

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County
Amateur Radio Association

Volume 20, Number 3

March 2004



President's Prose

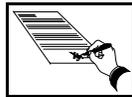
PRESIDENT'S PROSE

Hello everyone. I hope you all had a nice Valentines Day. Wally gave me a dozen yellow roses (my favorite). We spent the day quietly at home.

It has come to my attention, as of this month, that several members have not renewed their membership. Please check with David, our secretary, to see if you are on the list. (The list may be published somewhere else in this issue). Please renew.

We have made progress toward getting the repeater sanctioned. On 2/11, Ben Vickers, WB6FRM, and a city technician went to the City vault at Eagle Rock in Alum Rock Park and inverted the pair on the repeater, NARCC wanted. The new frequencies for the 2-meter repeater are as follows: Output is 146.985; Input is 146.385; PL tone is 114.8 with a minus offset. The other changes are: Duplexer Power Out is 38 watts; Antenna height on the tower is 85 ft. These changes plus inverting to 146.985 (-) should give us better coverage without interfering with the other repeaters in Sacramento or Sonoma. The sanctioning should go forward without any more problems. The full data has been submitted to NARCC

I am working on getting a speaker for April. Listen for the speakers name on the nets. I hope to see many of you at the March dinner meeting, and the April meeting.



73, Barbara K. Britten, KD6QEI, President

Did You Renew?

Quite a few members haven't renewed their SCCARA membership. If your call sign appears below, you are one of them. Why not renew now, while you're thinking about it. There's a membership form on the back of each *SCCARA-GRAM*

If you *did* renew, but your call is here anyway, please contact the secretary, Dave AE6MV.

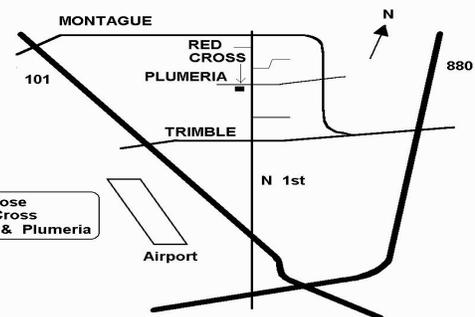
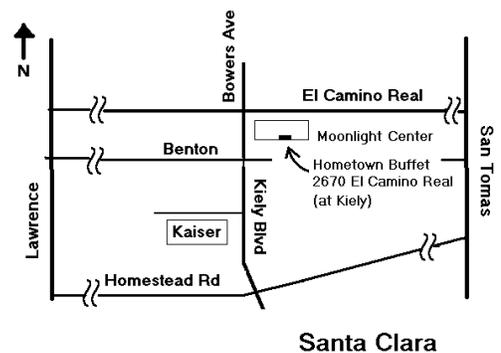
KC6SPV	KD6CXS	KK6MX	KD6EFL
KG6QQD	KG6QFD	KG6KZZ	KG6OKV
KG6OKU	K6IXF	WA6UWF	WA6BYB
AA6ON	KG6KWV	AE6MF	KG6RYZ
AD6YU	N6SWC	KK6ZE	KG6MSO
KG6JWD			

Calendar

- 3/6 Livermore Electronic Flea Market
- 3/8 SCCARA General Meeting – dinner!
- 3/15 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting:

Day: Monday, March 8, 2004
Time: 6 PM
Place: Hometown Buffet, Santa Clara
Featuring: Dinner meeting.



The **SCCARA-GRAM** is published monthly by the **SANTA CLARA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**, PO Box 6, San Jose CA 95103-0006. Permission to reprint articles is hereby granted, provided the source is properly credited.

The deadline for articles is 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, AE6MV	946-3423
	e-mail: ae6mv@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: 146.985 - 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 Eagle Rock near Alum Rock Park in the foothills of east San Jose. 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

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Feb. 09, 2004



Attendance: 22, including 20 members and 2 visitors (up 29% from last month). Members present (in alphabetical order): Don Apte, KK6MX, Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, Wally Britten, KA6YMD, Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI, Robert Forster, N6PCQ, Joan Hastings, KB6LFZ, Mike Hastings, KB6LCJ, Don Hayden, KO6HH, Roy Metzger, K6VIP, Virginia Metzger, K6IUU, Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, Clark Murphy, KE6KXO, Peter Parrish, KG6KWV, David Paul, AE6MV, Tom Root, KF6NEW, Gwen Steirer, KF60TD, Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, Ben Vickers, WB6FRM, Don Village, K6PBQ and El Wirt K6ZYY.

Visitors present: Scott Petersen KG6SPF, Bryan Wyman N6IZP

Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, opened the meeting at 19:29, with twin bad news items: she was not feeling well, and the speaker for the night, Howard Califf, of the local HRO, had not yet arrived.

At Barbara's request, we introduced ourselves to each other.

Next month's meeting will be held at the Home Town Buffet, El Camino & Kiely, Santa Clara. Festivities will begin at 6 p.m. We have the room reserved from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m.

This Saturday, February 14, will be a Physical Inventory of Club equipment and cleanup of the Club's storage locker, at 1 p.m.

Our visitor from last month, Scott Petersen, KG6SPF, visited again this month, and Don Hayden, KO6HH, agreed to drive him home after the meeting.

Ben Vickers, WB6FRM, spoke about impending changes to the 2 Meter repeater, W6UU. This Wednesday morning, it will be flipped from 146.385 MHz + 600 offset to 146.985 - 600 offset. This should decrease any risk of it interfering with other repeaters, and thus allow NARCC (the Northern Amateur Relay Council of California) to re-certify it.

Don Apte, KK6MX, has obtained a 500 MHz Celeron (TM) computer and donated it to the Club for use in connecting the 70cm repeater to EchoLink.

Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, reported that the BBS, which is now connected to the Internet, has had its connection to the Benecia BBS re-established, and he is working to re-establish its connection to Oregon.

Joan Hastings, KB6LFZ, spoke about this year's upcoming MS Walk. This year, it will be held Saturday April 17th. Of the money raised by the walk, 100% goes to the MS Society, and of that, 85% goes directly to provide services to those suffering from MS. Our Club serves a dual purpose for this event: first, we will again this year be forming a team to push Don Village's wife Joan the 10 km of the walk, and second, we provide communications for the Rest Stops and the Net Control. Don Village announced that a few rest stop communications volunteers are still needed. Joan passed around a sign-up sheet for sponsors.

Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, announced that (since our speaker still had not arrived), he had his collection of many county's QSL cards with him, which he passed around for all to see.

Don Hayden, KO6HH, added, on the topic of QSL's, that he is the ARRL checker for the ARRL Worked-All-States award, and that he had just certified one this week.

No further New Business was heard. The speaker had still not

arrived.

Clark Murphy moved that the meeting be closed, the motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 20:10.

For further information about the MS walk, please see NationalMSSociety.org

David Paul, AE6MV
Secretary

Board Meeting, Feb. 16, 2004



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

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, January 30, 2004

LEAGUE FILES "A PLAN FOR THE NEXT DECADE" WITH FCC

The ARRL has filed a Petition for Rule Making asking the FCC to amend its Part 97 rules to complete the Amateur Service restructuring the Commission left unfinished in 1999. The League wants the FCC to create a new entry-level license, reduce the number of actual license classes to three and drop the Morse code testing requirement for all classes except for Amateur Extra (see "ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access" <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/>>). The ARRL says its petition follows in the footsteps of changes in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003. Among those changes, WRC-03 left it up to individual countries to determine whether or not to mandate Morse testing for HF access. While several countries--including Germany, the UK and Australia--already have dropped their Morse requirements, the ARRL emphasized in its petition that Morse code is not the central issue.

"Changes in Morse telegraphy are one aspect of the proposal, and it would be insufficient for the Commission to address those issues in a vacuum," the League said, calling its licensing proposal "a plan for the next decade." The ARRL said that plan's overall intention is "to encourage newcomers to the Amateur Service and to encourage those who enter its ranks to proceed further on a course of technical self-training and exposure to all aspects of the avocation."

Last fall a total of 14 Morse-related petitions were filed with the FCC. Several called on the Commission to drop the Morse requirement altogether, while others proposed to keep and even expand the requirement or put forth various license restructuring schemes of their own. The petitions, RM-10781-10787 and RM-10805-10811, attracted thousands of comments from the amateur community.

Beyond the Morse question, the ARRL says, the time is right--now that WRC-03 has finished its work--to follow through on the restructuring process the FCC began with its 1999 restructuring Report and Order (WT 98-143) <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt98-143ro.pdf>>. Among other things, that landmark Order, which became effective April 15, 2000, reduced the number of Morse code test elements from three to a single 5 WPM requirement for all license classes offering HF privileges.

Simply dropping the Element 1 (5 WPM) Morse requirement, the

ARRL asserted, would fail to address the critical need for an entry-level ticket other than the Technician. Calling the Technician license "a dead end" for many people, the ARRL said its proposed entry-level license--being called "Novice" for now--would offer newcomers a much wider sampling of Amateur Radio. It would require passing a 25-question written examination--but no code test--and offer limited HF phone, image, CW and data privileges at modest power output levels.

"This structure provides a true, entry-level license with HF and other operating privileges which will both promote growth in the Amateur Service and integrate newcomers into the mainstream of Amateur Radio," the ARRL told the FCC. "It will better introduce newcomers to more seasoned licensees who will assist them."

The League proposal also would consolidate current Technician and General licensees into General class without further examination. Future General applicants would not have to pass a code test, but the written exam would remain the same. Current Advanced licensees would be merged into Amateur Extra class without further testing, and the Extra exam would remain intact. The ARRL proposal would retain the Element 1 Morse exam for Extra class applicants.

The ARRL said its overall plan dovetails with the FCC philosophy and goals stated in its 1999 Report and Order--to simplify the license structure and streamline the licensing process. The League said its plan would implement licensing requirements and privileges that are in harmony with each other and is designed to attract and retain "technically inclined persons, particularly the youth of our country" and encourage them to advance in areas "where the United States needs expertise."

"Now, the issue is not merely whether there should or should not be Morse telegraphy as an examination requirement," the ARRL said, "but rather what is the best overall approach for positioning the Amateur Service for future growth and incentive-based self-training."

A copy of the ARRL's Petition for Rule Making is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring2/restrux2-petition.pdf>>. The FCC has requested that individuals refrain from contacting or attempting to comment to the FCC on the ARRL's restructuring proposal before the FCC issues a Rule Making (RM) number for the ARRL petition and invites public comments on it. Until that happens, it is premature to comment to the FCC.

AO-40 AILING

Ground controllers for the AO-40 satellite are trying to figure out just what happened to cause a significant drop in the spacecraft's bus voltage, taking it off the air. The satellite remains silent in the wake of a precipitous voltage drop from around 26 volts down to 18 volts early on January 27 (UTC). AO-40 controllers are fairly certain that one or more shorted battery cells are at the root of the problem. Efforts to restart the satellite's 2.4-GHz downlink transmitter have been unsuccessful.

"Our current best understanding is that we suffered a catastrophic failure of the main battery, which is clamping the bus voltage at a low level," Stacey Mills, W4SM, of the AO-40 command team said in a posting on the AMSAT-DL Web site.

The AO-40 satellite was the result of AMSAT's ambitious international Phase 3D project. The AMSAT-NA Board of Directors met January 29 to review the current situation. "The next few weeks will be of great interest as the satellite is entering into a sun angle which is becoming increasingly favorable for charging the batteries," said AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton,

VE3FRH. Tests are under way on spare batteries in AMSAT's Orlando, Florida, lab in an effort to simulate the failure mode and determine what might be done to recover the satellite.

"At this time, AMSAT engineers and scientists are optimistic about the chances of recovering but--like the NASA Spirit problem--this may take some time to accomplish," Haighton said.

The AO-40 ground team has been sending blind commands to the spacecraft to activate its onboard computerized control system in order to switch in the auxiliary battery bank, which was tied to the main battery bank after a bus voltage drop January 26, and disconnect the main battery.

Mills said that while ground controllers don't claim to fully understand what happened aboard AO-40, operator practices were not to blame." AO-40 was designed to withstand all that you can throw at it," he said.

Mills explained that the main AO-40 batteries consist of 20 40-Ah cells arranged on three of the radial support arms inside the spacecraft--two packs of seven cells and one pack of six cells.

"It is entirely possible or even probable that the main batteries suffered some damage during the 400-N motor event," Mills said, referring to the onboard catastrophic incident that caused AO-40 to go dark less than a month after its November 2000 launch.

While some systems were irreparably damaged, ground controllers were able to get AO-40 partially up and running again, and the satellite's transponders have been in active use since 2001. It was subsequently determined that an anomaly involving a fuel valve essentially had caused an onboard explosion. AO-40 had been operating with 435 MHz and 1.2 GHz uplinks and a 2.4 GHz downlink and beacon.

"If it's at all possible to bring AO-40 back, we will," said Mills, who concedes that he's "lived and breathed AO-40" for more than four years. "No success for even weeks or months does not mean that we won't eventually be successful. We will sure keep trying."

LAST YEAR'S YOUNGEST GENERAL NOW THIS YEAR'S YOUNGEST EXTRA

An Oregon girl considered a year ago as the youngest General class licensee <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2003/01/31/4/>> in the US now may be the country's youngest Amateur Extra ticket holder. Seven-year-old Mattie Clauson, AD7BL (ex-KD7TYN and ex-KD7SDF), of Roseburg passed her Extra examination January 14 during a Valley Amateur Radio Club <<http://www.valleyradioclub.org/home.htm>> ARRL-VEC volunteer examination session in Eugene. The FCC granted her new ticket and Extra-appropriate call sign on January 20.

"I DID IT! I DID IT! I DID IT! I PASSED MY EXTRA CLASS EXAM!!!! YIPPEEE!!!" Mattie exclaimed loudly on the QRZ.com <<http://www.qrz.com/detail/AD7BL>> Web site. She also announced her accomplishment in a message routed via the RS0ISS packet system on the International Space Station." Looks like a future astronaut to me," Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, remarked after learning of the post. Mattie says she'd at least like to talk with one of the ISS astronauts some day. She's also a member of the ISS FanClub <<http://www.issfanclub.com/>> and enjoys digipeating through RS0ISS.

Mattie's proud papa, Tim Clauson, AC7SP, says his daughter missed only four of the questions on the Element 4 test, which Mattie described as "really, really hard!" Whether she is the youngest Extra in the US is difficult to determine since the FCC no

longer makes date-of-birth information public.

Several of the very youngest amateur operators in the US have been female. In 1948, Jane Bieberman, W3OVV (now Jane De Nuzzo and still holding the same call sign), made the December cover of QST for getting her General ticket when she was just barely 10 years old. Rebecca Rich, KB0VVT--a very active amateur--got her Extra ticket in 1997 at age 8. The parents of both girls were amateur licensees.

Mattie's own ham radio heritage also may have been a big plus. Her late great grandfather, S.A. "Sam" Sullivan, was W6WXU; his daughter, Joan Brady--Mattie's grandmother--now holds his former call sign. That makes her a fourth-generation ham. Mattie concedes that she would not have made it to Extra without a lot of study help and guidance from her parents (her mom, Charlotte, is AC7XM) and practice examinations on the QRZ.com Web site <<http://www.qrz.com/p/testing.pl>>. The Clausons all are ARRL members.

Mattie says she continues to enjoy working HF SSB, especially DX. In addition to various HF nets, she also regularly checks into the Douglas County Amateur Radio Emergency Service Net as a visitor. Aside from ham radio, her dad says, Mattie--who is home schooled with two younger sisters--is "a regular kid who likes riding her bike, playing with her sisters and friends and flying her toy airplanes. She even likes to play in the mud."

Mattie hopes to be sporting a new vanity call sign soon. Her father says she's applied for AE7MC--Amateur Extra 7 (year-old) Mattie Clauson, her dad explained.

From *The ARRL Letter*, February 13, 2004

FCC OKAYS BPL PROPOSAL

The FCC has unanimously approved a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) to deploy Broadband over Power Line (BPL). The NPRM is the next step in the BPL proceeding, which began last April with a Notice of Inquiry that attracted nearly 5200 comments--many from the amateur community. The FCC did not propose any changes in emission limits for unlicensed Part 15 devices, but said it would require BPL providers to apply "adaptive" interference mitigation techniques to their systems. An ARRL delegation that attended the February 12 FCC open meeting in Washington later expressed disappointment in the FCC action.

"The Commission clearly recognized that the existing Part 15 emission limits are inadequate to stop interference," Sumner said," but it's placing the burden of interference mitigation on the licensed user that's supposed to be protected," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ.

Sumner said that if the FCC really believed current Part 15 emission limits were sufficient, it would not have had to require that BPL providers institute interference mitigation systems. The FCC has not yet released the actual NPRM, and a presentation by the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) revealed only its broad outlines. Sumner said the League would not take a formal position until it reviews the full NPRM.

Anh Wride of the OET staff spelled out the scope of the NPRM, which only addresses so-called "access BPL"--the type that would apply radio frequency energy to exterior overhead and underground low and medium-voltage power lines to distribute broadband and Internet service. She said the OET staff believes that interference concerns "can be adequately addressed." Wride said the FCC's BPL NPRM:

- Applies existing Part 15 emission limits for unlicensed carrier-current systems to BPL systems. Part 15 rules now require that BPL systems eliminate any harmful interference that may occur "and must cease operation if they cannot," she noted.

- Requires BPL systems to employ "adaptive interference-mitigation techniques, including the capabilities to shut down a specific device, to reduce power levels on a dynamic or remote-control basis and to include or exclude specific operating frequencies or bands."

- Subjects BPL providers to notification requirements that would establish a public database that would include the location of BPL devices, modulation type and operating frequencies.

- Proposes guidelines to provide for consistent and repeatable measurement of the RF emissions from BPL and other carrier-current systems.

Mirroring his colleagues' enthusiasm, FCC Chairman Michael Powell called BPL "tremendously exciting," although he conceded that BPL has "a long way to go." Powell also said the FCC's OET has worked very hard to try to "get their hands around" the issue of interference and that the FCC would continue its vigilance in that area.

The FCC has posted additional information, including a public notice <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-243879A1.doc> on its Web site. The Commission is expected to issue the complete Notice of Proposed Rule Making within a few days and will invite comments on it sometime after publication.

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

NEW AMATEUR RADIO BILL COSPONSORS "AN OPTIMISTIC SIGN," HAYNIE SAYS

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, says he's encouraged to see additional members of the US House of Representatives agreeing to cosponsor The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2003, HR 713, and the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act of 2003, HR 1478--also known as "the CC&R bill." In Washington this week with an ARRL delegation, Haynie called it "an optimistic sign" for Amateur Radio that League members are continuing to urge their lawmakers to sign aboard the two pieces of legislation, which are ARRL initiatives.

"House members have proven to be very responsive to entreaties from the amateur community to get behind these bills," an elated Haynie said this week. "The campaign continues to pay off in terms of additional cosponsors for our bills." As of this week, 84 House members have gone on record as HR 713 cosponsors. An identical companion bill in the US Senate, S 537, has attracted eight cosponsors.

Among recent House cosponsors of HR 713 are representatives Chris Bell (R-TX), Candice S. Miller (R-MI), Jim Turner (D-TX), Jay Inslee, (D-WA), Ray LaHood (R-IL), Stevan Pearce, (R-NM) and Baron Hill, (D-IN).

Sponsored in the House by Rep Michael Bilirakis (R-FL) and in the Senate by Sen Michael Crapo (R-ID), the bill 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. HR 713 has been referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. The Senate version, S 537, has been referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Meanwhile, the cosponsor count on the CC&R bill, HR 1478, rose to 32 this week with the addition of Rep Jim DeMint (R-SC), who was approached by ARRL South Carolina Section Manager Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, to consider cosponsoring both HR 1478 and HR 713. Introduced by Rep Steve Israel (D-NY), 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.

Recent HR 1478 cosponsors also include representatives Donald Manzullo (R-IL) and Anibal Acevedo-Vila (D-PR). HR 1478 also has been referred to the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet.

Although buoyed by the bills' recent cosponsorship progress, Haynie is continuing to encourage ARRL members to send cards and letters to their House of Representatives member urging them to cosponsor HR 713 and HR 1478, and to their state's two US senators to cosponsor S 537.

"There's a long way to go, and that's what it's going to take," Haynie said. "Cards and letters from individual voters do make a difference."

Meanwhile, Louisiana Republican Billy Tauzin's announcement that he'll step down as chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and not run for re-election has set off a political sideshow. On February 6, nearly every committee member urged House Speaker Dennis Hastert to appoint Rep Joe Barton (R-TX) to replace Tauzin as chairman. Barton also serves on the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, but he has not yet signed on as a cosponsor of either HR 713 or HR 1478.

Additional information--including the bills' texts, sample letters and information on how to write members of Congress--is on the ARRL "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 the Spectrum Protection Act are asked to copy their correspondence to the League via e-mail <specbill03@arrl.org>. Those writing their House member on behalf of the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act, HR 1478, are asked to copy their correspondence to <ccr-bill@arrl.org>.

From *The ARRL Letter*, February 20, 2004

HONG KONG, DENMARK DROPPING MORSE REQUIREMENT

Hong Kong and Denmark have become the latest countries to announce they will drop the requirement for Amateur Radio applicants to pass a Morse code examination for access to frequencies below 30 MHz. In conjunction with its announcement, Hong Kong will cancel all existing amateur station license classes (and/or authority to operate), replacing them with a new authorization that does not carry a license class, the Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) announced February 11. OFTA also opened the 430 to 440 MHz band for

portable and mobile operation and allocated 10.45 to 10.5 GHz to the Amateur Service. OFTA said only that the changes would "come into effect soon." The Danish Information Technology and Telecom Agency, meanwhile, has announced the elimination of the Morse code examination for access to Amateur Radio HF bands, effective February 1.

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the packet network:

=====
Date: 29 Jun 2000 22:38
From: AB7RG@AB7RG
To: FARCE@USA
Subject: The Lumberjack...

A large, well established, Canadian lumber camp advertised that they were looking for a good lumberjack. The very next day, a skinny little man showed up at the camp with his axe and knocked on the head lumberjacks' door. The head lumberjack took one look at the little man and told him to leave.

"Just give me a chance to show you what I can do," said the skinny man. "Okay, see that giant redwood over there?" said the lumberjack. "Take your axe and go cut it down."

The skinny man headed for the tree, and in five minutes he was back knocking on the lumberjack's door. "I cut the tree down," said the man. The lumberjack couldn't believe his eyes and said, "Where did you get the skill to chop down trees like that?"

"In the Sahara Forest," replied the puny man.

"You mean the Sahara Desert?" said the lumberjack.

The little man laughed and answered back, "Oh sure, that's what they call it *now!*"

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

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
EchoLink: KK6MX

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

KK6MX, Don Apte, (408) 629-0725
e-mail: kk6mx@aol.com

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

Newsletter Notes

In this issue is an order form for a SCCARA badge. Our secretary Dave AE6MV also has the forms separately. I think this is better than the one-liner we used to have in the membership form. This new form allows people to see what the badge looks like and how the names and calls appear.

In the middle of February several of the club higher-ups did an inventory of the club storage locker. We didn't finish, but we made considerable progress.

Among the things found were some of the old style SCCARA badges, some small ARRL badges and patches, and a couple of tiny ARRL pins. What should we do with them? We could sell them like our regular badges, we could give them away, we could put them in the raffle (there's been some talk about bringing that back), or something else. I'll bring them to the next meeting (a dinner meeting) for people to take a look.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor and club badge maker

SCCARA

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association
PO Box 6 San Jose CA 95103-0006

For office use only	Paid: _____
Date Received: _____	
Date Delivered: _____	

Get your own *SCCARA* Name Badge for just \$3.50

Please clearly print your name and call sign below:



Your call sign:

First name or nickname:

The badge inner circle is blue with white lettering, the state of California is gold, the middle ring is white with blue lettering, and the outer ring is red with white lettering. Your name and call is black (as shown).

Want more than one? Quantity: _____ (Sorry, no quantity discounts.)

You may include this form with your membership form and simply add \$3.50 (each) to your dues payment. Or if submitted separately, please make your check out to SCCARA and mail to the club address (above) or hand to the SCCARA Treasurer or Secretary.

If there is any chance the name and call sign indicated is not a current SCCARA member please fill out the following, (otherwise, we already have your address):

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

e-mail: _____

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
 Renewal ARRL member

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

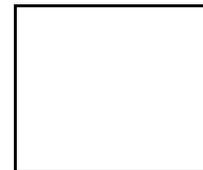
Give this completed form (or copy) with payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or mail to the return address below.

====> 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**