

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 20, Number 1

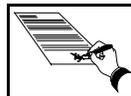
January 2004



President's Prose

I have been influenced by "The Cat In The Hat".
So my prose will be poetic like that.
This last year has been great don't you think.
It's gone by as fast as the eye can blink.
The meetings were all different, but nice.
Some of the speakers made us think twice.
The social events it seemed were all about food,
I may be wrong but didn't we eat more than we should.
Field Day was the club's big event,
As up to Mt Madonna we went.
The Flea Market was a big success,
Hot dogs, doughnuts, coffee and soda, oh yes.
November we got a really big surprise.
Our newest member became secretary. I couldn't believe my eyes.
This past year has been so much fun for me.
I expect this year to be the same. You'll see.
The nets were contacts for news between meetings,
Don V, Bob W and Wally B send their greetings.
Now I look forward to '04 with glee
The future looks good for us you see.
We have several projects to complete,
And not make our funds deplete.
I want to thank all our members for their support.
You all contributed in some way. Don't sell yourselves short.
I look forward to this year and it will be with great hope,
For the year to be filled with fun, social activity, change, and
the ability to cope.
With all the problems we have in store,
To be solved quickly and easily once more.
With all the help from you great hams,
Thank you so much masseurs and madams.
I look forward to seeing you each at future meetings,
Happy New Year and Seasons Greetings.

Barbara



SCCARA's Stuff

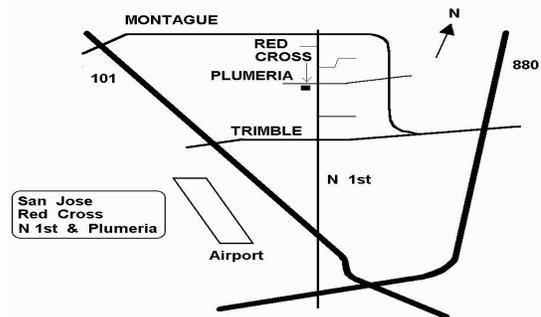
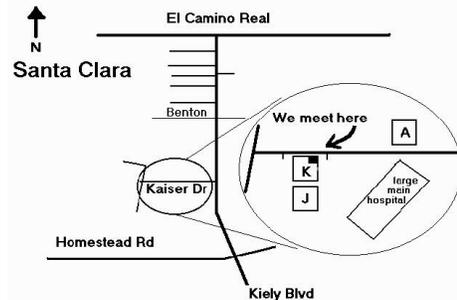
The Board has been talking lately about the fact that the

Calendar

- 1/3 Livermore Electronic Flea Market
- 1/12 SCCARA General Meeting
- 1/19 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting:

Day: Monday, January 12, 2004
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Bld K, Rm 1
Featuring: Don Apte, KK6MX will talk about Echolink, with demo.



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The deadline for articles is second to the last Monday of the month.

SCCARA was formed in 1921 and became a non-profit corporation in 1947. SCCARA is an affiliate of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). The club station is W6UW. Web page: <http://www.qsl.net/sccara>.

OFFICERS - DIRECTORS - STAFF

President	Barbara Britten, KD6QEI	293-3847
	e-mail: kd6qei@arrl.net	
Vice President	- - -	
Secretary	David Paul, AE6MW	946-3423
	e-mail: ae6mw@arrl.net	
Treasurer	Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI	225-6769
	e-mail: lloyddevaughns@sbcglobal.net	
Station Trustee	Don Hayden, KO6HH	867-4643
Director	Clark Murphy, KE6KXO	262-9334
	e-mail: clarkmurph@yahoo.com	
Director	Don Apte, KK6MX	629-0725
	e-mail: aptekk@aol.com	
Director	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	241-7999
	e-mail: wa6qys@aol.com	
Director	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
	e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net	
Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	265-2336
	e-mail: wb6yru@aenet.net	

COMMITTEES

Repeater	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
	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 K6PBQ. On ten meters, 28.385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00 PM. Net control: Wally KA6YMD. Visitors welcome.

N0ARY PACKET BBS

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

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

SCCARA contact Clark KE6KXO:	408 262-9334
ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group,	
Morris Jones, AD6ZH:	408 507-4698

club locker has many things we'd like to keep mixed up with a large quantity of junk, and all manner of things between. They've finally decided to take the bull by the horns...

On **Saturday, February 14, 2004, at 1 PM** we'll meet at the club locker to separate everything into two piles. Interested and/or knowledgeable members are invited to attend. The stuff we don't want will either be up for grabs or we'll try to sell it at the Foothill flea market.

While we're at it, board requests anyone who has property belonging to SCCARA please bring it to this "locker party" or at least let us know exactly what you have. We have a property list, but it needs updating.

The club locker is E1 at the Storaway Self Storage at 1020 Spring Street. This is the one just on the other side (south) of the 880 freeway from the airport. For those of you with "driving issues," it's just north of the Traffic Court on Ruff Drive. From 880, take the Colman turn-off heading south. Then left on Heading, then left on Ruff, left again (just past the Court) then right. We'll probably be monitoring the repeater.

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Dec. 20, 2003



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

Board Meeting, Dec. 15, 2003



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

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, November 21, 2003

FCC DENIES ARRL REQUEST IN ADDING 5-GHz PART 15 SPECTRUM

The FCC has amended its Part 15 rules to make another 255 MHz of spectrum available in the 5.470-5.725 GHz band for unlicensed National Information Infrastructure (U-NII) devices, including Radio Local Area Network (RLAN) devices. In a Report and Order (R&O) in ET Docket 03-122 released November 18, the FCC said it was taking the action to alleviate crowding in existing allocations and to align U-NII bands in the US with bands elsewhere in the world. The FCC turned down an ARRL request to keep U-NII devices out of the 5.650 to 5.670 GHz segment to avoid interference with the Amateur Satellite Service. Amateur Radio has a secondary allocation from 5.650 to 5.925 GHz.

"We are not persuaded that we should either add or modify our proposed rules as requested by ARRL," the FCC said, adding that its dynamic frequency selection (DFS) and transmitter power control (TPC) requirements "will in fact protect amateur operations," although they're not specifically designed to do so.

Commenting in the proceeding September 3, the ARRL expressed

concerns about "potential aggregate interference" from U-NII devices to Amateur Radio space stations in the 5.650-5.670 GHz band. The League did support other elements of the FCC's proposals, however, including a power limitation of 1 W EIRP, and said hams were willing to cooperate with the RLAN industry on other sharing-related issues.

In its comments, the League said the amateur allocation at 5.650 to 5.925 GHz "has been subject to 'death by a thousand cuts.'" The FCC's most recent action leaves Amateur Radio with "relatively uncompromised access" to a 25-MHz segment at 5 GHz--5.825 to 5.850 GHz, the ARRL said. That includes a 20-MHz-wide satellite downlink segment, 5.830 to 5.850 GHz. Federal government users are primary over the entire band.

The Commission said that because of the large amount of spectrum it's adding to the 300 MHz of spectrum already available for U-NII devices, it expects the density of devices to be relatively low. "We believe that this low density of devices coupled with our technical requirements will provide adequate protection to all incumbent systems in the band, including amateur satellite uplink systems," the FCC said.

The FCC said it would treat the U-NII devices like other unlicensed intentional radiators that operate on a non-interference basis under §15.15(c) of the rules.

The R&O culminated a 2002 Petition for Rule Making from the Wireless Ethernet Compatibility Alliance (WECA), now known as the Wi-Fi Alliance, to allocate an additional 255 MHz of spectrum for use by U-NII devices in the 5.470-5.725 GHz band. The FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making last June. A copy of the R & O is on the FCC Web site <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-287A1.doc>.

AUSTRALIA WILL DROP MORSE REQUIREMENT JANUARY 1

Australia is the latest country to announce it's dropping Morse code testing as a licensing requirement. The Australian Communications Authority (ACA) <<http://www.aca.gov.au/>> says it will eliminate the Morse testing requirement starting January 1.

"This decision was made considering public comments at the meetings and initial analysis of submissions to the discussion paper," the ACA said, adding that it would make interim changes to its rules to allow immediate access to privileges previously available only to those satisfying the Morse proficiency requirements. The change will give holders of Intermediate and Limited Amateur licenses access to the same frequency bands as Unrestricted Amateur licensees, and holders of the Novice Limited Amateur license access to the same frequency bands as Novice licensees.

The Wireless Association of Australia <<http://www.wia.org.au/>> says dropping the Morse requirement will mean no changes in existing licenses or call signs. WIA President Ernie Hocking, VK1LK, urged hams in Australia who don't yet enjoy HF privileges not to get on the air ahead of schedule. There's more information on the ACA Web site <<http://www.aca.gov.au/>> (Click on "Review of Amateur Service Regulation.")

Ireland, Switzerland, Belgium, the UK, Germany, Norway, the Netherlands, Austria, New Zealand, Luxembourg, Singapore and Papua-New Guinea have already dropped their Amateur Radio Morse testing requirements or have announced an intention to do so.

Radio Amateurs of Canada asked Industry Canada to drop the Morse requirement at the 21st Industry Canada-Radio Amateurs of Canada Amateur Radio Advisory Board meeting October 23 in Ottawa. US amateurs have commented on 14 petitions calling for outright deletion of the Morse requirement or changes in existing requirements. The FCC is not expected to act on the matter until 2004 at the earliest.

From *The ARRL Letter*, December 12, 2003

FEMA SAYS BPL WILL "SEVERELY IMPAIR" ESSENTIAL HF OPERATIONS

A proverbial monkey wrench in the works for BPL? Expressing "grave concerns" about likely interference from unlicensed Broadband over Power Line (BPL) systems, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) told the FCC that BPL could "severely impair FEMA's mission-essential HF radio operations in areas serviced by BPL technology." FEMA responded December 4 to last April's FCC BPL Notice of Inquiry, ET Docket 03-104. Now part of the Department of Homeland Security--the agency said its primary worry is BPL's potential impact on the FEMA National Radio System (FNARS) on HF. FNARS is FEMA's primary command and control backup medium under the Federal Response Plan.

"FEMA has concluded that introduction of unwanted interference from the implementation of BPL technology into the high frequency radio spectrum will result in significant detriment to the operation of FEMA radio systems such as FNARS," FEMA asserted. "FNARS radio operators normally conduct communications with signals that are barely above the ambient noise levels." FNARS HF stations, FEMA said, typically are in residential areas of the sort that BPL might serve.

As part of the Department of Homeland Security, FEMA's perspectives on BPL could carry substantial weight at the FCC, which may issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making as early as February. The FCC's BPL Notice of Inquiry has attracted more than 5100 comments--many of them from the amateur community.

FEMA said BPL also could render useless such "essential communications services" as the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) and the Civil Air Patrol. FEMA and ARRL last year signed a Memorandum of Understanding that focuses on how Amateur Radio may coordinate with the agency in disasters and emergencies.

Calling the HF spectrum "an invaluable and irreplaceable public safety resource," FEMA said there's no current alternative to HF in terms of meeting national security and emergency preparedness requirements at the national, state and local levels. The agency advised the FCC to beef up its Part 15 rules to ensure no increase in interference levels to existing FCC or NTIA-licensed communication systems. Otherwise, FEMA predicted, "any noise

increase inevitably would diminish the ability to maintain essential communications" and would "directly impair the safety of life and property."

Likewise, FEMA pointed out, amateur HF transmitters could possibly interfere with and interrupt BPL service, leading consumers not familiar with Part 15 to blame licensed radio services.

Concluded FEMA: "The purported benefits of BPL in terms of expanded services in certain communications sectors do not appear to outweigh the benefit to the overall public of HF radio capability as presently used by government, broadcasting and public safety users."

Additional information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site, 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/>.

INTERNATIONAL MORSE CODE GETS NEW ITU HOME, NEW CHARACTER

The 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-03) may have eliminated the treaty requirement for prospective amateurs to demonstrate Morse code proficiency to gain HF access, but the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) hasn't forgotten Morse code altogether. In Geneva on December 5, the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) Study Group 8 agreed on the wording of a Draft New Recommendation ITU-R M.[MORSE] that specifies the international Morse code character set and transmission procedures. It also includes a new Morse code character to cover the "@" symbol used in e-mail addresses.

Once it's made available in English, French and Spanish, the draft new recommendation will go out to ITU member-states using a new procedure for simultaneous adoption and approval. On December 3, the draft new recommendation won the approval of Working Party 8A, which is responsible for the Land Mobile and Amateur services.

Within the ITU, the international Morse code has been defined by the Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), which is responsible for the public telephone and telegraph network--mostly landline. A couple of years ago, the ARRL pointed out to the US delegation to the ITU Radiocommunication Advisory Group that Morse code's role more properly resides in the radiocommunication realm, not wire, and should be the responsibility of ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R).

The transfer was agreed to, and International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) President Larry Price, W4RA, proposed the draft new recommendation at the November-December Working Group 8A meeting. The draft new recommendation is almost unchanged from its ITU-T text.

"No one wanted to disturb something with more than 150 years of history," said ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI.

To keep up with the times, however, the IARU proposed adding a new character--the commercial "at" or @ symbol--to permit

sending e-mail addresses in Morse code. The draft new recommendation proposes using the letters A and C run together (.-.-.) to represent the @ symbol.

While the draft new recommendation is still a working document, its expected to become a Recommendation within six months or so, pending approval by member-states.

Sweepstakes

SCCARA opened up our club station at the Red Cross on November 15 to participate in the ARRL Sweepstakes. It's a fun activity with lots of practice in copying traffic. We operated the phone station on Saturday only. The club made 70 plus contacts. The following club members participated in Sweepstakes: Don K6PBQ, Barbara KD6QEI, Wally KA6YMD, Lou WA6QYS, Clark KE6KXO, Gwen KF6OTD, Don KO6HH, Mike KB6LCJ, and Dave AE6MV. Thanks to those members we had a good club activity. Lets make this and other contests an annual event for SCCARA.

73, Don Village, K6PBQ

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the packet network:

=====
Date: 23 Jun 2000 07:37
From: AB7RG@AB7RG
To: FARCE@USA
Subject: An *Honest* Drunk...

A police officer pulls over this guy who's been weaving in and out of the lanes. He goes up to the guy's window and says, "Sir, I need you to blow into this breathalyzer tube."

The man says, "Sorry, officer, I can't do that. I am an asthmatic. If I do that, I'll have a really bad asthma attack."

"Okay, fine. I need you to come down to the station to give a blood sample."

"I can't do that either. I am a hemophiliac. If I do that, I'll bleed to death."

"Well, then, we need a urine sample."

"I'm sorry, officer, I can't do that either. I am also a diabetic. If I do that, I'll get really low blood sugar."

"All right, then I need you to come out here and walk this white line."

"I can't do that, officer."

"Why not?"

"Because I'm drunk."

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

=====
Date: 27 Mar 99 20:59
From: WA1GDJ@K1UGM
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: IMPOTENCE

A woman didn't want to embarrass her husband by discussing his impotence, so she went secretly to his doctor and explained the problem. He gave a prescription, but the pharmacist who filled it made an error and the label read 30 drops instead of three.

Two days later the woman is back at the doctor's office. She's limping and looking generally beat.

"What happened to you?" the doctor asked.

"Well doc," she replied. "those drops worked too damn good. I'm afraid now we need an antidote so they can close the coffin."

73 - Gil, WA1GDJ @ K1UGM

W6ACW, Ed Hajny, (408) 739-6105

WB6EMR, James D. Armstrong, Jr.,
evening & msg: (408) 945-1202

KD6FJI, Lloyd DeVaughns,
day: (408) 918-4635, evening: (408) 225-6769
e-mail: lloyddevaughns@sbcglobal.net

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
e-mail: 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
e-mail: wb6yru@aenet.net

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 fill out an Elmer form from the club secretary.

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

Newsletter Notes

Those of you with eagle-eyes may have noticed that the newsletter looks a tiny bit different here and there. It's not your imagination. I had some technical problems and used the opportunity to move the newsletter editing operation over to a later version of WordPerfect, on another machine, even on a newer version of the OS. Some of the fonts aren't exactly the same, but they're very close. Certain alignments may be a bit different too.

If someone has any ideas for changes, this would be a good time, since I'm having to adjust everything anyway. I'm open to anything, even suggestions or requests for tiny little changes to the font type or size, graphics, or whatever.

Speaking of suggestions and requests, I've received only one over the past several months. Gwen KF6OTD asked for more pictures.

That's certainly doable, but it's up to you guys, the membership! Since Bob KB6OHO left us, photos have been hard to come by. I ask just one thing: if you submit photos, please include some kind of article or at the very least a caption explaining what's going on and who the people are. Most of the time we know who's who, but not always. Plus, we have new members to think about.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

SCCARA Membership Form for 2004

(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**