significant interference even occurred in one residential area with an underground power distribution cable. BBC engineers described the interference as varying between "annoying" and "a level sufficient to make the broadcast completely unintelligible." Before commercially licensing PLT, the report advised, regulators need to undertake further study of other PLT systems and, among other issues, look into possible ways to make the PLT

systems compatible with radio reception.

A report prepared by the Australian Communications Authority (ACA), Broadband Powerline Communications Systems--A Background Brief <http://www.aca.gov.au/radcomm/frequency_planning/spps/0311spp.pdf>, concluded that "a potential risk to HF radiocommunications services from the widespread use of broadband powerline communications systems" appeared to exist. Citing BPL trials in the US, Europe and Asia, the ACA brief said, "The results of these trials have not alleviated concerns over the potential interference risk to radiocommunications."

ARRL's comments <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et03-104/>>, reply comments <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et03-104/reply-comments-index.html>> and technical exhibits filed with the FCC in response to the Commission's Notice of Inquiry (ET Docket ET 03-104) are available on the ARRL Web site. See also the article "BPL is a Pandora's Box of Unprecedented Proportions, ARRL Tells FCC" <<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 <<http://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/>>.

FCC INVITES COMMENTS ON ADDITIONAL MORSE CODE-RELATED PETITIONS

The FCC has sounded the bell to begin Round 2 of the Morse code debate by inviting public comment on another group of seven Morse-related petitions for rulemaking. The FCC put the petitions on public notice October 8, and comments are due by November 7. Members of the amateur community may make their opinions known on any or all of these filings using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>. The petitions are RM-10805 through RM-10811. To summarize:

- Charles L. Young Jr, AG4YO, asks the FCC to delete the 5 WPM Morse code test (Element 1) for Technician-plus-Element 1 privileges (formerly "Tech Plus"). Designated RM-10805, his petition would retain Element 1 as an examination requirement for General and Amateur Extra applicants and give Technicians limited HF SSB privileges.

- Describing CW as "the purest, most accurate, efficient, reliable and economical form of radio communications ever devised," Frank Napurano, K2OKA, requests that the FCC retain the 5 WPM Morse requirement "in the interest of public safety, the preservation of a radio art and as a tribute of support for a prized and respected avocation." The FCC designated his filing as RM-10806.

- A petition by Robert G. Rightsell, AE4FA and Harry A.M. Kholer, N0PU, designated RM-10807, would continue Morse testing but give applicants up to 24 points of exam credit according to their success on Element 1. The final exam score would be the sum of earned Element 1 points and the written test score for a possible total of 100 points. Their petition also calls on the FCC to consolidate the Novice and Technician and the Advanced and Amateur Extra licenses, boost the number and range of written test questions and give new Technicians CW and data privileges.

- Joseph Speroni, AH0A, seeks to have the FCC delete Element 1 for applicants who want to operate phone on HF but retain Element 1 at 5 WPM for applicants who want to operate CW. Designated RM-10808, his petition would restructure the Amateur Radio testing regime to require specific knowledge of "RTTY, data, image, spread spectrum, pulse/test, RACES/ARES and space communications only for those wishing to operate these modes." Under Speroni's plan, applicants would be under no obligation to pass mode-specific examination elements for mode privileges they don't wish to operate.

- The Puerto Rico Amateur Radio League (PRARL) asks the FCC to delete Element 1 for Technician and General classes but to increase the rigor of the written elements for those two license classes. The PRARL would keep the 5 WPM Morse exam for Extra applicants. The PRARL also would eliminate same-session retesting and require 30 days between retakes. The petition is designated RM-10809.

- James Roux, W4YA, proposes in his petition, designated RM-10810, that the FCC cut the number of license classes to two--General and Amateur Extra--and the number of written examination elements to one--at the General level. Roux's petition would eliminate the 5 WPM Morse code exam for General but require Extra applicants to pass a 15 WPM test. Roux also would give Generals all currently available amateur privileges except the Extra-class CW sub-bands.

- A petition filed on behalf of FISTS CW Club <<http://www.fists.org>> would delete the requirement to pass Element 1 to obtain Technician plus Element 1 (ie, "Tech Plus") HF privileges. Designated RM-10811, it would merge Tech and Tech Plus into a single class, emphasize technical content, including digital modes, on written examinations and extend digital mode privileges within Novice/Tech Plus sub-bands. It would not provide additional HF phone privileges for Technicians, however. The FISTS petition would retain a 5 WPM Morse exam for General applicants and raise the Morse exam to 12 WPM for Amateur Extra applicants while increasing the technical level on written examinations for both classes.

The FISTS CW Club petition had attracted more than 230 comments by week's end. In all, the FCC had recorded a total of approximately 500 comments on the seven petitions as of October 10.

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 all comments on file.

To file a comment, click on "Submit a Filing" under "ECFS Main Links." In the "Proceeding" field, type the full RM number 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 filed comments, 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.

73 MAGAZINE SAYS "73 AND QRT"

After completing 43 years of publication, 73 Amateur Radio Today magazine is calling it quits. Plans to publish a joint October/November issue fell through this week, and the September 2003 issue was the magazine's last. According to self-proclaimed "El Supremo and Founder" Wayne S. Green II, W2NSD, it was a simple matter of economics.

"After failing a last minute effort to collect on some larger accounts receivable we decided yesterday to throw in the towel--that the September issue will have to be the last," Green told ARRL October 9. "SK after 43 years of publishing."

The first issue of 73 was published in October 1960 from what Green--a former editor of CQ--once described as "a small, dingy apartment" in Brooklyn, New York. Since the summer of 1962, 73 has been based in Peterborough, New Hampshire--Green's home state. The magazine was a pioneer promoter of SSB, FM, solid-state, easy construction projects and the marriage of personal computing and Amateur Radio. His interest in microcomputing led Green in 1975 to found Byte, a magazine devoted to the then-nascent and largely do-it-yourself computer hobby.

At the peak of its popularity in the 1970s and 1980s, individual issues of 73 totaled more than 300 pages of ads, articles and commentary. Heading each issue was Green's inimitable "Never Say Die"--some would say never-ending--editorial, in which he rarely missed an opportunity to tweak the ARRL and his magazine competitors for their perceived shortcomings.

QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, says 73 published his first article in the 1970s. "I was saddened to hear that 73 has ceased publishing," Ford said. "Wayne's excitement about the growing amateur FM repeater phenomenon at the time was

infectious."

Green's 73 editorials and regular round of personal appearances originally concentrated on Amateur Radio and his ideas to improve, advance and grow it. In recent years, however, they've veered into conspiracy theories, cures for cancer, AIDS and other ailments and Green's proliferation of book titles on those topics.

Green says he'll continue his essays on his Web site <<http://www.waynegreen.com>> "for those subscribers who mainly bought the magazine for them." He told ARRL that no definite arrangements have been made yet about how to handle outstanding 73 subscriptions.

CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, said he takes no joy from the passing of 73. "The loss of any publication serving Amateur Radio leaves all of us a bit poorer," he said. "Thank you, Wayne, for 43 entertaining, informative, sometimes infuriating, and always interesting years of 73. We'll genuinely miss it."

From *The ARRL Letter*, October 17, 2003

HAYNIE: LETTERS VOTERS SUPPORT ON AMATEUR RADIO LEGISLATION

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, says the good news is that the number of House cosponsors for the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act, HR 713, has topped 50. The Senate version of the legislation, S 537, now has eight cosponsors. The downside, Haynie says, is that the Spectrum Protection Bill as well as the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act, HR 1478, will need many more cosponsors if either is to succeed.

"I'm frustrated," Haynie said this week. "Neither one of these bills is ever going to see the light of day unless we get more cosponsors." While thanking those who already have done so, Haynie again encouraged ARRL members to not only urge their senators and representatives to cosponsor the bills but to write and ask them to actively support them.

"It's going to take 10,000 letters, it's going to take 50,000 letters or contacts," Haynie said. "To me, this is a no-brainer. This is something that's important to the future of Amateur Radio."

Sponsored in the House by Rep Michael Bilirakis (R-FL) and in the Senate by Sen Michael Crapo (R-ID), the Spectrum Protection Act would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio if the FCC reallocates primary amateur frequencies, reduces any secondary amateur allocations, or makes additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce their utility to amateurs.

The latest House members to sign aboard HR 713 include representatives Jo Bonner (R-AL); John Peterson (R-PA); Albert Wynn (D-MD); George Nethercutt (R-WA); Jim Ramstad (R-MN); Barney Frank (D-MA); Todd Tiahrt (R-KS); and Fortney "Pete" Stark (D-CA). The latest Senate members to sign aboard S 537 are Carl Levin (D-MI) and Christopher Dodd (D-CT).

HR 713 has been referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. In June, Haynie testified before that panel, telling lawmakers that hams have lost more than 100 MHz of VHF and UHF spectrum over the past 15 years and that another nearly 360 MHz of VHF and UHF spectrum "has been substantially compromised." S 537 has been referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act, HR 1478--known informally as "the CC&R bill"--would require private land-use regulators such as homeowners' associations to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio antennas consistent with the PRB-1 limited federal preemption. PRB-1 now applies only to states and municipalities. Introduced by Rep Steve Israel (D-NY), the bill has been referred to the House Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet and now has 29 cosponsors.

Among the latest to get onboard HR 1478 are JD Hayworth (R-AZ); David Price (D-NC); Rep Mike McIntyre (NC); Anna G. Eshoo (CA-14); and Mark Udall (D-CO). No equivalent bill yet exists in the Senate.

Haynie says that if ARRL members value Amateur Radio and want these proposals to succeed, they'll make the time to write letters or send e-mails pushing for support of the three measures. "Peoples' own words and their own expressions are what's going to count, not some canned letter from Newington," Haynie said, while conceding that a form letter "is better than nothing." Haynie said a personally crafted letter or e-mail "adds a lot of weight."

Sample letters on the ARRL Web site for the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003 <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/arspa.html#sample>> and for the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr1478/sample-letter.html>> cite Amateur Radio's role in public safety and emergency communication.

"We'll do our part to get more organizations to support these bills," Haynie said. The League has been contacting other organizations involved in public safety that have firsthand knowledge of the value of ham radio to the public and advocating their support. But, Haynie said, letters from individual voters get the most attention.

Cosponsorship is important while a bill is in committee, and

Haynie suggests that a representative or senator who gets 40 or 50 letters from on a topic is going want to sign on to that bill.

"I can't emphasize enough the importance of that contact to the member of Congress from the constituents out there in the district," Haynie concluded, "because that's the ticket."

For guidance on the best methods of contacting your members of Congress, see "Communicating with Congress," by Derek Riker, KB3JLF, on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/news/bandthreat/0304046.pdf>> or in the April 2003 issue of QST (p 46).

Additional information--including the bills' texts and information on how to write your congressperson or senators--is on the ARRL's "The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003" Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/arspa.html>> and on the "HR 1478, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act of 2003" Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr1478/>>.

Those writing their lawmakers on behalf of either bill are asked to copy their correspondence to the League via e-mail: Spectrum Protection Act, HR 713/S 637 <specbill03@arrl.org> or Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act, HR 1478 <ccr-bill@arrl.org>.

From *The ARRL Letter*, October 24, 2003

VIRGINIA BPL STARTUP SPARKS ARRL RESPONSE

The ARRL this week put officials in Manassas, Virginia, on notice that the League will act on behalf of its members to ensure full compliance with FCC regulations when the city's Broadband over Power Line (BPL) system starts up in a few months. The League was responding to media reports that Manassas--a Washington, DC, suburb--has approved plans for a citywide BPL rollout. Manassas City Council reportedly voted unanimously October 16 to grant a 10-year franchise to Prospect Street Broadband to expand a BPL field trial and offer high-speed Internet service to the entire community over municipal power lines. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, on October 22 faxed Manassas Mayor Marvin L. Gillum to point out BPL's dark side--the potential for RF interference from and to any BPL system.

"Your advisors no doubt have made the Council fully aware of the great potential for radio interference from such a system," Sumner said. "In particular, you are no doubt well aware that Title 47 CFR §15.5 requires that no harmful interference is caused to any radiocommunication service, and that the operator shall be required to cease operation upon notification by a Federal Communications Commission representative that the device is causing harmful

interference." Sumner noted that the same FCC Part 15 rule also provides no protection against interference from the operation of an authorized radio station.

"Tests conducted by ARRL technical personnel have shown that the system planned to be deployed in Manassas causes harmful interference to the Amateur Radio service," Sumner said. "We also have reason to believe that the system will be susceptible to interference from normal amateur station operations."

An article in Potomac News.com touted the impending Manassas BPL rollout as the first of its type in the US. Sumner said he was writing to alert the City of Manassas "on behalf of its members who live in and use the public thoroughfares of Manassas" that the ARRL "will ensure that there is full compliance with the FCC regulations" once the city's BPL system is in operation.

Prospect Street Broadband reportedly will offer the BPL service for \$29.95 a month. One estimate predicts the city stands to gain up to \$4.5 million over the 10-year life of the contract, due to be signed this week.

The Manassas BPL field trial is one of the smallest now under way and involves fewer than a dozen homes and businesses. It was installed in an area that has underground utility wiring and no Amateur Radio licensees nearby.

BPL articles in major media have proliferated in recent weeks, many of them painting the service in rosy hues and neglecting to point out the potential for radio interference to and from BPL by other HF spectrum occupants. An October 13 article in The Wall Street Journal, "A New Outlet," by Walin Wong, quotes one trial user who calls the service "fantastic." But Wong also notes that one "Achilles' heel" of BPL is that serving rural areas would require installing costly repeaters every mile or so along the power line. The article also deals with the reluctance on the part of some electric utilities to embrace the technology.

Sumner also reacted to the WSJ article. In a letter to the editor not yet published, he pointed out that BPL "amounts to sending a wideband radio signal over unshielded wires that were not designed for the purpose" and that do not work well for the 2 to 80 MHz signals common in BPL systems. Instead, "they function as antennas," he said, and that can lead to interference to radio services, including some involved with public safety.

Sumner said potential broadband technology and delivery investors would be far better off considering fiber in densely populated areas and adaptations of wireless LAN technology in rural areas.

Additional information on BPL and video clips from field trial sites are on the ARRL "Power Line Communications (PLC) and Amateur Radio" page <<http://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/>>.

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the packet network:

=====
Date: 22 Jun 2000 15:27
From: G4YQQ@GB7TJZ
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: ** Well **

Paddy and Murphy were walking in a field, when Paddy fell down an old disused well.

"Are ye' all right Paddy?" shouted Murphy down the well. "Aye!" called back Paddy, "But I've broken both me arms and legs, Murphy!" "Shall I get help, Paddy?" "No, Murphy, I can climb up the side by usin' me lips," said Paddy.

Murphy camps down for a while. Three days later, there's no sign of Paddy. Murphy shouts down the well, "Are ye' all right in there Paddy?" "Aye, I'm nearly at the ARRRGRHHGHGHHHHhhhhghghhhghh..."

73 Alan G4YQQ...

Newsletter Notes

If you're rich enough to afford whatever amateur radio toys your heart desires, then good for you. Unfortunately, most people can't do that. Here's where a club like SCCARA can help. If we really wanted to, we could have all the things in our club station that many of us would like, but can't afford or can't justify buying.

I believe a club station should be very well equipped with a wide variety of modes and abilities, (within the club's means, of course). There aren't a lot of things a club like SCCARA can do for its members, but this sure is one. We've got a fair amount of money, we could do a lot without breaking the treasury. But that's just me. What do you think?

On the first page is a survey. Please tell us whether you think we should invest in a well equipped club station.

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?

-- 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

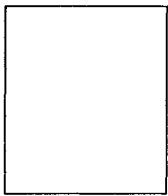
Give this completed form (or copy) with payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or mail to the return address below.

====> 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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS