

# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 20, Number 10

October 2004



## President's Prose

The picnic on Saturday, September 25, was a big success. There were about 18 people there. The food was great! The Bingo game lasted about two and a half hours. There were two radio stations set up: code operated by Don Village, K6PBQ; voice operated by Lou Stierer, WA6QYS. The weather was nice. The shade of the trees provided a wonderful setting for a day with friends, food, and communication with the world. Thank you to all who made it the success it was.

I have acquired a speaker for the November 8th meeting. He will be our new member Dennis "Red" Vernier, W6ALC. His topic will be about a recent DX-pedition. Please come and hear his talk and pictures to find out what it takes to go on such a trip. I am sure you will find it very interesting.

October is nomination time for new officers. The vacancies are: President, Vice President. All other officers are continuing in their present stations.

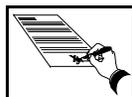
There will be a radio station event happening at the radio station at Red Cross. We are having an antenna party, followed by a contact contest. The contest is 10:00 AM until ???. The person that makes the most contacts in one hour will get a prize. Come to the Red Cross on North 1st St at Plumeria. If you plan to be there at lunch, you want to bring your own lunch, as there are no services in the building. There are vending machines that have drinks and snacks. Coffee is provided in the lunchroom.

The October meeting will be a pizza party before the meeting. The pizza will be at our regular meeting place at 6:30 PM. The meeting, which is a radio clinic, coordinated and run by Don Apte, KK6MX, and Gary, WB6YRU. Bring the HT's you want tested.

The December Christmas luncheon will be my last official duty as President, as the Gavel will pass to a new President. I am looking forward to this event. I hope many of you will consider coming to the luncheon on Saturday, December 18, at noon. We will be at the same place as the past few years. The restaurant was the Hungry Hunter. It has been sold to a new owner and has been renamed. The new owners are honoring the contract we had with the Hungry Hunter, so we will have our Christmas luncheon at the same place as before. I plan to make this year as special as last year. Come and enjoy the holiday spirit, good friends, and good food.

Please don't forget to check in on the Monday night 7:30 PM nets to keep abreast of club happenings and updates of information.

See you at the meetings, and hear you on the nets.



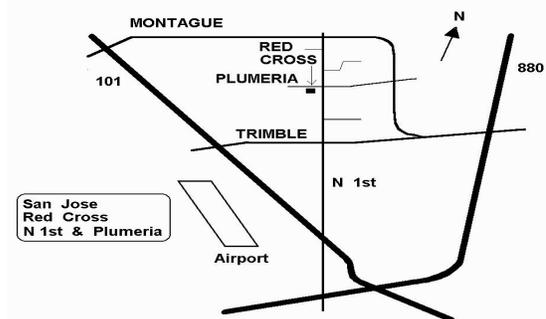
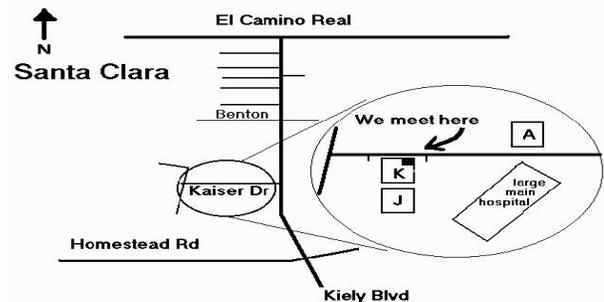
73, Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, President.

## Calendar

- 10/9 Sunnyvale Electronic Flea Market
- 10/11 SCCARA General Meeting--Pizza
- 10/18 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

### General Meeting:

Day: Monday, October 11, 2004  
Time: 6:30 PM Pizza, 7:30 radio clinic  
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Bld K, Rm 1  
Featuring: Pizza, Don Apte, KK6MX and Gary Mitchell WB6YRU will have equipment for testing your radios.



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**The deadline for articles is 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>.

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N0ARY BBS	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	269-2924
	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	

**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 following was to be the President's Prose for September, but obviously never made in. Barbara asked that it published anyway in this issue. - Editor}*

It's September, and my favorite time of year. The Canadian Geese are flying south for the winter, the air turns crisper, and the leaves are turning colors and falling off the trees. The best part is children returning to school. There are 115 days (from September 1st) until Christmas. (Are you ready for it?) It's also the time of year to plan for the rest of this year. Here's what we have to look forward to.

The September and October meetings have planned speakers. The September 13 meeting will feature Howard Califf, from HRO. He is bringing some of the latest toys for us to look at. Come see what's new, so you can make out your Christmas "wish list". The October 11 meeting will have pizza as well as a radio clinic. There will be a monitor there to check out your equipment. No fixing of problems, just finding them.

September 23rd is the SCCARA picnic at Mary Gomez Park on San Tomas in Santa Clara. Bring your entree to cook, a dish to share, a "white elephant" gift for the Bingo game, and a nice comfy chair for relaxing. The club will provide plates, utensils, napkins, sodas, and charcoal. A station will be set up for people to operate. The start time is around 10:00 AM until whenever. The park closes at sunset. This is a family event. Join us for transmitting, food, and socializing.

October is the month for nomination of officers for next year. I am vacating the office of president at the end of this year. I need to take some time off as an officer for one year to do other personal things. I will be at meetings as a regular member. David Paul, our secretary, has agreed to stay on for one more year. At the end of next year, I will take on the position of secretary. Meanwhile, I will help David by being the backup secretary if he has to be away for a meeting. We are in need of a new president, and vice president. All other people have agreed to stay on in their current positions. Please come to the October meeting with your nominations for an office. The prospective candidate must agree to that position or the nomination will not go forward.

One other note, please. By now some of you may have heard the good news, my children (daughter and son-in-law) and three grandsons, have moved into their own apartment. I have waited for this for over ten years. The quietness upon returning home after work is wonderful. I have heard clocks ticking, my cat purring, and many other little things that I haven't heard in years. We have begun a remodeling project, starting with our bedroom. Other rooms will be remodeled, one room at a time. My daughter's family did a lot of damage to the house that will be repaired, one room at a time, as funds become available. We plan to make changes to the house as we go along, especially, updating the electrical system.

This is all for now. Please check in on the Monday night nets, and come to the meetings. See you later.

73, Barbara K. Britten, KD6QEI, President.

SCCARA Members: This 'prose was delayed as I failed to send it to Gary. The content should still be made available to the club.  
- Red-faced Wally.

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## ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, September 10, 2004

### "INTRUDER SIGNAL" ON 40 METERS REMAINS A MYSTERY FOR NOW

An unidentified signal that's been showing up on the 40-meter

phone band on or about 7238 kHz has mystified amateurs in the western US and Canada, where it's been heard frequently for the past few weeks. Although it resembles a steady carrier, a closer inspection suggests that the intruding signal actually is a series of closely spaced signals. Don Moman, VE6JY, in Edmonton, Alberta, says the signal is quite loud at his QTH.

"This signal looks a lot more interesting than it would sound--just a broad tone/hum/buzz, depending on where you tune," he said. One spectrogram from VE6JY showed perhaps a half-dozen or more discrete signals. "It's certainly loud enough out here, peaking broadly south-southwest from Edmonton," he said. Moman was using a 5-element Yagi and was hearing the signal at 10 dB over S9.

That conforms with observations reported by Bob Gonsett, W6VR, at Communications General Corp (CGC). He says engineers at the CGC lab in Fallbrook, California took a quick look at the intruder September 6 at around 2120 UTC and found "several close-spaced CW carriers--perhaps from one specially modulated transmitter, perhaps from transmitters at different locations," he reported. CGC reported the signals appeared on 7238.063, 7238.150, 7238.237 and 7238.412 kHz, with the 7238.237 kHz signal being "the strongest of the group."

While no one's sure what it is, the FCC HF Direction Finding Facility has been able to determine that it's coming from somewhere north of Prescott, Arizona, and west of Interstate 17. FCC monitoring indicates the "buzz" is centered on 7238.1 kHz with a bandwidth of about 1 kHz and spikes spaced at about 90 Hz apart.

Reports to the International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 Monitoring System indicate the signal has been heard from about 1700 to 2130 UTC, although Moman reported hearing it at around 0300 UTC and said the signal even went off the air for a few seconds while he was listening to it. Jack Roland, KE0VH, in Colorado also heard the signals for a couple of evenings this week. "Something is not right there," he remarked.

High Noon Net Manager Bill Savage, N5FLD, in Albuquerque, New Mexico said several net participants--in Nebraska, Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, Minnesota and Arizona--were able to hear the mystery signal.

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From *The ARRL Letter*, September 24, 2004

## **FCC POISED TO ACT ON BPL REPORT AND ORDER IN MID-OCTOBER**

The FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) will present a draft broadband over power line (BPL) Report and Order to the full Commission when it meets October 14, the ARRL has learned. More than 6100 comments have been filed on the topic since the FCC released its initial Notice of Inquiry in the proceeding, ET Docket 03-104, in April 2003 and a subsequent Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), ET Docket 04-37, in February of this year. The ARRL so far on this round has taken its concerns regarding Amateur Radio and BPL to three of the Commission's five members. In a meeting this week with FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein, an ARRL delegation again asserted that the FCC is pushing the proceeding to a predetermined conclusion with little regard for technical issues.

"Because the FCC has been unwilling to release for public review the results of its own tests and observations of BPL systems, the ARRL has no confidence that the draft Report and Order will be based on sound engineering and believes the rush to adoption is

unwarranted and premature," ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said in a follow-up letter to Adelstein. The letter reiterated the League's key points that, it said, "represent the minimum protection" that should be incorporated into the BPL Report and Order prior to Commission adoption.

"Without adequate safeguards, the deployment of BPL systems will result in the pollution and degradation of the unique natural resource of the high-frequency radio spectrum," Sumner said.

The League argued that the R&O include a reduction in the radiated emission limit. The ARRL wants the limit set 30 dB below current Part 15 requirements, which, it says, were established with narrowband point-source radiators in mind. "The record in this proceeding clearly establishes that BPL is not a point-source radiator," the ARRL's letter asserted.

The ARRL pointed out that the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has concluded that at the current Part 15 limit, interference is "likely" to receivers in land vehicles 75 meters from BPL-connected power lines and to fixed stations 460 meters from such power lines.

"Given the number of amateur stations and the fact that they almost invariably are located near power lines, the areas of potential interference at the existing Part 15 limit are clearly too large to permit case-by-case resolution of interference issues," Sumner said. "Based on experience with the very limited test deployments of BPL systems to date, notably in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Southern Wake County, North Carolina, and Cottonwood, Arizona," the ARRL told Adelstein, "widespread BPL deployment at the existing Part 15 radiated emission limit will result in an unmanageable incidence of interference."

The only way to reduce these areas of potential interference is to reduce the radiated emission limit, the ARRL maintained. Mandatory "notching" of the amateur bands by 30 dB would reduce the probability of interference to amateur stations sufficiently that the remaining interference cases might be resolved on a case-by-case basis. "However," the League added, "such notching would not solve the problem for other radio services."

The ARRL contingent, which included Sumner, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and ARRL Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, decried the FCC's lack of response to issues Sumner raised two months ago regarding a North Carolina Amateur Radio interference complaint. The ARRL representatives carried copies of correspondence questioning a July OET report that essentially gave the Progress Energy Corp BPL field trial a clean bill of health despite continued interference on amateur frequencies.

The League delegation suggested to Adelstein that the OET has swept the North Carolina BPL interference case under the rug and has attempted to discount interference issues in general while overstating the FCC's ability to address them.

Other points the ARRL has stressed in its meetings with Commission members include:

- consider including the NTIA's recommendations to standardize measurement procedures and to require that Access BPL systems be certificated, not merely verified.
- requiring independent confirmation of rules compliance before a BPL system is placed in operation.
- the need for advance public notification of BPL system locations and characteristics, something not included in the NPRM

- performance standards for interference mitigation that would require that interference be terminated immediately upon notification to the operator; and meaningful penalties for non-compliance, including fines.
- require BPL marketers to "give clear notice to potential customers that licensed radio services have priority and that the delivery of broadband service via BPL cannot be guaranteed."

In addition to Adelstein, ARRL representatives have met so far with Commissioners Kevin J. Martin, and Michael J. Copps. The League hopes to meet with the principal advisors to Chairman Michael K. Powell and Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy before the October 7 cutoff for ex parte communications in the proceeding.

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From *The ARRL Letter*, October 1, 2004

### **NORTH CAROLINA UTILITY DECOMMISSIONING BPL FIELD TRIAL**

Progress Energy Corporation (PEC) this week shut down its BPL field trial in the Raleigh, North Carolina, area and began removing system hardware. The utility's action came just as local amateur Tom Brown, N4TAB, had filed a "Response and Further Complaint" about the system. His filing disputes an FCC determination this summer that PEC's BPL system complied with Part 15 rules--with notched BPL emissions averaging 24 dB below Part 15 emission limits--and that ham band notching was "effective." Brown, who has an extensive background in RF engineering, says the FCC's findings have nothing to do with defining--or excusing--harmful interference.

"I can find no reference that states that equipment operating under Part 15 with an emission level below some specified value is defined as being 'non interfering,'" Brown told Bruce Franca of the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology. Franca's July 22 report characterized the 24 dB average notch depths as "sufficient to eliminate any signals that would be deemed capable of causing harmful interference, including interference to amateur operations."

Brown disagreed. "This is a subjective leap of judgment that is unsupported under Part 15 rules and without precedent," he responded. BPL proponents have touted the FCC's conclusions in the Progress Energy field trials to debunk findings by the ARRL and others that the technology can and does generate harmful interference. The ARRL also took issue with certain claims Franca made in his July 22 letter, but the Commission has yet to respond.

Brown, who also asked the FCC to shut down the system, now has gotten his wish. The utility announced nearly two months ago that it had "successfully" completed Phase 2 of its BPL trial and would be terminating the operation. At the same time, Progress indicated that it "does not have plans for a large-scale commercial rollout of BPL in the company's service territories." PEC has since backed away from that statement and says it has not ruled out BPL.

Speaking at the United Power Line Council (UPLC) BPL conference in mid-September, PEC's Matt Oja said that that while the utility had worked with local amateurs to successfully quell interference, the amateurs kept raising the bar until Progress had to put its foot down. Even after the FCC study that essentially gave the system a clean bill of health, Oja said, the amateurs still were unhappy.

Oja suggested that radio amateurs would never be happy about BPL, and he advised utilities to simply move forward with their BPL programs.

Responding to Oja's comments--as reported in the newsletter BPL Today--another amateur directly involved in the Progress Energy BPL field trials, Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, offered a somewhat different version of events.

"The only bar Progress Energy and Amperion need to meet is the one set by Part 15," Pearce said. "No harmful interference to licensed services." Amperion, PEC's BPL partner, ultimately was only partially successful in "notching" amateur frequencies out of its BPL system, Pearce noted, and interfering signals remained even after Progress announced it was ending its BPL field trial. Pearce said the utility gave the amateur community "no confidence in their ability to get it right in any reasonable time frame."

Amperion Marketing Vice President Jeff Tolnar told the same BPL conference that "all ARRL complaints have been mitigated and/or found to be invalid."

Franca, who also addressed the UPLC BPL convention, was quoted this week in USA Today as saying that the FCC has tried to come up with rules to ensure BPL can be deployed and that licensed radio operators are protected. But, the article by Paul Davidson continued: "Banning power companies from ham-radio bands outright could reduce the download speeds of the high-speed Internet service or limit the number of customers who could be served, Franca says."

A copy of Brown's filing also went to FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell's Legal Assistant Sheryl Wilkerson, with whom ARRL officials met this week on the BPL proceeding, ET Docket 04-37. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said that one of Wilkerson's "many misconceptions" was that actions such as notching by BPL systems to resolve interference have been successful.

The FCC is expected to consider a draft Report and Order in the BPL proceeding when the full Commission meets Thursday, October 14.--Anthony E. "Goody" Good, K3NG, provided information for this report

### **SANTA CLARA VALLEY GETS NEW SECTION MANAGER**

Kit Blanke, WA6PWW, of Milpitas, California, has assumed the office of Santa Clara Valley Section Manager, effective October 1. He took over the reins from Glenn Thomas, WB6W, the SCV SM since March 1999, who has moved out of the section. "I've had a blast being SM!" Thomas said. "I'll be seeing you all on the air." Blanke is no stranger to the section's top job. He headed up the Santa Clara Valley Section from 1995 until 1998 and still has his SM certificate from his earlier tenure on the wall of his ham shack. He's served as the SCV Section's Technical Coordinator since last December. Blanke is a self-employed RF engineering consultant involved in the design of Part 15 devices.

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## **Meeting Minutes**

### **General Meeting, Sept. 13, 2004**



Attendance: 18, including 1 visitor.

Members present (in alphabetical order): Donald R Apte, KK6MX, Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, Wally Britten, KA6YMD, Jeannie Felix, <td>, Del Harbold, KG6JPX, Roy Metzger, K6VIP, Gary

Mitchell, WB6YRU, Clark R Murphy, KE6KXO, David Paul, AE6MV, Don Steinbach, AE6PM, Gwen Steirer, KF60TD, Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, Douglas Turner, K6COM, James W Tyranski, KG6UDW, Dennis (Red) Vernier, W6ALC, Don Village K6PBQ, El Wirt, K6ZYY

Visitor: Howard Califf, KE6PWH

President Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, opened the meeting at 19:31. Barbara welcomed everyone now that summer is over, and the kids are back in school. Barbara advised us that the Club treasurer, Lloyd DeVaughns, would be absent tonight.

Tonight's presenter will be Howard Califf, KE6PWH, speaking on New Stuff at HRO. Howard has recently suffered a fire at his home,

Howard had many items to show us.

- A Grundig Emergency Hand-crank Radio, Howard has recently suffered a fire at his home, which started in his Ham Shack. All his HTs were in the house, but the chargers were all in his shack, and they were all destroyed in the fire. So he purchased one of the next items himself, a
- MAHA C777 Universal Charger. It charges just about everything.
- "Kill A Watt": a unit that tells you the wattage of anything plugged into it.
- Kenwood HT THF6A, lots of compliments about \$300
- Yaesu HT VX150, single band 2M, in the same chassis as the Vertex Commercial HTs.
- Yaesu HT FT60, a dual 2M/440 under \$200.
- Yaesu Mobil 8800, very good at rejecting overloads
- Diamond 5/8-wave antenna for HTs
- Saratoga Electronics "Easy PSK, \$46: PSK is only 31KHz wide, so all the power goes into the narrow bandwidth. His first PSK contact was with Turkmenistan, with only 20 watts.
- Many and various adapters.

The presentation was very interesting and informative; each item was discussed in detail by Howard and by those present who own or have used one.

After Howard's presentation, Barbara announced a break (from 20:17) until 8:30.

At 8:30 Barbara shared that next month's meeting (October 11) will feature a Radio Clinic, hosted by Don Apte and Gary Mitchell. It also is our Pizza night, so we will meet at 6:30 for Pizza, followed by the regular meeting / Clinic at the usual 7:30. The location is our usual, Bldg K, Kaiser Santa Clara.

Lou Steirer asked who wanted what kind of Pizza; the conclusion was to order Ham & Pineapple, Vegetarian, Combination and Pepperoni Pizzas. The proposal also to order a garlic and anchovy pizza was roundly booed down.

The Annual Picnic will be September 25th at 10:00 PDT in Mary Gomez Park, at San Tomas and Forbes. Lou will bring the 757 from Red Cross.

Don Apte said that we are borrowing, with option to buy, a Rig Blaster.

David Paul, AE6MV, asked for any changes or corrections to last month's minutes, which are printed in the recent SCCARA-GRAM. Don Apte noticed one change needed, to last month's Board Meeting minutes.

Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, showed the proposed new Ham letter,

and asked for assistance with the clip-art; both Jeannie Felix and Jim UDW offered to help with ideas or samples for the needed graphics.

Gary suggested for a future meeting, that we have not heard from the ARRP Pacific Director in some time. Barbara agreed that he might make a good speaker, for some time after Pacificon.

PBQ reminded us that October 2 might be a good time to use the Club Station, for the California QSO party. Lou Steirer volunteered to lead an antenna party, to find why the antennas won't tune up right, on October 2 at 10:00 at the Red Cross. Then if we get the antennas fixed, we will participate in the Party beginning at 13:00.

New Business

Pacificon tickets are now for sale at HRO - \$39.00. Pacificon is 10/15-16-17/2004. This is the second largest ham event in California, after the DX event in Visalia. The Pacificon banquet is Saturday evening starting at 6:30, and tickets can NOT be purchased at the event.

Roy Metzger, K6VIP, reported that two local Hams, both previously members of SCCARA, have become Silent Keys. These are K6MOB, Tony Sanchez, and AB6OZ, George Brady, VIP attended MOB's graveside service: he and W6JYN were the only Hams present.

President Barbara Britten led a minute of silence for these two Silent Keys, 21:05-21:06..

Del Harbold, KG6JPX, asked if we could add an S-meter to the repeater. It seems unlikely that this could be done, as the repeater unit is a commercial job, not typical ham gear, and it would be hard to do. Members present at the meeting offered the S-meter codes for the SVECS 146.115 (AA6BT) and for the SPARK 145.230 machine (N6NFI).

Barbara reminded us that next month is the meeting for Nominations for Officers for 2005.

Don Village K6PBQ, reminded us that December 18 is the annual Holiday Luncheon, at Jericho's Steakhouse (ex-Hungry Hunter Milpitas). Barbara announced that there will be a gift exchange, and that as usual, she will give each attendee a present.

Lou Steirer thanked SCCARA for our help with the SVECS Flea market; they had 189 vendors, and sold 400+ hot dogs and a similar volume of coffee.

Howard Califf, tonight's speaker and manager of Ham Radio Outlet Sunnyvale, offered a 5% discount to any SCCARA member, on any item except radios.

Don Apte has heard that the lease for the Sunnyvale location has been lost, but no one was able to confirm it. But it is true that the Livermore market is seeking a new location.

After further discussion, Wally Britten and Don Village moved that the meeting be closed, no one disagreed, and the President adjourned the meeting at 21:19.

David Paul, AE6MV, Secretary

## New Members

SCCARA would like to welcome these new amateurs to the club (in "callbook" order):

Joined in September:

Jeannie R. Felix  
W6ALC, Dennis "Red" Vernier  
W6LIL, Lily Suzuki  
AE6PM, Don Steinbach

And a belated welcome to these amateurs who joined earlier this year:

NY3E, Glen Barney  
KG6JPX, Del Harbold  
NU6P, John Glass  
NT6S, Tom Server  
KG6SMY, Christopher J Waters  
KG6TRG, Jonathan Paul  
KG6UDW, James Tyranski  
KG6USU, Douglas F Turner

Don Steinbach recently got his ticket again, after a short lapse (1957...). Dennis "Red" Vernier recently returned from a DXpedition. Lily Suzuki came to the September meeting with Red. Jeannie R. Felix is attending Chris Swartout's Technician Class, and expects soon to have something to announce to us.

Would any of our new members like to write a short introductory article, introducing themselves to the Club? The newsletter editor's email address is listed on page 2 of every *SCCARA-GRAM!*

David Paul, AE6MV  
SCCARA Secretary

charcoal, drinks, plates, napkins, utensils, etc. Gwen will bring the ice. The December luncheon will be at the usual place, although it has a new name.

The Secretary asked for corrections to last month's minutes. Barbara said that the name of the new club member who visited the meeting should be included, but she did not remember the name (and the Secretary missed last month's board Meeting).

Wally YMD reported no change to the repeater. Gary YRU noticed that it sometimes cuts off the first syllable of a person's transmission, and sometimes cuts off the first syllable of its own identification. Wally will look in to the situation.

Newsletter Editor Gary Mitchell reported that he has been just too swamped with newsletter article submissions, but then he showed a wry smile, meaning that he has as yet received none.

BBS chairman Gary Mitchell reported that the BBS is no longer answering its phone (its control line). He will visit the site to find the problem. He is also considering designing and building a control circuit that will automatically shut down and reboot the system.

### Old Business

Gary YRU brought up the New Ham Welcome Letter, and showed an updated copy with new graphics. After discussion, Clark Murphy KXO presented a motion, seconded by Lou QYS that we accept the letter as presented with a single edit. The motion was unanimously accepted.

Lou QYS then presented a motion that we begin sending the letter immediately. Wally offered that he had recently received a new ham list. After discussion, Clark KXO seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Barbara Britten, QEI, said that she was happy to see the list of new members in the recent SCCARA-GRAM. But she remembers when there was an article about each new member, and volunteered that next year, during her self-imposed "year off", she will act as the Club reporter, interview each new member, and write those articles herself.

It was discussed that we should also start working on a New Member Welcome Letter or package.

### New Business

It was discussed that we could use battery cases for our batteries. Clark will investigate, purchase one, and bring it to the Picnic.

Clark Murphy moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Barbara agreed. The meeting was adjourned at 20:57.

### Upcoming Meetings:

- The annual Picnic will be held Saturday September 25 at Mary Gomez Park.

- The Club will have an Antenna Party at the Red Cross, Saturday October 2 at 10:00, to repair the antennas atop the Red Cross building. If we succeed,

- The Club will participate in the California QSO Party, Saturday October 2 beginning at 13:00, from the Club Station at the Red Cross HQ.

- The October General Meeting will be held Monday September 13 at 19:30, in Bldg K, Kaiser Santa Clara, immediately following the

## Board Meeting, Sept. 20, 2004



The meeting was called to order at 19:40 by the President, Barbara Britten, KD6QEI. A quorum was present.

Attendees: Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, President, Treasurer, Clark Murphy, KE6KXO, Director, Wally Britten, KA6YMD, Director, Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, Director, Don Apte, KK6MX, Director, Gary Mitchell, WA6YRU, Newsletter Editor and Gwen Steirer, KF60TD, XYL.

President Barbara Britten, QEI, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Barbara will discuss with our new member, Red, W6ALC, whether he would be interested in serving as our speaker for November, telling us about his recent DXpedition.

The October Meeting (October 11) is a Pizza party at 6:30, followed Radio Clinic at 7:30. October is also the meeting for Officer Nominations for 2005. For the Pizza, we had 19 people at our last meeting, so we should plan for about that many for October. (Barbara will bring the ice).

This Saturday, 9/25, is the annual Picnic. The Club will provide

6:30 Pizza Party, same location.

- The next Board Meeting will be September 20 at 19:30 at the San Jose Red Cross HQ.

- We expect to participate in the November Sweepstakes, from the Club Station at the Red Cross HQ.

- The annual Christmas Luncheon will be Saturday, December 18, at Jericho's Steakhouse (ex-Hungry Hunter Milpitas), including a gift exchange, and as usual, Barbara will present each attendee a gift.

David Paul, AE6MV, Secretary

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## Packet Pieces

### Downloaded from the packet network:

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Date: 24 Jul 2004 02:20  
From: G8VHG@GB7FCR  
To: HUMOUR@WW  
Subject: Overheard !!

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This was from a radio conversation released by the American Navy.....

#1 : Please divert YOUR course 15 degrees to the North to avoid collision

#2 : Recommend you divert YOUR course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision !!

#1 : This is the Captain of a U.S.navy ship. I say again divert YOUR Course !!!!

#2 : No! I say again divert YOUR course !!!!

#1 : THIS IS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER 'ENTERPRISE', WE ARE A LARGE WARSHIP OF THE US NAVY.....DIVERT YOUR COURSE NOW !!!

#2 : This is a lighthouse !!! Your Call?

True ?????

73 - Ian, G8VHG @ GB7FCR  
Email.....igower@igower.karoo.co.uk

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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 DeV Vaughns,  
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

In the last issue, I mentioned how the club used to have a welcome notice in the newsletter for new members—including a photo.

Well, that got me to thinking... In addition to that, how about having a photo of each author on the signature line of each column? We often see this in newspapers and magazines. Perhaps we could do this in the masthead too. I think it would add a lot of class to the *SCCARA-GRAM* and would give new members some kind of resource to see who was who in the club.

If no one is willing to be the club photographer, perhaps someone has an old digital camera they don't use and could donate to the cause.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

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# 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

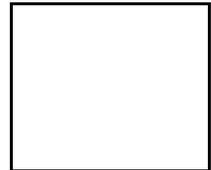
Give this completed form (or copy) with payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or mail to the return address below.

====> 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**