

# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 20, Number 12

December 2004



## President's Prose

Wally and I were not at the November meeting because we were in Maine tending to my mother's estate. I had prepared for my absence at the October meeting by asking Lou Steirer to preside over the meeting. Now I will say "thank you" to Lou for chairing the meeting for me. The elections were held. The slate of officers nominated at the October meeting were elected for the ensuing year.

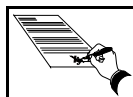
I heard that the November speaker was a big hit. "Thank you" Red and Lily for the repast that was a total surprise to those who attended the meeting. See what you miss when you don't attend the meetings? The topic that Red spoke about, "dexpeditions" was very interesting and informative. Thanks Red for volunteering to be our speaker for the evening. I'm sorry I was not there to hear it.

The weekend before the first contest, Wally Britten spearheaded an antenna party, held at Red Cross. Wally and his crew: Lou Steirer, WA6QYS; Don Village, W6PBQ; Clark Murphy, KE6KXO, put back the retuned antenna, and guyed it in place. The participants made many contacts. Thanks to all the participants who worked to make the event a success. There was another contest day on 11-19-04. It started at 1:00PM on Saturday and went through Sunday at 7:00 PM.

Our secretary, David Paul, has compiled some figures regarding attendance to the regular meetings. Those who attended eleven of eleven, (11/11): Barbara and Wally Britten, and David Paul. Those who attended 10/11 meetings: Roy Metzger, Gary Mitchell, and Don Village. Those who attended 9/11: Don Apte, Clark Murphy, Gwen and Lou Steirer. Those who attended 8/11 meetings: Lloyd DeVaughns, Mike Hastings, and Virginia Metzger. Those who attended 7/11 meetings: Del Harbold, and Joan Hastings. New 2004 members who have attended every meeting since they joined: Del Harbold, Don Steinbach, and Fred Townsend. New 2004 member who has attended the most meetings (7): Del Harbold. Thank you David for this information. Next year, with Clark Murphy's permission, I would like to institute a year end prize for those who attend the most meetings throughout the year. There should be two categories: officers and regular members. I will talk to him about this at the December Board meeting.

I hope to see many of our members at the annual Christmas luncheon. I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving.

73, Barbara K. Britten, KD6QEI, President

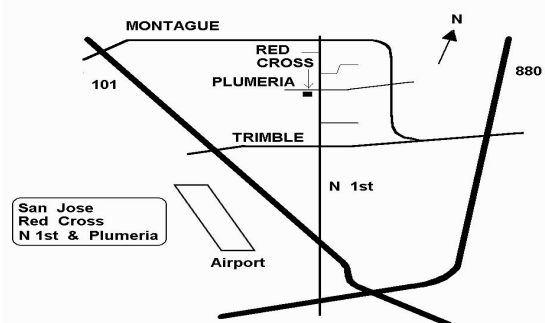
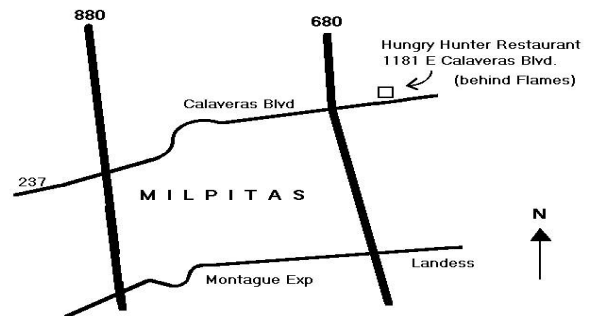


## Calendar

- 12/4 **Livermore Electronic Flea Market?**  
12/13 **SCCARA Board Meeting--**(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)  
12/18 **SCCARA General Meeting--luncheon!**

### General Meeting:

Day: Saturday, December 18, 2004  
Time: 12 noon  
Place: Jericho's Steakhouse in Milpitas, (formerly Hungry Hunter)  
Featuring: Christmas Luncheon, annual 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 the last Monday of the month.**

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

**OFFICERS - DIRECTORS - STAFF**

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Director	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
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N0ARY BBS	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	269-2924
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:wb6yru@ix.netcom.com">wb6yru@ix.netcom.com</a>	

**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

## December Meeting

Our annual Christmas meeting this year will be a luncheon again instead of a dinner. It will be held on Saturday December 18 at the Jericho's Steakhouse (formerly Hungry Hunter) in Milpitas, (1181 E. Calaveras Blvd just off Hwy 680).

Lunch is at 12 noon. Please note that on Saturday, there isn't a regular bar, but you will be able to order a bottle of wine for the table.

This year we will not be having the raffle prize drawings. Instead we will have a gift exchange. The way it works is that everyone brings a wrapped gift suitable for a man or woman costing about \$8-\$10. This type of gift exchange is always a lot of fun to participate in.

Reservations need to be in by Friday Dec. 10 (see sign-up sheet). Talk-in will be on our repeater, W6UU, 146.985 - (simplex if you can't hit the repeater). Why not renew your membership at the same time?

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there!

73, Don K6PBQ

## BBS Report

The N0ARY BBS has been running smoothly recently, with only a minor bump in the road here and there.

The internet user port had to be shut down because of the spammers, but everything else is working fine.

The two meter user port uses the standard 1200 baud, but if you have a 9600 TNC, by all means try the much faster 70 cm port at 433.37.

If you're new to packet BBSs (bulletin board systems), go ahead and connect to the BBS, (connect to the call n0ary-1). There's a brief sign up procedure. Once in, try the command HELP to see how to use the help function, and the INFO command to see about other information documents. (However, remember, the internet port isn't working.) In general, packet BBSs work a little like e-mail and a single usenet group. Check out the LIST command to see how to find out what messages and bulletins are there.

73, Gary WB6YRU

## CQ JOTA de K6PBQ

On Saturday Oct 16, I participated in the 47<sup>th</sup> annual Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) for scouting. This is my 13<sup>th</sup> year of having scouting groups over to my home station. I had 3 groups over this year for a total of 12 scouts plus parents. I had Den 6 from Palo Alto, Troup 433 from cupertino, and troupe 264 from San Jose. I showed them my antenna system and how it works.

We were able to contact 2 scouting groups in Westminster, CO, near Aspin and W0BSA at a scout camp near Fort Collins. The scouts were thrilled to be able to talk on HAM radio for the first time and share scouting and school activities with their scouts.

I also set up a couple of code practice oscillators so they could learn how to send their names in Morse code.

Everyone had a great time and it's a toss up as to whether the scouts or myself had a better time. This is a great activity and opportunity to introduce Amateur Radio to our youth. I'm looking forward to working Jamboree next year.



73, Don Village, K6PBQ

# For Sale SCCARA radios

ICOM 736 HF + 6 meters with built-in AC power supply: \$500

Kenwood TS520 HF 10-80 meters: \$200

ICOM 735 HF rig with 500 Hz CW filter. Has display problem that needs repair: \$35

Contact Don Village, K6PBQ, 408 263-2789

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## Meeting Minutes

### General Meeting, Nov. 8, 2004



Monthly Meeting, Monday, November 08, 2004, Bldg K, Kaiser Santa Clara.

Attendance: 20, including one non-member.

Members present (in alphabetical order): Don Apte, KK6MX; Lloyd Devaughns, KD6FJI; Jeannie Felix; Del Harbold, K6JPX; Joan Hastings, KB6LFZ; Mike Hastings, KB6LCJ; Roy Metzger, K6VIP; Virginia Metzger, K6IUU; Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU; Clark Murphy, KE6KXO; David Paul, AE6MV; Don Steinbach, AE6PM; Gwen Steirer, KF60TD; Lou Steirer, WA6QYS; Gerald Thompson, N6SWC; Fred Townsend, AE6QL; Dennis (Red) Vernier, W6ALC; Ben Vickers, WB6FRM and Don Village, K6PBQ.

Non-members present: Lily Suzuki, W6LIL.

A pre-meeting discussion was held, moderated by Lily Suzuki, Jeannie Felix and others.

President Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, was absent. In her stead, the meeting was chaired by Director Lou Steirer. Jeannie said that Wally and Barbara are in Warham, Massachusetts, and will return late Saturday, so we can expect to see both at the Board Meeting next Monday.

Lou told a joke: a Hunter was leading his Expedition through the Jungle when they came across a pygmy standing astride a dead rhino. It was a surprising sight, the massive rhino and the diminutive pygmy. The Hunter asked if the pygmy had killed the rhino, the pygmy replied "Yes." The Hunter was understandingly surprised that the small pygmy could kill the massive rhino. So the hunter asked, "How did you kill it?" The pygmy answered "With my Club." The hunter was even more surprised. "How big a Club?" was his surprised response. The pygmy's reply: "Oh, about 90 of us."

Nominations were made last month for club positions to be voted on at this meeting. Nominated were:

- President: Clark Murphy, KE6KXO
- Vice-President:
- Secretary, David Paul AEMV,
- Treasurer, Lloyd Devaughns, KD6FJI
- Director: Wally Britten, KA6YMD
- Director: Donald R Apte, KK6MX

- Director: Don Steinbach, AE6PM
- Trustee: Don Village, K6PBQ

Don Village moved, and Virginia Metzger seconded, that a white ballot be cast. The balloting was unanimous.

- The Antenna party was successful, but the dipole came up only on 40 Meters, 80M only came to 3:1 SWR.

- The minutes of the last meeting were read with no corrections. - The treasurer reported the club's funds to be \$ 4311.86, total.

The guest speaker for tonight is Dennis (Red) Vernier, W6ALC, speaking of his recent DXpedition and other items of interest.

Red used to work in Greenland, running satellite downlink of military data for Ford Aerospace. While there, he operated from Greenland, but propagation was typically poor due to the Aurora Borealis. He was able to run CW on 160M from Tule, Greenland.

Field day is a great way to have fun as a Ham. FARS was at Baylands Park last weekend. Pacificon. The US Navy event last weekend.

A great Ham Holiday is at the National Parks. Red contacted the head of the Fire Department at Glacier National Park, and was invited for two weeks, compliments of the Fire Dept.

There are also Ham Holidays out of the country, where you just need to bring your license.

Red and Lil went to Costa Rica. You can register and get a license there for \$25, but that's not necessary. The Custodian of the station will allow you to transmit using his call. Of course, a Contester will pay the \$25 to register their own call.

TI5KD during the off months, they booked the statio there for nine days, and were the only folks there. During the season, the usual price is \$ 100-150/day, including breakfast. Contesters reserve well ahead of time. The normal season is November March.

The Queen Mary, in Long Beach, will let you use their radio room. Wally Britten, the Steirers and Don Village have been there.

Out of Hawaii, AH6QR is sailing the South Pacific. The Seafarer's net is held at 14.313 at 13:00 Zulu daily. In Hawaii, there are the USS Missouri, Arizona and others to see.

The USS Iowa needs a berth.

In Panama, lots of folks are emigrating from Costa Rica to Panama. It has the second largest Free Trade Zone, second to Hong Kong.

AC6V has everything from A to Z! For a DX Holiday, check DX Shack. For pricing, check their booking schedule.

Ham Radio Clubs K6BSA.

For a DXpedition, you need to bring everything: food, water, electricity, antennas, tents, gear; it is not convenient.

Red and Lily went to Heard Island û no one had been to the island since 1932. DXpeditions are scheduled well in advance- currently they are scheduling one at the end of December 2005.

Mount Athos is active again, a resident who is also a ham is allowing access.

Good websites:



EHAM: a great private website  
M4MC: a good history of vanity calls  
ARRL, FCC: American calls  
Buck.com: Buckmaster all calls, worldwide.

Red's advice: Wherever you are touring, enjoy the people there.

[Sorry, my notes above are sketchy I was listening too much to Red, not writing enough MV]

#### Upcoming Activities:

- The Sweepstakes phone section will be Nov 20 (11:20 13:00 û 11:21 19:00). The club plans to participate. For the sweepstakes, one of the items exchanged is the year first licensed û SCCARA was first licensed in 1926.

- The December meeting will be the annual Holiday Luncheon, at Jericho's Steakhouse (ex-Hungry Hunter Milpitas), Saturday December 18, at Noon.

After further discussion, KXO and VIP moved that the meeting be closed, it was seconded by VIP, and Director Lou Steirer adjourned the meeting at about 9:45 pm.

David Paul, AE6MV, Secretary

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## Board Meeting, Nov. 15, 2004



President Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, called the meeting to order at 19:35. A quorum was present.

Attendees: Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, President; Clark Murphy, KE6KXO, Director; Don Apte, KK6MX, Director; Don Village, K6PBQ, Station Trustee and Director; Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, Director; Wally Britten, KA6YMD, Director; David Paul, AE6MV, Secretary; Gwen Steirer, KF6OTD, XYL

President Barbara Britten, QEI, welcomed everyone to the meeting. She said that Lloyd was sick and would not be present. Barbara thanked everyone for all the support over the last five years. Barbara brought up the question as to who would swear in the new Officers. The consensus of the Board was that this year, the outgoing President should do the honors.

After discussion regarding the work of the previous Saturday and the continuing support provided to the Club by this member, Don Village moved, and Wally Britten seconded, that the Club provide a free ticket to this year's Luncheon to Ben Vickers, WB6FRM.

Barbara thanked Len Steirer for serving as Moderator of last week's General meeting, during her absence (and in the absence of a Vice-President - MV

David Paul, AE6MV, asked about the minutes of the last Board meeting; no corrections were suggested. No Treasurer's report, Newsletter report or BBS report was provided. Wally YMD reported no change to the repeater.

#### Old Business

The Club held an Antenna Party at the Red Cross, Saturday October 30 or Sunday October 31, to replace the dipole antenna atop the Red Cross building. Wally Britten, Clark Murphy and Don Village did the major work. The dipole is now usable for

both the 40 and 80 Meter bands.

At the last meeting Don Village agreed to test the Club's HF radios. Don's report:

The ICOM 745, which the Club received from the J. Tanner estate, is inoperative on three bands. The TS 520, which the Club received from the J. Tanner estate, operates just fine. The ICOM 735, which the Club received from the Bob Keller estate, has a readout problem. The 757 at the Club Station is okay. The 847 is new, recently purchased to work all bands for Field Day. The power supplies are okay.

Don suggested the following plan:

Yaesu FT757	Keep
Yaesu FT847	Keep
Kenwood TS440	Keep
TS520	Sell one, keep one
ICOM C735	Sell (readout problem and electrical-problem smell)
ICOM C736	Sell
IC745 with ICP515 Pwr Supply	Sell (three bands inoperative)
Astron 520 Pwr Supply (2 ea)	Keep
Collins 380	Sell, but needs to be tested first
Collins Amp	Sell, but needs to be tested first
Heathkit S320 Amp	Sell, but needs to be tested first

Don said that if the Club agrees to the sales, he already has the IC745 with ICP515 Power Supply sold to Stan Gesla for \$100.

Further, Don suggested that we use the funds from these sales to purchase an available Kenwood HF rig. A neighbor of his recently became a silent key, and his wife (Marilyn, N6FGT) wishes to sell his Kenwood 450, including an internal tuner and a 1.8 MHz SSB filter and a CW filter, for \$550. Don offered, if the Club agrees, to provide a check immediately to the widow, and let the Club repay him as the above equipment is sold.

Discussion included the suggestions that:

- we sell both the Astron Power Supplies and purchase a switcher,
- that we keep both the Astron Power Supplies for now, and
- that we should ensure that the funds from the sales be assigned to provide the funds for the purchase, to ensure that Club funds do not further decrease.

It was moved by Lou Steirer and seconded by Clark that we sell the IC745 with ICP515 Power Supply to Stan, and post the ICOM 735, ICOM 736 and one TS520 in the SCCARA-GRAM for sale to Club members, along with the FL-32A ICOM filter. The motion was approved unanimously.

It was moved by Lou Steirer and seconded by Clark that we proceed to acquire the TS450SAT with 1.8 KHz and 500 Hz filters from silent key widow Marilyn, N6FGT, for \$550. The motion passed with no one dissenting but with Don Apte abstaining.

Barbara moved and Lou Steirer seconded, that the Club advance the \$550 to Don Village so that he need not await the sales of the used equipment. The motion passed with no one dissenting.

#### New Business

Don Apte proposed that for the coming year, the Board accept as an objective, not to allow further erosion of Club funds. Don remembers when the Club treasury was above \$20K, and now it is only \$ 4K.

No further business was brought up.

Wally Britten moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Barbara

agreed. The meeting was adjourned; at 21:03.

After the adjournment, it was brought up that a number of Hams helped out with the Veterans' Day Parade, and suggested that they be recognized in the December SCCARA-GRAM.

#### Upcoming Meetings:

- The Club will participate in the Sweepstakes, November 20, from the Club Station.
- The next Board Meeting will be Monday December 13 at 19:30 at the San Jose Red Cross HQ. The (outgoing) President will buy Pizza.
- The December General Meeting will be the annual Christmas Luncheon, Saturday, December 18, at Jericho's Steakhouse (ex-Hungry Hunter Milpitas). It will include a gift exchange, and as usual, Barbara will present each attendee a gift.

David Paul, AE6MV, Secretary

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## ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, October 29, 2004

### FCC BPL REPORT AND ORDER STRESSES INTERFERENCE AVOIDANCE, RESOLUTION

The FCC this week released the full BPL Report and Order (R&O) in ET Docket 04-37 that it adopted just two weeks ago. While extolling the purported benefits of broadband over power line technology, the 81-page document also declares the FCC's intention to protect licensed services from harmful interference.

"We recognize that some radio operations in the bands being used for Access BPL, such as those of Amateur Radio licensees, may occur at distances sufficiently close to power lines as to make harmful interference a possibility," the FCC conceded in its R&O. "We believe that those situations can be addressed through interference avoidance techniques by the Access BPL provider such as frequency band selection, notching, or judicious device placement."

Notches would have to be at least 20 dB below applicable Part 15 limits on HF, 10 dB below on VHF. The FCC called the ability to alter a system's operation to notch out transmissions on specific frequencies where interference is occurring "a necessary feature for resolving interference without disrupting service to BPL subscribers."

In line with remarks made at the October 14 open meeting where the FCC adopted the R&O--then still in draft form--the FCC declined to reduce the Part 15 radiated emission limit for BPL systems. It maintained that emissions from BPL systems are very localized and at low enough levels to generally preclude harmful interference.

The FCC said it had no evidence before it that BPL operation would significantly contribute to generally raising background noise levels. At the same time, it seemed to put some of the onus on Amateur Radio licensees to take steps to avoid power-line interference--and, by inference, BPL interference--in advance.

"In addition, because power lines inherently can radiate significant noise emissions as noted by NTIA and ARRL, good engineering practice is to locate sensitive receiver antennas as far as practicable from power lines," the FCC said.

In a footnote, the FCC took pains to advise ARRL that in cases where its members experience RF noise, "such noise can often be avoided by carefully locating their antennas; in many instances an antenna relocation of only a relatively short distance can resolve noise interference."

BPL operators would be required to avoid certain bands, such as those used for life and safety communications by aeronautical mobile or US Coast Guard stations. The FCC R&O makes clear, however, that similar rules will not apply to the Amateur Service.

"We similarly do not find that Amateur Radio frequencies warrant the special protection afforded frequencies reserved for international aeronautical and maritime safety operations," the Commission said. "While we recognize that amateurs may on occasion assist in providing emergency communications," the FCC added. It described typical amateur operations as "routine communications and hobby activities."

Although some cases of harmful interference may be possible from BPL emissions at levels up to Part 15 limits, the FCC said, "we agree with NTIA [National Telecommunications and Information Administration] that the benefits of Access BPL service warrant acceptance of a small and manageable degree of interference risk." The Commission reiterated in the R&O its belief that BPL's public benefits "are sufficiently important and significant so as to outweigh the limited potential for increased harmful interference that may arise."

Among other specific provisions, the FCC's new rules mandate certification of BPL equipment instead of the less-stringent verification, a public BPL database--something the BPL industry did not want--and mechanisms to deal swiftly with interference complaints. BPL systems will have to incorporate the ability to modify operation and performance "to mitigate or avoid potential harmful interference" and to deactivate problematic units, the R&O says.

Further, the new rules spell out the locations of "small geographic exclusion zones" as well as excluded bands or frequencies--concessions made primarily at the insistence of the NTIA, which administers radio spectrum for federal government users--and "coordination areas" where BPL operators must "precoordinate" spectrum use. The rules also detail techniques to measure BPL emissions from system equipment and power lines.

The FCC said it expects "good faith" on both sides in the event of interference complaints. While the Commission said it expects BPL operators to take every interference complaint seriously and to diagnose the possible cause of interference quickly, it also suggested that complainants have responsibilities.

"At the same time, we expect the complainant to have first taken reasonable steps to confirm that interference, rather than a receiver system malfunction, is occurring and, to the extent practicable, to determine that the interference source is located outside the complainant's premises," the Commission said.

Shutting down a BPL system in response to a valid interference complaint "would be a last resort when all other efforts to satisfactorily reduce interference have failed," the FCC said.

League officials are studying the R&O and considering possible responses. The ARRL Executive Committee (EC) already has authorized filing a Petition for Reconsideration. The EC also authorized ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, to "prepare to pursue other available remedies as to procedural and substantive defects" in the BPL proceeding.

For more information on BPL, visit the "Broadband Over Power

Line (BPL) and Amateur Radio" page <<http://www.arrl.org>> on the ARRL Web site.

## **STATE UTILITIES COMMISSIONERS' BPL TASK FORCE SESSION YIELDS SOME INSIGHTS**

ARRL Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, represented the League this week at a meeting of the National Association of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners (NARUC) Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) Task Force. Michigan Commissioner Laura Chappelle chaired the October 24 gathering in Alexandria, Virginia. Its aim was to give NARUC BPL Task Force members an overview of federal regulations, an industry perspective, and insight into potential state regulatory issues related to BPL. NARUC consists of state utility regulators who have no jurisdiction over RFI issues, Rinaldo explained after the meeting.

"However," he said, "it's good that they are aware that there's a potential interference problem that could complicate life at the local level when hams complain to utilities about interference." On the other hand, he noted during his presentation, "BPL may be a distraction from a utility's main function of delivering reliable power to customers." During a question-and-answer session, the state utility commissioners posed no questions regarding BPL interference, Rinaldo said.

Rinaldo's presentation, "BPL--Amateur Radio Perspective," pointed out a paradox in the new regulations: "The R&O excludes frequency bands for those facilities typically away from BPL installations," he said. "However, it does not exclude frequency bands for those stations, such as Amateur Radio, typically closest to residential BPL installations." Rinaldo noted that ARRL and National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) BPL measurements "are consistent" with each other. The NTIA had determined that even at Part 15 emission limits for reception of low to moderate-strength signals, BPL interference extends out 460 meters (approximately 1509 feet) for fixed stations.

Among suggested BPL "best practices," Rinaldo recommended that BPL providers exclude Amateur Radio bands "by design" rather than awaiting complaints. If complaints do arise, BPL providers should "promptly eliminate interference," he said. Rinaldo also stressed Amateur Radio's emergency communication role.

Precursor Group CEO Scott Cleland spoke on "The Alchemy of Broadband over Power Lines." While focused primarily on investments, Cleland's presentation also asserted that that technical alchemy "has finally overcome the heretofore insurmountable barrier of noise interference in an economically viable way."

The United Power Line Council's Brett Kilbourne told the gathering that all technical problems confronting BPL had been solved and that it was time to roll it out. "I bit my tongue," Rinaldo remarked later.

During a discussion on "open access," Rinaldo said, the mood of the Commissioners was not to regulate how many BPL providers might have access to a given utility system, "which logically means that only one provider would be practical," he concluded. "That is, if one provider hogs all the bandwidth and/or time on the bands not notched, it would be virtually impossible to have the original provider back out just to let a competitor in."

Franca and Current Technologies' Jay Birnbaum allowed that there wasn't much bandwidth to begin with, and, Rinaldo said, subdividing it wouldn't make much sense.

Discussion also touched on the timing of BPL rollouts and competition from well-established cable and DSL as well as growing wireless system providers. "From the discussion, I got the impression that rollout would take about 4-1/2 years," Rinaldo said. "Over that time, cable, DSL, fiber, wireless and satellite broadband providers will provide strong competition."

## **FCC RELOCATION OF FEDERAL USERS INCLUDES SOME AMATEUR 2.3 GHz SPECTRUM**

The FCC has acted to include the first five 5 megahertz of the 2390-2417 MHz Amateur Radio Service primary allocation among spectrum it's opened up to accommodate federal users shifted from other bands. The spectrum relocations, which also involved nonamateur spectrum at 2 GHz, are aimed at making room for advanced wireless services (AWS), including so-called "third-generation" (3G) wireless systems.

After voting unanimously October 14 to adopt a Seventh Report and Order (R&O) in ET Docket 00-258 and WT Docket 02-8, the FCC called the action "an important step towards the future auction of 90 MHz of spectrum for AWS." The Commission said it worked with the US Department of Defense and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to reallocate spectrum to allow for relocation of critical military and other operations into the 2360 to 2395 MHz band.

The FCC says its action will make room available to shift federal government aeronautical mobile flight test telemetry (AMT) operations from the 1.7 GHz band to the 2.3 GHz band by extending the primary allocation for AMT to include an additional 10 megahertz from 2385 to 2395 MHz. "Making the additional spectrum available for non-federal AMT will accommodate the higher data rates needed for non-federal flight testing," the FCC said.

The Commission similarly extended the existing secondary spectrum allocations for federal and non-federal non-aeronautical mobile telemetry operations in the 2360-2385 MHz band to include the 2385 to 2395 MHz band. In addition, it extended the existing federal primary radiolocation and secondary fixed allocations from 2360 to 2385 MHz to include 2385 to 2390 MHz.

Last December, the ARRL announced that it had agreed in principle with the Aerospace and Flight Test Radio Coordinating Council (AFTRCC) to develop coordination procedures. The League told the FCC it could support Amateur Radio sharing of 2390 to 2395 MHz on a co-primary basis with flight test telemetry operations. But it has insisted that 2395 to 2400 MHz remain an exclusive amateur primary allocation.

## **BRITISH AMATEURS GET ADDITIONAL 100 kHz ON 40 METERS OCTOBER 31**

Starting at 0100 UTC October 31, the 40 meter band in the British Isles will effectively double in size when radio amateurs there gain access to 7100 to 7200 kHz. Ofcom, the UK telecommunications regulatory authority, announced the Notice of Variation October 26.

The change, in the works since last year, is a result of actions taken during World Radiocommunication Conference 2003, where conferees agreed to move broadcasters out of 7100 to 7200 kHz in Regions 1 and 3 to make room for the Amateur Service. Coincidentally, the UK band expansion, which also includes independently governed regions where Ofcom regulates telecommunications, will occur just about halfway through the CQ World Wide Contest (SSB) this weekend. Contesters take note!

The Ofcom NOV makes the segment available on a secondary basis, and amateur stations in the UK and affected regions may not cause interference to stations operating in other radio services inside or outside the UK.

The UK and Ofcom-administered regions join the Republic of Ireland--which reportedly gained access October 20--as well as Croatia, Norway and San Marino among Region 1 countries that have authorized access to the additional spectrum on a secondary basis. The WRC-03 change does not formally go into effect until 2009.-thanks to Lawrence Woolf, GJ3RAX; RSGB

## **DIGITAL BROADCAST TROUBLESOME TO SOME, EXPERIMENTAL OPPORTUNITY FOR OTHERS**

A digital broadcast signal on 3995 kHz has prompted some members of the amateur community to contact ARRL to say it's QRMing the top 10 kHz of 75 meters and asking what can be done about it. Not much, as it turns out. The signal, from Deutsche Welle in Germany, is legal since radio amateurs share that part of the band with broadcasters in Region 1 (which includes Europe). The international Radio Regulations do leave the door open to request that the station reduce power or change its antenna pattern, however.

"Digital shortwave will revolutionize cross-border broadcasts and will initiate a worldwide renaissance of radio," Deutsche Welle Director General Erik Bettermann said this month during a panel discussion at Munich Media Days. Deutsche Welle plans to gradually shut down its analog shortwave transmissions, he said, as DRM receivers became more available globally--something not anticipated until late 2005.

Although the station has been broadcasting for some time on the same frequency in conventional AM, it's attracted more notice from hams since July, when it began testing using digital format--also referred to as "DRM," (Digital Radio Mondiale, French for "Digital Radio Worldwide"). Of course, the vagaries of propagation will be a big factor as to the amount of interference US hams experience at any given time.

Radio amateurs meanwhile have been experimenting with programs such as HamDream <<http://www.qsl.net/de/member/hb9tlk/>>, a DRM program adapted for Amateur Radio use by HB9TLK. It enables digital voice and data transmissions using bandwidths on the order of 2.3 to 2.5 kHz.

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From *The ARRL Letter*, November 5, 2004

## **ARRL DISAPPOINTED WITH ADMINISTRATION OVER BPL REPORT AND ORDER**

The ARRL has expressed its disappointment with the Bush administration's failure "to prevent radio spectrum pollution by BPL systems." In a November 1 letter to Secretary of Commerce Donald L. Evans copied to President George W. Bush, ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, recalled Evans' assurances on the administration's behalf earlier this year "that we are responsible and sensitive to valuable incumbent [radiocommunication] systems." Haynie told Evans the FCC's BPL Report and Order (R&O) in ET Docket 04-37--adopted October 14 and released two weeks later--suggests otherwise.

"Despite excellent work conducted by the technical staff of your National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to document the extensive harmful interference that will occur if BPL systems are deployed at the radiated emission limits

presently permitted by the FCC rules," Haynie said, "it appears that the NTIA concurred in the FCC's decision not to tighten those limits."

The FCC maintains that BPL emissions are localized and at low enough levels to preclude harmful interference in the first place, and it has left the door open to possibly upping the limit in the future.

Haynie pointed out that both international treaty and US law entitle licensed radiocommunication services to protection from harmful interference that unlicensed systems like BPL might generate. "Despite this," he continued, "the FCC has shifted the burden for initiating interference mitigation from the BPL system operator to the radio licensee." The NTIA's September 13 submission to the FCC shows that at FCC Part 15 limits, the probability of harmful interference is essentially 100 percent within 200 to 400 meters (approximately 660 to 1300 feet) of a power line carrying BPL signals--depending on the operating frequency.

"Amateur Radio stations are typically located in residential areas, nearly always well within such distances," Haynie noted. "The FCC's Report and Order provides no assurance that when interference occurs--as it unquestionably will--it will be promptly eliminated."

As part of the Commerce Department, the NTIA not only administers radio spectrum allocated to federal government users but advises the White House on telecommunications policy. On June 24, President Bush extolled BPL during a speech on technological innovation even while acknowledging interference concerns.

Haynie said the League will continue efforts to improve the R&O. Calling the HF spectrum "a unique and priceless resource," the ARRL president expressed regret that the administration "is willing to squander such a unique natural resource in order to provide a short-range broadband connection that can easily be provided by several other non-polluting means."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, echoed Haynie's concerns. The FCC R&O, he said, "shifts the burden to licensed operators to react to interference rather than adopting rules to prevent interference from occurring." The R&O advises locating "sensitive receiver antennas" as far as practically possible from power lines. Additionally, the FCC admonished ARRL that in cases where its members experience RF noise, "such noise can often be avoided by carefully locating their antennas."

Reacted Sumner: "If a BPL system operator wants to meet its obligation by picking up all of the costs of relocating a licensee's antenna, it's free to make the offer."

If interference occurs, the new Part 15 rules will require BPL system operators to employ "interference avoidance techniques" such as "frequency band selection, notching, or judicious device placement." Notches would have to be at least 20 dB--slightly more than 3 S units--below applicable Part 15 limits on HF and at least 10 dB below Part 15 limits on VHF--not much protection for weaker signals common in HF work.

"We might be more optimistic if there had, to date, been a single instance when the FCC had ordered a BPL system to terminate operation for causing harmful interference," Sumner said. "The Commission continues to be in denial, despite hundreds of pages of documentation of ongoing interference."

Sumner said the ARRL was gratified that the FCC R&O recognized that BPL devices have significantly greater interference potential than other Part 15 devices and that the Commission will



require certification of BPL systems rather than the less-stringent verification. Additionally, Sumner said, the League was pleased that the FCC-mandated public BPL system database will require systems to be listed several weeks ahead of actual implementation so that amateurs and others have advance notice.

ARRL officials continue to mull possible formal responses to the R&O. The ARRL Executive Committee already has okayed the filing of a Petition for Reconsideration. It further authorized ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, to "prepare to pursue other available remedies as to procedural and substantive defects" in the BPL proceeding.

For more information on BPL, visit the Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) and Amateur Radio Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/bpl>>.

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From *The ARRL Letter*, November 12, 2004

### **NEW 60 METER BEACONS ON THE AIR FROM THE BRITISH ISLES**

The Daily DX reports that new 60-meter beacons are on the air from England and Scotland. GB3WES in Cumbria, England, and GB3ORK in Scotland's Orkney Islands join GB3RAL in Oxfordshire, which has been on the air since mid-2003. All transmit on 5290 kHz. Each beacon has a stepped transmit power sequence and a 30-second sounder sequence of 0.5 ms pulses at 40 Hz. All three beacons transmit at a nominal power of 10 W. There's more information, including how to file reception reports, on the RSGB Beacon Reporting Web page.

#### **Three North American LF signals received in UK**

Jim Moritz, M0BMU, in Hertfordshire, England, recently was able to receive LF signals transmitted by three North American stations operating on 2200 meters--in the vicinity of 137 kHz (137.777 kHz). Copied using a computer equipped with ARGO software were the "QRSS120" very slow-speed CW signals from WD2XES, operated by John Andrews, W1TAG, in Massachusetts; Joe Craig, VO1NA, near St Johns, Newfoundland; and WD2XDW, operated by Laurence Howell, KL1X/5, in Oklahoma. Moritz received the trio of signals October 29 at approximately 0300 UTC, reports Craig, who notes that Howell's LF CW signals also were detected recently in New Zealand. "The CW speed is very slow, taking two minutes to send a dit," Craig explained. "This corresponds to a speed of 0.01 WPM."

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From *The ARRL Letter*, November 19, 2004

### **EXPERIMENTAL LICENSEES MOVING LOW-FREQUENCY AGENDA FORWARD**

With no Amateur Radio low-frequency allocation in North America, stations operating under FCC Part 5 Experimental licenses <<https://gulfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/oet/cf/els/index.cfm>> in the US or under special experimental authorizations in Canada nonetheless continue to research the nether regions of the radio spectrum. By and large, LF experimentation is occurring in the vicinity of 136 kHz--typically 135.7 to 137.8 kHz--where amateur allocations already exist elsewhere in the world. The FCC rejected the ARRL's 1998 petition for LF allocations at 135.7 to 137.8 kHz and 160 to 190 kHz, however, after electric utilities objected that ham radio transmissions might interfere with power line carrier (PLC) signals used to control the power grid.

"Most of the new LF activity of Part 5 licensees has been in the

shared 137 kHz amateur allocation available in some parts of the world," says low-frequency experimenter Laurence Howell, KL1X/5. "Although not in the Amateur Radio Service, these Part 5 experimental stations continue to add to our knowledge on propagation and engineering."

The holder of Part 5 Experimental license WD2XDW, Howell--who's also GM4DMA--previously operated LF from Alaska. He's since relocated to Oklahoma, and has now resumed his LF work on 137.7752 and 137.7756 kHz. Already he's reporting some spectacular success, despite antenna limitations. On October 28, New Zealand LFER Mike McAleve, ZL4OL, copied WD2XDW's 137 kHz carrier "bursts" over a path of more than 13,000 km (8000 miles).

Howell believes the reception probably marked the first transpacific reception of a US-generated signal. "The land mass between Oklahoma and the ocean was considered to be a large obstacle to long-range communications," Howell remarked, "but obviously not."

The next day, Jim Moritz, M0BMU, copied the LF signals of three North American in the vicinity of 137 kHz (137.777 kHz)--including Howell's WD2XDW and WD2XES, operated by John Andrews, W1TAG, in Massachusetts--using Argo software, which can detect signals not otherwise readable. The third station, Joe Craig, VO1NA, in Newfoundland, has been operating a beacon on 137 kHz. Howell says, VO1NA's signals serve as a bellwether of LF transatlantic propagation. LF signals of European amateurs likewise are heard in North America.

On November 12, Andrews and another LF experimenter in Massachusetts completed the first two-way data exchange between Part 5 Experimental license stations on 137 kHz. Andrews worked Warren Ziegler, K2ORS, operating as WD2XGJ in Wayland, using conventional CW. The stations are about 25 miles apart, and both used loop antennas for transmitting. Jay Rusgrove, W1VD, some 100 miles to the south in Connecticut, monitored and recorded the QSO.

In British Columbia, Lorne Tilley, VE7TIL, and Steve McDonald, VE7SL, have been heard throughout North America on LF. Howell says both are starting a formal study of variances in groundwave propagation.

Howell says the disturbed solar conditions earlier this month wiped out long-haul paths through or close to the auroral oval during nighttime hours--especially at higher latitudes. He notes, however, that daytime signals over paths of between 1000 and 1500 km (620 and 930 miles) showed increased signal strengths during the disturbances. Howell has more LF information on his Web site <<http://myweb.cableone.net/flow>>.

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## **Packet Pieces**

### **Downloaded from the packet network:**

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Date: 18 Feb 2004 01:39  
From: W1GMF@W1GMF  
To: HUMOR@USA  
Subject: HUMOR FOR TODAY 0203

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Today's Joke

A man walked into a bar with a duck and a biscuit box. He set the duck on top of the biscuit box on the bar and the duck began dancing.

The bartender found this rather interesting as did the rest of the customers in the pub. They all came round the duck and watched it for hours, and while doing so, bought more and more drink.

By the end of the night the bar was full of people watching this amazing duck, still dancing and giving the odd quack now and again. The bar tender realized that he hadn't seen business this good in a long time. It was so good that he offered to buy the duck from the man to which the man agrees to sell for \$500. The bartender thinks it is a bit expensive but agrees to buy it anyhow. On selling the duck, the man went home, leaving a crowded bar watching his dancing duck.

Later that night, the man got a telephone call; it was the bartender and he exclaimed that the duck was a great success and that he earned his money back in the amount of drinks he sold, but he inquired, "There is one thing... How do you get the duck to stop dancing?"

"Oh simple--just take the lid off the biscuit box and blow out the candle."

#### Today's Story

My father-in-law had asked for a telephone on several occasions after the phone companies began concentrating on servicing the rural areas in the mid to late 50's, but on each occasion his name and address had been taken and placed on the telephone companies waiting list for the very next phone when an opening became available. After a couple of years of waiting for a phone he told his wife one day he was going to town and get a phone.

While he was in town on this particular day he went by the phone company and was again told he would be placed on their list for the very next available phone in his area. On this day my father-in-law told the phone company employee he was going to make an opening when he returned home.

Naturally, the phone company employee wanted to know how my father-in-law thought he could make an opening, when they did not have an opening.

The reply from my father-in-law was, Well you know those twelve to fifteen telephone poles which go across my cotton field that I have been plowing around for the past many years, when I get home I intend to cut them down and burn them so I can plow straight rows of cotton in the future.

The phone company service person was installing a new telephone at his home when my father-in-law returned from town that afternoon. ~ James N.

#### Last Laugh

"Boss, I've got to have a raise," the salesman said to his sales manager. "There are three other companies after me."

"Is that a fact?" the manager asked. "What other companies are after you?"

"The light company, the phone company, and the gas company."

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Date: 18 Feb 2004 09:05

From: W1GMF@W1GMF

To: HUMOR@USA

Subject: HUMOR FOR TODAY 0207

#### Today's Joke

Two men have been sitting out on a lake all day long, ice fishing. One has been having no luck at all and the other has been pulling fish after fish out of his hole in the ice.

The man having no luck finally leans over and asks the other what his secret is.

"mmmmm mmm mm mmm mmmm mmm mmm."

"I'm sorry, what did you say?"

"mmmmm mmm mm mmm mmmm mmm mmm."

"I'm sorry, I still didn't understand you."

The successful fisherman spits something into his hand and says, "You've got to keep your worms warm."

#### Daily Thoughts

My wife keeps complaining I never listen to her ...or something like that.

"Remember that as a teenager you are in the last stage of your life in which you will be happy to hear that the phone is for you." Fran Lebowitz

"Well, if I called the wrong number, why did you answer the phone?" James Thurber

#### Today's Story

When my son was about eight, his older sister was on a trip with a school club and would be calling for a ride home when the bus got back to the school.

My son and I were watching TV and I told him that in case I were to doze off, please be sure to answer the phone because his sister would be calling for a ride home. Well I did dozed off for a bit and when I awoke, I asked him if the phone had rang. He said yes, it rang a few times but it was the phone company. They want you to pay your phone bill.

I knew that I had already paid the bill, so I asked him what they said to him and he told me that he didn't answer it, he looked at the caller ID and knew it was them. Then he showed me the caller ID, it said "pay phone".

Needless to say, his sister didn't think it was so amusing when I told her what had happened! ~Donna L.

#### Last Laugh

When my demanding mother found out that I had a pager, I knew that she would buzz me a hundred times a day.

I told her that when she calls she could save time by spelling out "M-O-M" on the phone.

So whenever my pager goes off and it says "666", I know it's her.

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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

There was a change to the board meeting date for this month. Normally the board meeting is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month. But they felt that was getting a bit close to Christmas and changed it to our general meeting day (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday), since the general meeting is on a Saturday this month.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

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## December Luncheon Meeting Sign-up

Our annual December christmas meeting will be a luncheon this time; on Saturday December 18, at the Jericho's Steakhouse in Milpitas, 1181 E. Calaveras Blvd just east of Hwy 680 (old Hungry Hunter location), we've been there before. Luncheon is at 12 noon. Please note that on Saturday there isn't a regular bar. You will be able to order a bottle of wine for the table.

We will have a choice of four entrees. The regular lunch is \$15.00 each, children's choices are indicated below. Reservations need to be in by Friday, December 10. Talk-in on our repeater W6UU, 146.985 - (simplex if you can't hit the repeater). I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there. Why not renew your membership (back cover) at the same time? See "December Meeting" article for information on gift exchange.

— Don K6PBQ

For the annual meeting in December, sign me up for the following lunch(es):

From the regular menu, \$15.00 each:

_____ Prime Ribs of Beef	_____ Forest Mushroom Chicken	_____ Salmon	_____ Vegetarian Pasta
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From the Children's menu, \$7.50 each:

_____ Deli Burger	_____ Chicken Strips	Total for lunches: \$ _____
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Give this form (or copy) with payment to the Treasurer or mail to: SCCARA PO Box 6 San Jose CA 95103-0006

# SCCARA Membership Form for 2005

(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**