

# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 20, Number 4

April 2004



## Don Hayden, KO6HH, SK

I have the sad duty to report that Don Hayden, KO6HH, Club Trustee, and good friend, has become a silent key. I do not know exactly when he died, however he was taken ill with a heart attack on 3/8/04 and apparently passed in the hospital. I received word of his death from Clark Murphy, who received notice through an e-mail from Don's brother Bill. Don will be missed very much. Subsequently I have learned that Don has been cremated and will be interred in Arizona near his parents. No local services have been planned, thus I am planning a brief memorial for him at our next meeting.

I had a special connection to Don, as we both had Wisconsin roots. I was born in Appleton, WI. Don taught chemistry at a college just outside Appleton. He also spent time at Lawrence University, a college in Appleton. On one of his trips back to Appleton, he bought me a sweatshirt from Lawrence University. I wear it often, and will always think of Don when I wear it.

Don was working on a patent for a glass treatment that he had invented. It was to have applications in the electronics industry. I hope that his family sees Don's project through to completion and the acquiring of the patent in his name.

He was a very knowledgeable man. He was willing to share his knowledge with anyone who wanted to learn. He was one of the "Elmers" of SCCARA. The SCCARA antenna trailer was stored on his property. I am in the process of making arrangements to find a new storing place for our antenna trailer, as soon as possible. Don was a single man, with a wonderful spirit. He was a tall, (6 ft, 7in) gentle man with a quiet manner. He will be missed by SCCARA members. 73 Don, on your next journey.

Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, President and friend.

## President's Prose

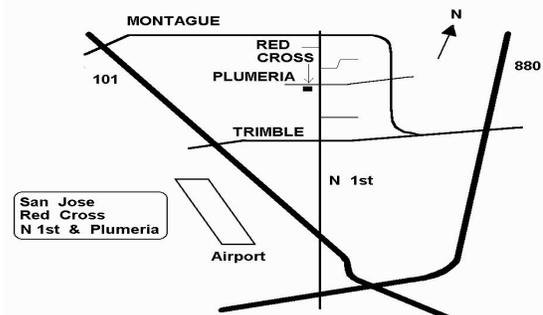
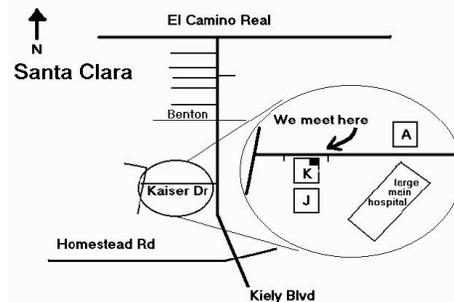
It was nice to see so many of our club members with their families at the last meeting. We were at the Hometown Buffet. If anyone walked out of there hungry, it was their own fault. I enjoyed talking with all of you. Our next meeting will be back at Kaiser Santa Clara, Bldg. K. Our speaker will be Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, talking about packet radio with a demonstration, and an explanation of the BBS bulletin board. Hope to see many of you there.

## Calendar

- 3/3 Livermore Electronic Flea Market
- 3/10 Foothill Electronic Flea Market
- 3/12 SCCARA General Meeting
- 3/19 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

### General Meeting:

- Day: Monday, April 12, 2004
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Bld K, Rm 1
- Featuring: Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU will talk about beginning packet with a 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, AE6MV 946-3423 e-mail: ae6mv@arrl.net
Treasurer	Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI 225-6769 e-mail: lloyddevaughns@sbcglobal.net
Station Trustee	Don Hayden, KO6HH, SK
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](mailto: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

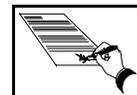
The clean out of the SCCARA storage locker went well. Now we have to figure out the price of those things we want to sell at the next flea market. By the way, our month at the flea market is in June, just before Field Day. We could use some help that day, especially if we decide to sell things at that flea market.

I have given an old picture I received from a member who moved to Florida a few years ago, to Shorty Freitas, AE6Z to see how many of the faces he can identify. It would be nice to see names and call signs, filled in. The picture is of a ham convention from in 1956(?). The people in that picture are the entrepreneurs, and the ham radio operators that were part of the early businesses that are all over the Silicon Valley. They were on the ground floor of fledgling computer companies that are thriving today because they helped to build them. It makes me proud to be connected with people who had that kind of vision.

I have the sad duty to report that one of our members, and Trustee, Don Hayden, KO6HH, has become a silent key. I received notice last week from Wally. He received notice from Don's friend, via the SCCARA web site. I have written another article about Don somewhere else in this publication. I have no knowledge about any services at this time.

73, Barbara K. Britten, KD6QEI, President

Barbara, KD6QEI



## **Meeting Minutes**

### **General Meeting, March 8, 2004**



Monthly Meeting, March 08, 2004, 18:00, at Hometown Buffet, Kiely & El Camino, Santa Clara Attendance: 30, including 18 members.

Members present in alphabetical order: Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, Wally Britten, KA6YMD, Lloyd Devaughns, KD6FJI, Warren Gilleran, KD6UD, Joan Hastings, KB6LFZ, Mike Hastings, KB6LCJ, Roy Metzger, K6VIP, Virginia Metzger, K6IUU, Clark R Murphy, KE6KXO, David Paul, AE6MV, Jonathan Paul, KG6TRG, Tom Root, KF6NEW, Jack Russell, WA6IER, Gwen Steirer, KF60TD, Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, Ben Vickers, WB6FRM, Don Village, K6PBQ and Bob Wharton, W6OOY.

Visitors present included Petersen Scott, KG6SPF, Howard Califf, KE6PWH, of the local HRO, and various wives and children of members.

After all had eaten, Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, rose to speak. Barbara expressed happiness that everyone could attend this social meeting. Barbara advised that the 2M repeater is now inverted, thanks to the City of San Jose, and Ben Vickers will have more to say about that. The next meeting will be back at our usual location, Kaiser Santa Clara. The speaker will be Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, speaking about Packet. Barbara then read the list of those members who had not yet renewed their memberships for 2004. Discussion ensued.

Ben Vickers, WB6FRM, told us that the repeater has been successfully inverted and is using a new transmit antenna. The autopatch is now operational, details including codes will be

discussed at the next meeting.

Clark Murphy spoke of the Club's plans for Field Day, then added that K6VIP, Roy Metzger has now been married 63 years to his wife K6IUU, Virginia Metzger. Congratulations abounded.

Howard Califf, KE6PWH, of the local HRO, spoke of his pleasure to be present, then advised us of the upcoming ICOM day at HRO Sunnyvale 3/20/2004.

Don Village, K6PBQ spoke of the upcoming MS Walk to be held April 17. He still needs Hams to work the rest stops.

The Electronic Flea Market has moved from Foothill College to a location near Lockheed. The first flea market for this season will be Saturday March 13. Maps were handed out.

Notices regarding a POW WOW held at Homestead High School the evening of March 13 were also handed out.

Barbara asked for any more announcements, and hearing none, wish all a good evening.

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

David Paul, AE6MV  
Secretary

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## Board Meeting, March 15, 2004



The meeting was called to order at 19:45 by the President, Barbara Britten, KD6QEI. A quorum was present.

Attendees: Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, President, Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI, Treasurer, Clark Murphy, KE6KXO, Director, Don Apte, KK6MX, Director, Don Village, K6PBQ, Director, Wally Britten, KA6YMD, Director, Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, Director, Gwen Steirer, KF60TD, XYL, Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, Editor and David Paul, AE6MV, Secretary,

President Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, said that she was glad to see everyone at the Dinner last week. Barbara is looking forward to Field Day; the Chairman of Field day this year is Clark Murphy. This year SCCARA is 83 years old. Next Month's meeting topic will be Packet Radio, presented by our own BBS Chairman, Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU.

Lloyd has not yet arrived, so let's hear from the Secretary.

Secretary David Paul, AE6MV, presented the minutes of the last Board Meeting: no changes were needed, but the missing web address for our club site was provided. The Secretary read correspondence from AD6YU, Loren Singh, advising us that his current work hours prevent him from attending meetings, so he has not renewed his membership. Clark Murphy suggested that AE6MV contact AD6YU to tell him that he needs to get his priorities straight (-:-), but no motion ensued. The Secretary gave various Club newsletters and the Club's copy of WorldRadio to the Editor, and the SDC phone bills to the Treasurer.

Editor Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, had no report.

Treasurer Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI, reported that the Checking

account balance is \$366.43 and the Savings account balance is \$4929.77. ASVARO needs check for \$1100 for our participation in the Flea Market. Wally moved and Clark seconded that the check be issued, and the motion passed. Discussion ensued regarding the need for a funds transfer from Savings to Checking, an amount was set, and we paused while Lloyd and Barbara signed the check.

Repeater Chairman Wally Britten, KA6YMD, reported that the repeater has been inverted (146.985-), the autopatch is now operative and the coordination paperwork has been submitted, and distributed a second draft of the 2 Meter repeater's control codes. Discussion ensued regarding distribution of the new information and the accuracy, and details of the autodial codes. It was agreed that San Jose RACES members are to have the Hang Up and AutoDial codes, but that the regular patch codes are for SCCARA members only. Plans are to mail the codes to all members, then to discuss the new codes with Members at the April Monthly meeting. Both club calls, W6UU and W6UW, still need renewal, and will expire 4/19/2004. This is the responsibility of the Repeater Trustee, Don Hayden, KO6HH.

Director Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, spoke about Saturday's Ham Flea Market, hosted this month by the Palo Alto Red Cross. A total of 144 vendors were present; buyers-started showing up at 04:00. SCCARA will serve as host in June. Discussion followed of the new location, getting lost, scarcity of parking and the numbers who appeared at Foothill instead. The Red Cross ran out and had to purchase more hot dogs. We might consider Polish Dogs also. Hot Dogs need onions. (Wally asked how you could put onions in a squeeze bottle). Don Apte said that he had seen some sellers seemed to sell quickly and leave just as quickly; he obtained gear from one seller that was said to have been tested, but which failed to operate once he got it home. Don provided a paper on Hamfests for inclusion in the SCCARA-GRAM, and advised us that he had obtained permission to copy and publish it from its author.

Director Clark Murphy, KE6KXO, spoke of the need to sell unused Club equipment. We need to obtain a key for the Collins, perhaps Ben Vickers has one. Discussion followed as to whether to sell our stuff in June, when we run the event, or in another month.

Clark suggested that in addition to providing free membership to Trish and Ben, we should send a letter of thanks to Trish for her work in getting the 2M Repeater inverted. Others suggested that the letter might better be sent to the City of San Jose Radio Dept. No motion followed.

Clark spoke of a good presentation at PARA last month, by Mitch Cipriano, AE6AI. Mitch runs www.hamstop.com and Saratoga Amateur Radio products in league with Morris Jones. Morris is an exceptional radio engineer.

Director Don Village, K6PBQ, advised us that Hungry Hunter has been sold, and Ed, the Manager of the Milpitas location where we hold our annual Christmas Social, will advise us of the situation by the beginning of April. He knows of the Milpitas location has a new owner and will remain open, but has no details. Cattlemen's in Sunnyvale and David's in Santa Clara were offered as possible alternates. The topic was tabled until the next meeting.

Director Clark Murphy, KE6KXO, spoke of plans for Field Day. Some volunteers will need to go through the trailer and confirm that the ropes are still good, etc. Perhaps the trailer can be brought down to Clark's house in June, then towed to the park from there.

The President, Barbara Britten, KD6QEI asked for any other items of business, new or old. Clark Murphy moved that the meeting be adjourned, Lou Steirer seconded the motion, and the meeting was

adjourned at 21:31.

David Paul, AE6MV, Secretary

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## Board Meeting, Feb. 16, 2004



The meeting was called to order at 19:45 by the President, Barbara Britten, KD6QEI. A quorum was present.

Attendees: Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, President; Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI, Treasurer; Clark Murphy, KE6KXO, Director; Don Village, K6PBQ, Director; Wally Britten, KA6YMD, Director; Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, Editor; Ben Vickers, WB6FRM, Repeater Committee, David Paul, AE6MV, Secretary;

President Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, opened the meeting at 19:45 with the news that she was sick (and should have stayed at home in bed), but that she had finished the first-draft of the New Ham's Welcome letter; she handed out copies for all to review.

After many suggestions were offered and discussed, Editor Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, suggested that Barbara arrange for the draft to be sent to all attending, and each person send their proposal to Barbara and Gary, for completion at the next Board Meeting.

Helpful hint: if you need to go down stairs, and it hurts your knees - turn around and go down the stairs backwards.

Treasurer Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI, reported no change in the balances since last week's

Secretary David Paul, AE6MV, presented the minutes of the last Board Meeting: no changes were needed. The Secretary brought up the topic of members who had not renewed for 2004. Gary will print the list of calls in the next SCCARA-GRAM. Clark Murphy proposed a Motion, which was seconded by Don Village, that both Trish Gibbons, WA6UBE, and Ben Vickers, WB6FRM be awarded complementary one-year memberships based on their service to the club; the motion passed. (Since Ben has already renewed for 2004, this makes him the first club member to be paid-up through 2005).

The Repeater Chairman Wally Britten, KA6YMD, reported that the repeater has been inverted (146.985-), the autopatch is now operative and the coordination paperwork has been submitted, and distributed a draft of the 2 Meter repeater's new control codes. Discussion ensued regarding distribution of the new information. Barbara offered to confirm that the programmed numbers are accurate, then report at the next Board meeting. Plans are then to distribute the new codes to Members at the April Monthly meeting. Everything is okay with the 440 repeater, it is due for re-coordination in 2006. Both club calls, W6UU and W6UW, need renewal. This is the responsibility of the Repeater Trustee, Don Hayden, KO6HH.

Editor Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, requested that the Repeater Committee provide an Article for the SCCARA-GRAM, announcing the repeater inversion.

The BBS Chairman, Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, reported no new changes in BBS function. Gary will be our speaker for the April meeting, speaking on Packet and BBS's, of which the new Secretary is quite ignorant.

The locker Cleanup went well, (lots of work for many hours) but some Club equipment is missing or mislaid, including a TNC.

New Business:

Wally Britten, KA6YMD, suggested that our membership in NARCC has lapsed. It was judged that this is a routine cost and no Motion was needed, so Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI, wrote a check for the \$20 cost.

Barbara brought up the fact that a Field Day Chairman is needed. Clark Murphy 'volunteered'. Discussion ensued regarding the food for Field Day.

Wally Britten, KA6YMD, spoke of our Club Website (). It is hosted at no charge by QSL.net, but QSL.net requests donations. Don Village moved that the Club send a \$50 donation, Wally seconded the motion, and the motion passed. (So Lloyd wrote another check).

The site of the Flea Market is still unannounced, but it evidently will not be at Foothill.

Don Village, K6PBQ, brought up upcoming contests. A 160mm contest will be held 2/28-29. Discussion brought up that the Monterey Hamfest is 2/28, and that it is too late to announce the contest in the newsletter. Nonetheless, it seems that we will be participating from the Club Station on the evening of 2/28.

It would be fun to begin holding a raffle again. The subject was tabled until the March Board Meeting.

The President, Barbara Britten, KD6QEI asked for any other items of business, new or old.

Clark Murphy moved that the meeting be adjourned, Wally seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 21:32.

Upcoming Meetings:

- The March General Meeting, 3/08/2004, will begin at 18:00 at the Hometown Buffet at Kiely & El Camino, Santa Clara.

- The next Board Meeting will be March 15 at 19:30 at the San Jose Red Cross HQ.

David Paul, AE6MV, Secretary

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## ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, February 27, 2004

### FCC PROPOSES RULES FOR BPL SYSTEMS

The FCC this week released its Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) on Broadband over Power Line (BPL) systems. The 38-page NPRM--in ET Dockets 03-104 and 04-37--proposes amendments to FCC Part 15 rules to define so-called "access BPL," make rules specific to BPL systems and provide measurement guidelines for BPL devices and systems. It would make no changes to Part 15 emission limits for unintentional radiators, however. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, says that while Part 15's current limits on unintentional radiators on HF may be appropriate for short-duration, narrowband emissions, they are inappropriate for the sort of long-duration, broadband emissions BPL would employ. He compared short-duration, narrowband

emissions at the Part 15 radiated emission limit to a helicopter flying overhead.

"The noise is deafening, but is tolerable because it doesn't happen very often nor last very long," he observed. "To a radio user, having BPL in the neighborhood would be like having the helicopter hovering constantly overhead."

ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, offered an example most hams could relate to. "The limit for an unintentional emitter on HF is 30 uV/m at 30 meters from the source," he said. "If you take a dipole cut for 3.5 MHz and put it in a 30 uV/m field, you'll have a noise reading of S9 plus 16 dB at your transceiver."

The FCC proposal takes a broader view of interference. "There is significant disagreement among the commenting parties regarding the interference potential of Access BPL," the NPRM declares. "Amateur operators and amateur organizations in general are opposed to Access BPL and advocate emission limits that are lower than the existing Part 15 limits."

Still, the NPRM concedes, Amateur Radio operations "are likely to present a difficult challenge in the deployment of Access BPL in cases where amateurs use high-gain outdoor antennas that are located near power lines." Noting that power line noise already presents a significant problem for hams, the FCC said, "we therefore would expect that, in practice, many amateurs already orient their antennas to minimize the reception of emissions from nearby electric power lines."

The NPRM goes on to point out that because BPL has the capability to stay clear of specific frequencies, BPL providers can simply "avoid the use of amateur frequencies when in close proximity to amateur outdoor antennas." The NPRM also briefly mentions the possibility of interference to BPL systems from Amateur Radio, an issue ARRL and others raised in their comments on last April's Notice of Inquiry on BPL.

The NPRM emphasizes that under the proposed rules, operators of Access BPL systems would be responsible for eliminating any harmful interference that may occur. The FCC says it believes current Part 15 emission limits for carrier current systems--in conjunction with certain additional requirements specific to Access BPL--"will be adequate to ensure that existing radio operations are protected against harmful interference."

Sumner suggested that, with licensed services and government users taking up large portions of the HF spectrum, protecting all licensed HF users could prove to be a nightmare for BPL providers. He noted, too, that while the FCC maintains that licensed services must be protected, the proposed rules place the burden of initiating corrective action on the shoulders of the licensed services. "And as a practical matter, the FCC's proposed rules offer no protection at all to mobile and portable stations," he added.

Sumner also said the ARRL would continue to combat the "misconception" that BPL systems are viable as a "last mile" broadband technology for rural dwellers. "In low-density areas, the economics just don't work," he said.

The NPRM is available on the FCC Web site in Microsoft Word format <[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-29A1.doc](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-29A1.doc)> or as an Adobe PDF file <[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-29A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-29A1.pdf)>.

Interested parties may file detailed comments on the NPRM via the main FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>. The comment deadline is 45 days

after the NPRM has been published in The Federal Register, and that is not expected to happen for another week or two. The FCC also is accepting brief comments on the NPRM via its ECFS Express page <<http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/ecfs/Upload/>>.

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/onations/bpl/>>.

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From *The ARRL Letter*, March 5, 2004

## **ARRL RESPONDS TO WALL STREET JOURNAL ARTICLE ON BPL**

The ARRL this week responded to a March 2 Wall Street Journal article, "The Web's New Outlet," that presented a one-sided, rosy picture of Broadband over Power Line while avoiding any mention of its interference potential. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, faxed a letter to the editor of the New York-based business and financial publication to point out some of BPL's shortcomings, which were largely missing from the WSJ report.

"Any listing of the pros and cons of using power lines to deliver broadband services must mention its major disadvantage: it pollutes the radio spectrum, interfering with nearby radio receivers," Sumner said. "The only known exception is a microwave system being developed by Corridor Systems of Santa Rosa, California."

Sumner pointed out that BPL involves sending wideband RF "over unshielded wires that were not designed for the purpose." Owing to the laws of physics, Sumner continued, these power lines function much like antennas, and BPL signals passing through wires in the vicinity can interfere with radio reception.

"The frequencies in question are used by public safety agencies, the military, aeronautical and maritime services, broadcasters, radio astronomers, radio amateurs, and others," Sumner noted. He said BPL system designers have had only limited success in resolving the interference issue by notching certain frequencies.

"Yet BPL implementation cannot go forward without solving it, because for very good and obvious reasons it is a violation of FCC regulations for a BPL system to cause radio interference," he went on. "If BPL causes interference--and it does--the BPL system must be shut down." Sumner included references to the ARRL's BPL Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc#video>>, which documents HF interference the League monitored at four BPL field test sites last fall.

The WSJ article, in the paper's "Marketplace" section, focuses on the announcement this week of what's said to be the largest rollout to date of BPL by Cincinnati-based utility Cinergy Corp and its BPL partner Current Communications. Cinergy and Current Communications hope to be offering the service to between 60,000 and 1.5 million Cincinnati-area customers by year's end and eventually to some 24 million potential customers elsewhere who are served by smaller utilities.

While the article concedes that BPL "is unproven in wide use," it also cites FCC Office of Engineering and Technology Chief Ed Thomas, who called the technology "ready for prime time." Thomas stopped short of saying that the same was true for the BPL industry, however. It also quotes Cinergy Executive Vice President Bill Grealis, who called BPL "the last-mile solution" and said the

service--at between \$30 and \$40 a month--would be "cheaper and faster than DSL or cable."

A March 5 article about the Cinergy/Current Communications BPL rollout appearing in the Cincinnati Enquirer <[http://www.enquirer.com/editions/2004/03/05/biz\\_cinergy05.html](http://www.enquirer.com/editions/2004/03/05/biz_cinergy05.html)> cites Amateur Radio's concerns, although it also includes comments by FCC and industry sources saying that interference is not a major worry. Featuring a photo of ARRL Ohio Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE, the report quotes the League's comments to the FCC in response to last April's BPL FCC Notice of Inquiry (ET Docket 04-104). Phillips expresses his concerns that interference from RF on unshielded power lines could interfere "with all types of radio transmissions," including emergency agencies.

Sumner, in his letter to the Wall Street Journal, suggested that there are better choices than BPL, even from the standpoint of business and economics. "Potential investors in broadband delivery alternatives to DSL and cable would be far better off considering the various methods of delivering fiber-to-the-home in densely populated areas," he concluded. "For rural areas, adaptations of wireless LAN technology are generally recognized as offering far more promise than BPL."

### **NEW 241 GHZ DISTANCE RECORD CLAIMED**

Perennial microwave-band record seeker Brian Justin, WA1ZMS, has claimed a new world and North American DX record for the 241 GHz band. On February 17, WA1ZMS/4 in EM96wx worked W2SZ/4 in FM07fm at a distance of 79.6 km (49.35 miles). The two stations used slow-speed CW (QRSS). Pete Lascell, W4WWQ, was the W2SZ operator. Both stations used Spectran <<http://www.qsl.net/padan/spectran.html>> software to aid in receiving the slow-speed CW, in which a dit lasted about one second and each dah lingered for three. "The entire QSO took well over an hour to complete, with both stations having to send the exchanges several times," Justin said. "Some portions of the CW were copied by ear, but the DSP software came through in the end to help make the QSO happen." Justin says the QSO marked the fifth grid W2SZ needed for the ARRL VUCC Award <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/vucc/>> for 241 GHz--the first VUCC on that band. Additional details are on the Mount Greylock Expeditionary Force Web site <[http://www.mgef.org/zms\\_241\\_vucc.htm](http://www.mgef.org/zms_241_vucc.htm)>.

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From *The ARRL Letter*, March 26, 2004

### **FCC INVITES COMMENTS ON AMATEUR RADIO RESTRUCTURING PLANS**

The FCC is seeking comment on three plans, one from the ARRL, that would reshape the Amateur Service licensing structure. Each Petition for Rule Making responds to World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 actions last summer that made changes to Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations. While differing substantially in some other aspects, the three petitions call for modifications at Amateur Radio's entry level and for a three-tiered license system. One petition goes beyond licensing structure to recommend additional changes to amateur testing and HF digital privileges. A fourth petition focuses solely on the Morse requirement. Comments are due by April 24 on all four petitions.

Designated RM-10867, ARRL's petition asks the FCC to create a new entry-level license class--being called "Novice" for now. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters plus certain VHF and UHF privileges.

The League plan also would consolidate Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General licensees into a new General license that no longer would require a Morse examination. Current Technician and Tech Plus licensees automatically would gain General privileges, and Advanced license holders automatically would be upgraded to Extra without further testing. Applicants for Amateur Extra would still have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code examination, but the General and Extra written exams would stay the same.

A news report "ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access," <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/>>, has further details. Frequently asked questions (FAQs) are addressed on the ARRL Web site, <<http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring2/faq.html>>.

In a wide-ranging petition designated as RM-10868, an "unincorporated grassroots organization" calling itself the Radio Amateur Foundation (RAF) has asked the FCC to modify the Technician ticket to allow limited HF phone, image, data and CW privileges. HF phone/image privileges would be restricted to portions of the 160, 15 and 10-meter bands.

The group also proposes retaining the 5 WPM Morse requirement for General and Amateur Extra applicants, upgrading Advanced class holders to Extra and Novices to Technician. The Radio Amateur Foundation said it sees no need to change licensing requirements for General or Amateur Extra applicants.

The RAF also wants to scrap existing Amateur Radio question pools and start over from scratch, keeping the question pools out of the public domain and requiring a 10-day waiting period before retesting. In addition, it would permit only Generals and Amateur Extras--or Technicians licensed more than two years--to request vanity call signs.

The RAF has further asked the FCC to permit digital experimentation from 29.0 to 29.3 MHz at bandwidths of up to 15 kHz.

In his two-page petition designated RM-10869, Ronald D. Lowrance, K4SX, calls on the FCC to retain the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for General class applicants and to raise the Morse requirement to 13 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants. He called Morse code "the most reliable mode of communication" in an emergency. Lowrance would make no change in Technician licensing requirements.

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) wants the FCC to establish a new "Communicator" entry-level license. Its petition, designated RM-10870, reiterates the NCVEC's call--first made last fall in RM-10787--to altogether eliminate the Morse code testing requirement.

The NCVEC petition would upgrade all current Novices to Communicator class, all current Technician and Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees to General and all Advanced class licensees to Amateur Extra without further testing. Once the Morse requirement goes away, the NCVEC said in its filing, "there will be no effective difference between the Technician and General class licenses."

The new Communicator ticket would permit a power limit of 100 W on bands below 24 MHz and 50 W on all frequencies above 24 MHz. Communicator licensees would have to use commercially manufactured equipment (or gear built from a commercial kit). Communicator licensees could operate both voice and digital modes on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters plus VHF and UHF up to 70 cm.

All three license restructuring plans call for changes to the present HF subbands.

Interested parties may view and comment on these petitions via the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>. When entering the RM number in the ECFS "Proceeding" field, RM must be in capital letters and the hyphen must be included.

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## HAMFEST SURVIVAL GUIDE

With the Hamfest season swinging our way again, I thought that this article would be of some help to those looking for equipment. Also, there are some "rules of thumb" for hamfests. I hope that you enjoy this article and find it informative. Sometimes, a non-ham friend will ask me, "What is a hamfest?" My usual response is, "Well, it's basically a flea market where electronic and ham radio stuff is sold." Sounds deceptively simple, doesn't it? Of all the amateur radio activities that I participate in, none gets me more excited than a good, old fashion hamfest/swap meet.

No doubt many readers of this essay will have attended swap meets themselves and they probably will have heard several "rules of thumb" on how things are done and where the bargains are. In the following paragraphs, I'll talk about some of these rules and about a few others that I've learned on my own.

"Get there early because all the good deals go down before daybreak." Well, yes and no. Those "good" deals that go down early are often made by two groups: ignorant sellers and smart buyers, or smart sellers and ignorant buyers. Hopefully, you will be on the buying end of the former group. And hopefully, you'll be on neither end of the latter group.

The ignorant sellers are those who are offering a TS-940 for \$400. They simply don't know what their stuff is worth and since they haven't toured the grounds yet they're not likely to find out. Should you take advantage of their ignorance? Well, if you don't then someone else surely will. Watch out for basket cases. Don't hesitate to ask the big question, "Why are you selling it?" Pay close attention to lots of uh's and er's in the answer.

How many really hot, smoking deals on late model, expensive gear are out there to be had? Once in a while one comes along, but on the overall, few if any. Most hams know what they have, know what they paid for it, and know what it's worth. If you hear a fantastic deal such as "I'm selling this 940 for \$400 because I just want to get rid of it..." then buyer beware, there is no free lunch - if it looks too good to be true, then chances are it is! The best value deals will generally be on equipment that is 5 to 10 years old.

Ignorant buyers are those who blindly believe that "the best deals are the early deals" and are predisposed to spending their money no matter what. They will probably buy the first piece of equipment they see which remotely resembles their wants and needs. An informed buyer will have cased the swap meet at least once before making an offer on anything. Some buyers will even come out with flashlights as the sellers are unloading their cars hoping to find that elusive deal. Personally, I prefer daylight to flashlight if I'm going to spend anything over \$100. I really have to SEE it first.

Experience has shown that prime time at most Hamfests is between 8 and 10 AM. Hamfests which start earlier sometimes do

some business before 8 am but the real crowds, and the real competition (both buying and selling) happens during prime time. Prices never go up as the day wears on, they only go down.

Another "great deal" time is also at or near the close of the event. You can often rely on seller desperation by waiting till closing time or until he's packing up before submitting to your insultingly low offer. If he's hungry he might just take it. Also, many sellers revert to giving things away rather than tote them back home. I've picked up - and disposed of some good stuff this way.

"I'VE GOT A FEW THINGS TO SELL. HOW CAN I SET UP A BOOTH?"

A few basic things: Try not to look too professional and try not to look too naive. If you look like the sidewalk sale at K Mart then many buyers will peg you as a pro and will walk right by. If you have your stuff heaped in a pile on the ground, you'll get plenty of lookers rummaging through it, but don't expect to make any money. Try for a middle-ground, soft sell approach. Avoid prepackaged and shrink wrapped items, and avoid store bought price stickers. Arrange your merchandise so that people can easily touch it and gather around it.

If you have original equipment boxes, keep them visible but off of the main display (looks too professional). Don't use a cash box or register. Avoid big, fancy printed signs and advertisements - neat but handwritten notes on index card sized pieces of paper look more sincere. Do everything you can to have at least one other person helping you. You'll need this person to take over for you so that you can do some buying yourself and to perform the necessary recon to check your prices. Don't expose yourself to petty thieves.

Expensive handhelds should be kept visible but just out of reach. At a certain hamfest a few years ago, one guy stepped up to a commercial display and picked up a handheld and began looking at it. A few minutes later the clerk noticed something awfully strange: That new handheld had metamorphosed into an old, beat up IC-2AT! Some dealers don't open their booths until after they've had a chance to go shopping first. Some of these guys are very shrewd and go around buying up lots of things which will then show up for sale in their booths a little later in the day. I suppose there's nothing much one can say about this sort of thing, but it does tend to rub me the wrong way. Needless to say, these guys are sharks.

"HOW ABOUT PRICING AND HAGGLING?"

Make no bones about it, you're in a flexible price environment. Both buyer and seller alike are aware of this and it's expected. Many people won't buy regardless of the price unless they can negotiate for some kind of discount. I've come down as little as 5 percent to make a sale which wouldn't have been made otherwise. Buyers want a deal, regardless of the price.

Never, ever, price your for-sale item at your minimum price. Avoid the use of the word "Firm" in our pricing. You can keep the firm or lowest price in your head. If you don't like to haggle then don't expect to sell much, or if buying, expect to overpay. Don't be insulted by a 50 percent offer on your asking price, it's a typical ploy. A large percent of such offers really mean "I'll give you 75 to 80 percent of what you're asking." Don't shut your bidder off with a blunt "No" response - unless it's so ridiculously low as to be obviously insincere. Do your best to counter any offer you get. You must show at least a willingness to concede something. Research your prices before the event. New gear less than a year old typically loses 20 to 30 percent of its value -- sorry, but it's a fact of life. Nobody is going to buy your "mint" condition rig on a 10 or 15 percent discount off the list. Get the AES catalog as the

pricing bible for new and late model gear. Gear that's between 2 and 5 years old is typically worth between 50 and 70 percent of its original purchase price. Don't bother consulting those fictional manufacturer's "list" prices, as everybody knows that they're just hype. Older gear is priced roughly 30 to 50 percent of what comparable new gear would cost. For example, a Kenwood TS-520 (non-digital) will go for around \$300 while a new TS-140 is about \$750.

A note about options such as CW filters, PL encode/decode modules, desk microphones, and other add-ons: sadly, they plummet in value much more rapidly than the gear to which they're attached. When the prospective buyer looks at a piece of used gear, the options add only about 30 percent of their original value to the price, regardless of the age of the equipment. For example, a PL decode unit might cost you \$80 new. It won't however, add anywhere near \$80 to the resale value of the rig. This is especially true for the hand-held (HT) accessories. \$150 dollars of HT accessories will be lucky to get you \$50 dollars in resale - when sold along with the rig. Selling them separately does no better, you lose either way.

There are a few brand names which hold their prices better than others. For HF gear, the Big 3 (ICOM, Kenwood, and Yaesu) hold their value over time the best. In used rigs, Collins is the all time leader in resale value retention. Don't get suckered into paying too much for a Collins, because for the same money you could probably buy a new transistorized (and WARC capable) rig from one of the big 3. Drake has a brisk second hand market, especially the newer models. Forget about Swan, Eico, Gonset, Most Heathkits, Atlas, Galaxy, and most of the all-tube rigs (except Collins). Lovers of these older rigs please don't take offense, I'm simply stating that their resale values don't hold up very well.

In the classic arena, Hallicrafters, Hammarlunds, Johnsons and National's seem to be quite well liked. Each brand has a range of models ranging from CB-style cheap to broadcast or mil-spec quality. Prices vary with function, condition, and sentimental value to the current owner.

When selling new, late model gear, some buyers may grunt that your price is too high and that with a new one they can get a warranty. I've successfully countered this argument - and won - by offering to warrant the unit to the buyer myself, it works! This shows that you're 100% confident in the equipment and that it's worth every penny of your asking price. Here's a potpourri of miscellaneous observations about buying and selling:

Don't bother with old farts who only have one thing to sell. It's usually their dearest old HF rig that they bought new in the mid-70's. You can bet that it's overpriced and that he really doesn't care if he sells it or not. Yes, we know that it's unmodified, that it's been meticulously fed and cared for, that it has the original cartons, manuals, and sales receipts, and that he's damned proud of it. But remember, it's still a used rig that's worth the prevailing used price plus at most 10 percent more for being in excellent condition.

If you are a seller and things are moving really fast, and/or people don't seem to be haggling much, then take note - you're underbidding your merchandise. Don't wait until you're almost sold out to realize this. If you have several of the same item, try to hold a few in reserve for this contingency. If you show a box full of 100 of the same widget, the seller will offer you less than if you only had one or two on display.

Never get sentimental or emotionally attached to any item. This killer attitude can cost you big \$\$\$\$. In if doubt, don't. Pause, wait, research, and rethink your position before you buy. Don't let the seller know when you are absolutely in love with an item - it'll cost you. Find out if the seller is a local ham or not. Bluntly, local hams

are less apt to screw people that might hear them on local repeaters. It's one of the peculiarities of this hobby - people talk. It can help you and it can hurt you. Ham gossip travels relativistic speeds. If you take advantage of people, or if you misrepresent your wares, you'll soon be persona non grata both on the air and around town.

Rigs which come with service manuals: This definitely means that the owner was a tinkerer. It could mean that the rig has or had serious problems. It might mean nothing - just something else to think about. When buying old, tube-type gear, be especially cautious of those which utilize TV sweep tubes in the finals - most of them stink. Even Heathkit used 6146's (as did Collins), which are a good indicator of a robust design. When these rigs were designed, TV sweep tubes were intended to be a more cost effective solution. Today, sweep tubes cost just about as much as 6146's and so the intended savings is lost. In fact, you'll likely blow two or three sets of sweep tubes before you'll put a dent in a 6146. Just look in an old tube manual (boy, I'm glad I saved mine from the 70's) at the sweep tube ratings. They're junk! Many sweep tube rigs also generate a lot of RFI. Most homebrew equipment is worth nothing. About the only homebrew device I would buy would be an antenna tuner - but only if I could see the inside first. Hopefully, it will have a roller-inductor.

Used coax is a gamble. There's no telling how long it has weathered. Watch out for "RG-58" cable that says "30 volts" on it. It's probably thin ethernet which doesn't even come close to being usable. It's probably OK if it is Belden GR-58 A/U type. The black insulation should be shiny.

Boat anchors like old test equipment and the like can be a real good buy if you can pick them up for about \$10 or less. The more knobs and switches the better. Sometimes the cabinets can be worth quite a bit, especially if you're a builder. There's usually about \$50 worth of good, high-quality parts inside these gems.

Don't hesitate to scrap what once was a precision piece of test gear even if it's a name brand like HP or Tektronix. You'll get more for the parts at future hamfests than you paid for the whole unit. Also, your junk box will be well stocked afterwards.

Save all the old vacuum tubes that you can get your hands on. An old HP frequency counter, for example might have 100 tubes in it. There are virtually no tube manufacturers left and those old pulls will soon be in very high demand. I picked up a very good tube tester with charts for \$2. I have since found it to be indispensable.

I hope that you will find this information useful and/or interesting. The comments and observations given here are my own and your mileage may (will) vary. Have fun and see you at the next hamfest!

Taken from The Chicago FM club Inc. Newsletter *SQUELCH TALE* de Tim WD9DZV

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## Packet Pieces

**Downloaded from the packet network:**

=====  
Date: 30 Jun 2000 23:28  
From: AB7RG@AB7RG  
To: FARCE@WW  
Subject: Loud Four Year Olds...  
=====

Ever notice how a 4 year olds voice is louder than 200 adult voices? Several years ago, I returned home from a trip just when a storm hit, with crashing thunder and severe lightning. As I came into my bedroom about 2 a.m., I found my two children in bed with my wife, apparently scared by the loud storm. I resigned myself to sleep in the guest bedroom that night.

The next day, I talked to the children, and explained that it was O.K. to sleep with Mom when the storm was bad, but when I was expected home, please don't sleep with Mom that night.

They said OK. After my next trip several weeks later, my wife and the children picked me up in the terminal at the appointed time. Since the plane was late, everyone had come into the terminal to wait for my plane's arrival, along with hundreds of other folks waiting for their arriving passengers. As I entered the waiting area, my son saw me, and came running, shouting, "Hi, Dad! I've got some good news!" As I waved back, I said loudly, "What's the good news?" "Nobody slept with Mommy while you were away this time!" The airport became very quiet, as everyone in the waiting area looked at my son, then turned to me, and then searched the rest of the area to see if they could figure out exactly who his Mom was.

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

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## 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):  
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

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

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## Newsletter Notes

### Is amateur radio a "mature" hobby now?

Here we go again... yet another significant SCCARA member dies. Since I've been here, this is the first time I know of where it has been an officer or director. But this isn't a eulogy, Barbara covered that.

This has got me to thinking...

I suppose it's to be expected that we lose a member in this way, now and then. Most of the membership is not young. When I was secretary several years ago (when the FCC license records still included date of birth), I found that the average age in SCCARA was 69...that's the *average* age. Over the years since then, I've noted that hardly a year goes by where we don't lose a member or two, sometimes more. And this isn't a big club.

It didn't used to be that way. Amateur radio used to be more of a hobby for engineers and electronic tinkerers, retired folks too, but not quite so heavily weighted toward the gray-hair set. It wasn't unusual to see teenagers getting involved. Not so much these days.

Maybe part of it is due to the fact that radio communications is no longer the novelty it used to be. Not too long ago I remember people complaining about "appliance operators," (amateurs who buy all their equipment and never build or modify anything), and "rice boxes" (radios made in Asia). I don't even hear that anymore.

So, is Amateur radio becoming a mature hobby? What will amateur radio look like twenty or thirty years from now? Will our ranks be significantly fewer? Are our glory years behind us?

I'd like to get some thoughts on this from the membership for the *SCCARA-GRAM*.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

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