

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County
Amateur Radio Association



Volume 21, Number 3

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ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, February 11, 2005

ARRL TELLS FCC TO "RECONSIDER, RESCIND AND RESTUDY" BPL ORDER

The ARRL has petitioned the FCC to take its broadband over power line (BPL) Report and Order (R&O) back to the drawing board. In a Petition for Reconsideration filed February 7, the League called on the Commission to "reconsider, rescind and restudy" its October 14, 2004, adoption of new Part 15 rules spelling out how BPL providers may deploy the technology on HF and low-VHF frequencies. Asserting that the R&O fails to adequately take into account the technology's potential to interfere with Amateur Radio and other licensed services, the League called the FCC's action to permit BPL "a gross policy mistake." The R&O, the ARRL said, "represents a classic case of prejudgment" by an FCC that knew better but ignored evidence already at its disposal.

"It is readily apparent that the Commission long ago made up its mind that it was going to permit BPL without substantial regulation, no matter what the effect of this flawed application of old technology is on licensed radio services," the League's petition declares. The ARRL accuses FCC Commissioner Michael Powell and his four colleagues of deliberately authorizing "a spectrum pollution source" that's proven to be incompatible with existing licensed uses of the HF spectrum. "The Commission wanted nothing to contradict its enthusiasm about BPL," the League said, and its Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) saw to it that evidence of the "fundamental incompatibility" between BPL and incumbent HF radio services "was suppressed, ignored or discredited." The FCC has not adjudicated a single interference complaint, the ARRL added, but has swept interference complaints under the rug.

While expressing appreciation for Commissioner Michael Copps' concerns regarding BPL's potential to interfere with Amateur Radio and his call for quick complaint resolution, the League said his admonition "has not been heeded by either the Enforcement Bureau or the Office of Engineering and Technology."

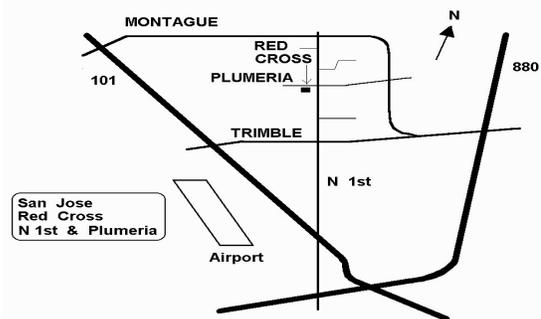
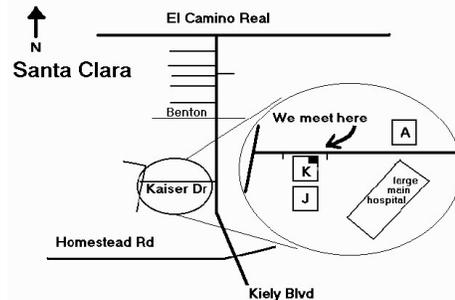
In the filing, which included several technical exhibits to bolster its major points, the ARRL further argued that Powell—a self-described "cheerleader" for the technology--the ARRL further argued that Powell should have recused himself from voting on the R&O. The chairman, the ARRL says, violated the FCC's own ex

Calendar

- 3/12 Sunnyvale Electronic Flea Market
- 3/14 SCCARA General Meeting
- 3/21 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting:

Day: Monday, March 14, 2005
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Bld K, Rm 1
Featuring: Emily Clark W0EEC the AMSAT SF Bay Area Coordinator and VP of Project OSCAR



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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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SCCARA REPEATERS

SCCARA owns and operates two repeaters under the call W6UU:

2 meter: 146.985 - PL 114.8
70 cm: 442.425 + PL 107.2

Phone auto-dial and auto-patch is available. The two meter repeater is located at Eagle Rock near Alum Rock Park in the foothills of east San Jose. The 70 cm repeater and N0ARY BBS is located at the Regional Medical Center (formerly Alexian), east of downtown San Jose, north of 280 and 101.

SCCARA NETS

On our two meter repeater: Mondays at 7:30 PM, (not the second monday--our meeting night). Coordinator: Don K6PBQ. On ten meters, 28.385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00 PM. Net control: Wally KA6YMD. Visitors welcome.

N0ARY PACKET BBS

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

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

parte rules by attending a BPL provider's demonstration October 12, after release of the October 14 agenda. Powell "tainted this proceeding" by taking part in the demonstration, and that alone is sufficient to have the Commission vacate and reconsider its action, the ARRL alleged.

The League also said the FCC's "late and incomplete" responses to ARRL's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests fail to show any support for FCC's conclusions regarding interference to licensed services from BPL. The highly redacted information release contained nothing that supports the FCC's conclusions about BPL's interference potential and suppressed negative recommendations from its own technical investigators, the petition says. As a result, the League said, the Commission "failed to conduct impartial, reasoned rulemaking."

The Commission used an unlawful "balancing test" that weighed BPL's purported benefits against its interference to licensed services, the League asserts, creating "a hierarchy of licensed radio services" based upon "how much interference each service deserves." The Communications Act, the League's petition points out, requires an objective determination from the outset that the likelihood of harmful interference from a proposed unlicensed service is virtually nil.

The interference mitigation rules in the R&O are both ineffective and inequitably applied, the ARRL's petition further argues. Noting the new rules do not require BPL systems to shut down in the event of interference except as "a last resort," the League said the practical effect is "that systems will never have to shut down," even if the BPL operator has not been able to remedy ongoing harmful interference to the Amateur Service. The new rules, the petition charges, accord priority to unlicensed BPL, "regardless of the preclusive effect" or the duration of interference.

In its unanimous BPL decision, the Commission, the League says, has abandoned its fundamental obligation to avoid interference in telecommunication systems, instead requiring complainants to initiate contact with BPL providers and "beg for resolution." The ARRL petition also faults the Commission's adopted measurement standards.

The League's Petition for Reconsideration in ET Dockets 03-104 and 04-37 is on the ARRL Web site, www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et04-37/recon_petition/.

BPL LEGAL WRANGLES CONTINUE IN AUSTRIAN CITY

Local telecommunication authorities in Austria have sent a "first-step" legal notice to Linz Strom GmbH (Linz Power), calling on the utility to "take necessary technical measures" to operate its "Speed-Web" broadband over power line (BPL) system so it doesn't cause interference to other telecommunication equipment. Joseph Ibinger, who heads the Upper Austria-Salzburg field office for the Federal Ministry for Commerce, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT), told Linz Power in late December that interference mentioned in complaints is definitely coming from the utility's BPL system. From the time the BPL installation was a pilot project, radio amateurs have been among the most vocal in expressing their displeasure, blaming BPL for causing excessive interference on HF bands throughout the City of Linz. The Austrian Amateur Transmitter Federation (sterreichischer Versuchssenderverband--VSV), Austria's International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) member-society, praised the action, which the utility is very likely to appeal.

"The Austrian Amateur Radio Society applauds this decision of local authorities and notes that radio users have repeatedly indicated the problem of unwanted radiation from unshielded

mains wiring," said VSV President Michael Zwingl, OE3MZC. "The recent decision will be an example for authorities in other European countries facing similar problems in BPL trials."

In October 2003, Linz Power received a similar letter from local telecommunications authorities asking the utility to "remove the illegal interference" on the HF bands generated by the utility's BPL then-pilot project. As a result, Zwingl says, the utility took legal action against VSV.

Assuming an appeal by Linz Power, the BMVIT must move Ibinger's initial response--essentially the equivalent of a warning notice or citation--up to the next level, and it could take up to six months to resolve the matter. Zwingl says if the federal authorities affirm the local decision, they could prohibit operation of the BPL system. As it now stands, the utility was given a month to resolve the interference.

Zwingl said VSV has been unable to obtain a copy of the actual decision and was only able to obtain details of the document in January by working through a "peoples' lawyer," essentially a legal ombudsman who runs interference between the Austrian federal government and citizens.

According to legal ombudsman Peter Kostelka's report to Zwingl, the telecommunication authorities cited Linz Power's use of unshielded wiring to transport data signals, resulting in constant emissions that interfere with short wave bands as "an undesirable byproduct" of the system.

The Linz Power BPL system boasts upward of 4000 "satisfied customers" out of the 40,000 in its service area. It offers its basic service for \$24 a month; a faster version goes for \$42 a month, both less installation charges. Speed-Web uses Main.net BPL technology.

Zwingl said the recent official decree followed "some years of complaints and investigations" into the Linz Power BPL project.

"We put pressure on officials to not just take measurements but also to react by all legal means," he said. "It took us some time, but we never agreed with the opinion of some authorities who have made a judgment between the importance of ham radio and BPL." Zwingl maintains that Austria's telecommunication rules conform with International Telecommunication Union (ITU) regulations and "protect radio services and spectrum regardless of subjective importance."

Linz Power Executive Josef Heizinger reportedly reacted calmly to the field office decision. "We are absolutely in the right, legally, and will continue the BPL development according to plan," he's quoted in the media. In another interview, Heizinger declared that "simultaneous problem-free operation of BPL and Amateur Radio equipment is possible," and he blamed a small group of dissident radio amateurs for trying to discredit "this innovative and economical technology."

Linz Strom blames the few radio interference problems its system has caused on "defective equipment," and says it's resolved those cases promptly.

VSV continues to insist that in its current form BPL--also known in German-speaking countries as "Internet from the Electrical Outlet"--is incompatible with HF reception.

From *The ARRL Letter*, February 25, 2005

AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT OF 2005 INTRODUCED

At the urging of the ARRL, Rep Michael Bilirakis (R-FL) has introduced The Amateur Radio Spectrum Act of 2005 into the US House of Representatives. The bill, designated HR 691, has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee where Bilirakis serves as vice chairman. Like previous versions of the proposal, the current measure would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio if the FCC reallocates primary amateur frequencies, reduces any secondary amateur allocations, or makes additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce their utility to amateurs. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, expressed his appreciation to Bilirakis this week.

"As president of the American Radio League and on behalf of the more than 670,000 federally licensed Amateur Radio operators throughout the country, I would like to thank you for once again sponsoring the 'Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act,'" Haynie told the Florida Republican. "As you know, this legislation is vital for ensuring that the Amateur Radio Service, the only 100-percent fail safe emergency communication capability, remains a viable public safety option."

HR 691 references Amateur Radio's role in providing "voluntary, noncommercial radio service, particularly emergency communications," and it points out that hams have "consistently and reliably" provided communication support in the event of emergencies and disasters including tornadoes and hurricanes, chemical spills, forest fires and rail accidents. As the measure notes, FCC actions already have led to the loss of at least 107 MHz of spectrum to radio amateurs.

Rep Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD) has signed on as the bill's first co-sponsor. Bartlett chairs the Projection Forces Subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee. One of three scientists in the 109th Congress, Bartlett also is a senior member of the House Science Committee.

Efforts now will focus on attracting additional cosponsors for the legislation. The League is encouraging members to urge their congressional representatives to sign aboard HR 691. A sample letter is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr-691-sample-letter.html>>. More than 100 lawmakers agreed to cosponsor similar legislation in the 108th Congress, where it was designated HR 713. Work is proceeding to have identical legislation introduced in the US Senate.

The text of HR 691 is available on the Government Printing Office Web site <http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_cong_bills&do cid=f:h691ih.txt.pdf>.

For general guidance on the best methods of contacting your members of Congress, see "Communicating with Congress," by Derek Riker, KB3JLF, on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/news/bandthreat/0304046.pdf>>.

From *The ARRL Letter*, March 4, 2005

FCC MORSE, RESTRUCTURING PROPOSALS COULD HIT THE STREET BY MID-YEAR

The FCC continues to work toward developing a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) that will spell out what the

Commission has in mind with respect to possible changes in the current Morse code requirement and Amateur Radio licensing.

A total of 18 petitions have been filed, including one from the ARRL, seeking Part 97 rule changes addressing the future of the 5 WPM Morse requirement (Element 1) and revisions to the overall Amateur Radio licensing structure. The FCC is planning to tackle all 18 rule making petitions within the framework of a single proceeding.

As far as the code issue is concerned, petitions--and comments in response to them--run the gamut from retaining or even beefing up the Morse requirement to eliminating it altogether. (The ARRL's proposal would retain the 5 WPM Morse examination for Amateur Extra class applicants only.) The League and others have also put forth proposals for a new entry-level Amateur Radio license class.

At this point, personnel in the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau are continuing to review the thousands of comments filed on the 18 petitions. While the FCC appears unlikely to release an NPRM any sooner than mid-2005, the issue still may be a major discussion topic during the FCC Forum at Dayton Hamvention, May 20-22.

Once public, the NPRM will initiate yet another round of public comments--this time on what the FCC has proposed. An FCC Report and Order to implement any new rules regarding Morse code and license restructuring is unlikely before the second half of 2006, although it's possible the Commission could wrap up the proceeding before then.

For Sale SCCARA radios

Kenwood TS520 HF 10-80 meters: \$200

(The others have been sold: ICOM 735 HF, ICOM IC 745, ICOM ICPS15, ICOM 736 HF+6)

Contact Don Village, K6PBQ, 408 263-2789

{Note: The club has other equipment which the board may decide to sell, not the least of which is a Collins transceiver and matching linear amp. So keep an eye out for future sales notices. – Editor}

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Feb. 14, 2005



Attendance: 23, including two non-members and the night's Speaker

Members present (in alphabetical order): Donald R Apte KK6MX, Barbara Britten KD6QEI, Wally Britten KA6YMD, Dick Delp KD6QG, Lloyd DeVaughns KD6FJI, Jeannie Felix KG6YOR, Robert L Forster N6PCQ, Del Harbold K6JPX, Joan Hastings KB6LFZ, Mike Hastings KB6LCJ, Royal Metzger K6VIP, Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, Clark R Murphy KE6KXO, David Paul AE6MV, Jonathan Paul KG6TRG, Gwen Steirer KF60TD, Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Douglas Turner K6COM, Don Village K6PBQ, James W Wissick KG6MSO, Brad Wyatt K6WR,

Non-members present: Terry Nakashima WB6PVU, Bob Lile VK3VO/W6AUS, and the night's speaker,

The President, Clark Murphy, announced that he is now the "raining President," as it has rained for all meeting this year.

Clark spoke of "Ham Day," held at S.L.A.C., 8am - 8pm, the first Saturday of most months, and shared the information that the Flea market will be held in March at the Sunnyvale (Onizuka) location, on the second Saturday of March.

Tonight's speaker is Dennis Wilkison. Dennis learned code because it was a requirement for the First Class rank in Boy Scouts: he also learned that he hated code, but enjoyed radio. His first job was working with PBX's for Stromberg-Carlson in Florida. When he moved to Silicon Valley in 1976, a local ham (Don Wilkins) bugged him to get his license. Since he could get a tech license without learning code, he got his no-code Tech license, KE6UZQ. His job caused him to travel the world, and he thought it would be good to be able to travel and transmit. He learned code enough to pass the 5wpm test. He then started studying for the 13wpm test. But when he took the test, he missed it by one point. Two more times, he took the test and missed by one point. It seemed that once he left the testing session, he was able to easily copy code at 13wpm, but not in the testing session. Then he noticed one thing: he had always studied in his car, listening while driving. He realized that maybe he had learned to copy code when his mind was diverted doing something else. So he took the test again, but this time, he concentrated his attention on a gray squirrel outside the window - and passed the test easily. So now he's an Extra, although he kept his hard-earned UZQ call.

Dennis proceeded to brief us on the transmitters he had hidden in the building. One was in the room in which we were meeting, one was outside the room but inside the building, and a third was outside the building (in intermittent rain). We all had a fun time. You should have been there!

Announcements/Information

- Lou Steirer announced that the next SVECS meeting will be at the usual location.
- Gwen Steirer suggested that an upcoming meeting be either a picnic or be held at a restaurant. Clark agreed that food is a good addition to a meeting, but is a distraction if we have a speaker.
- N6PCQ has a two-band HT, an ADI AT600, and is seeking folks who are familiar with that rig. He added that the January has information on audio-enhancement devices for correcting the frequency response common in senior citizens.
- Don Apte reported that the ARRL has received a report of the local ATV repeater causing harmful interference. The repeater does suffer from intermodulation from a local radio station, but at the time reported, the repeater was not on the air.
- Jeannie reported that her design for the new club QSL card is almost done, it just needs an American Flag added.
- Gary Mitchell handed out printed copies of the Club Roster to those desiring them. Gary mentioned that if you like t-hunting, see www.thunt.org, they have 2-3 per month in the Bay Area. Gary also talked about work being done to develop a package to introduce the Club to new members.
- Bob Lile, VK3VO/W6AUS, thanked us for our Website. He is visiting from Melbourne, Australia, and used the site to find our meeting.

Upcoming Activities:

- The March meeting will be the Monday 3/14. The speaker for the night will be announced.
- The next SVECS Breakfast will be held 4/23/05 at the usual location and time, 09:00 at the Santa Clara Senior Center. It might

be the last meeting at that location, as the Center will soon be closed for renovation.

- RadioFest 2005 will be held in Monterey: see RadioFest2005.org for details.

After further discussion, Lou Steirer moved that the meeting be closed, Gary Mitchell seconded, and President Clark Murphy adjourned the meeting at 21:08.

David Paul, AE6MV, Secretary

Board Meeting, Feb. 21, 2005



President Clark Murphy, KE6KXO, called the meeting to order at 19:05. A quorum was present.

Attendees: Clark Murphy, KE6KXO, President; Don Apte, KK6MX, Director; Don Village, K6PBQ, Station Trustee and Director; Wally Britten, KA6YMD, Director; Don Steinbach, AE6PM, Director; Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, Newsletter Editor and David Paul, AE6MV, Secretary

President Clark Murphy welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Secretary asked for any changes or corrections to last Month's Board minutes, none were forthcoming. The Secretary reported that the ARRL has asked for an update to our Club Records. The consensus was that the Secretary should attend to this duty.

The Treasurer reported that the Club Checking Account balance is \$2000.33 and Savings is \$1934.28, for a total of \$3934.61.

Repeater Chairman Wally Britten reported that both repeaters are working well. A report was received that the 70cm repeater might be off the air, so Wally checked it and it responded appropriately. It was also reported that the 2M repeater was refusing autopatch requests. Wally tried that, and received a response "Error 202."

The BBS Chairman reported that the phone line failed again. Perhaps a radio link could be set up to replace one of the phone lines

The Newsletter Editor, Gary Mitchell, reported that the cost for printing and mailing the Newsletter is one of our big expense items. Work is underway to determine if it can be converted to PDF and emailed.

Old Business

- Field Day: San Jose RACES has graciously invited the members of SCCARA to attend Field Day with RACES. San Jose RACES would be willing to award one-day membership in RACES to any SCCARA attending. Discussion brought up that we really want our own Field Day, as SCCARA. Otherwise, in a short time, we could lose our ability as a Club to set up and operate our own station. Don Apte added that the cost of the camp site is substantial, and offered his lot as a future Filed Day site. Also, one ATV member is a member of the SJS Radio Club, perhaps we might have a joint Filed Day with the SJS club, and hold it at SJS. The SJS Club's Faculty Advisor is Morris Jones. Gary added that if we stay at Mt. Madonna, SCCARA used to collect parking fees at Field Day, perhaps that could help with the cost. Don Apte and Clark Murphy will investigate the possibility of a joint Field Day with the SJS Club.

- The HamFest in Monterey is scheduled for 2/26/2005. (see radiofest.org).

- Don Village renewed his suggestion that we make more use of the club Station. It was suggested that we operate the station one Saturday a month. Clark was against operating it as often as once a month, but an agreement was reached to operate the station on the fourth Saturday of March, 3/26/05.

- Gary Mitchell brought up the new member letter. Don Village said that he would try to come up with a list of our annual events, and send it to Gary by email, or give it to him at the next meeting.

- There may be some way to set up a special event station for the San Jose Grand Prix in July.

- We still have the Heathkit Linear the needs to be tested and then sold.

- We still need to analyze our costs and propose cost-savings suggestions. Lloyd agreed to bring a year's summary for 2004 to the next meeting.

New Business

- The Space Symposium to be held 5/7/05 seems interesting, for details see projectoscar.net

- We need to finish cleaning the Club locker

- Perhaps we could hold a raffle of the extra items in the locker.

- Trailer maintenance is needed: it needs to be sanded and painted.

- It would be good to have another radio clinic, but not to have food at the same time, because that didn't work out too well last time.

- Gwen's idea of having another meeting with food was brought up, maybe a picnic soon might be good.

- The date has been set for the Christmas luncheon.

Clark Murphy said that for the next meeting, we need to assemble a list of what we wish to achieve, then prioritize it.

No further business was brought up.

Don Steinbach moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Clark agreed. The meeting was adjourned; at 21:26.

Upcoming Meetings

- The March General Meeting will be 3/14/05, 19:30 at the Santa Clara Kaiser Hospital, Bldg K.

- The March Board Meeting will be 3/21/05 at 19:30 at the San Jose Red Cross HQ.

David Paul, AE6MV, Secretary

News from AE6PM

Item 1:

February 5 was AM-Tech Day again at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center.

SCCARA members seen lurking there included Clark Murphy (KE6KXO), Lloyd DeVaughns (KD6FJI), Red Vernier (W6ALC) and Don Steinbach (AE6PM).

There were several (maybe 12) HF stations in place. Their antennas were all located in a roped-off lawn area adjacent to the operating positions.

All stations were required to comply with the following RF safety guidelines:

HF (1.8-30 MHz) stations up to 100 W

- Radiating elements must be in the roped-off area and at least 15' from people. Horizontal antennas must maintain a height of more than 21' above the ground if exiting the roped-off area.

- HF (1.8-30 MHz) stations up to 10W (QRP)
- Antennas must be no closer than 2 feet to the operator and 4.5 feet from others.

VHF/UHF (30 MHz and up) stations to 10W:

- No special requirements Handy talkies are OK.
- If using more than 10W or a gain antenna, consult with a Safety representative FIRST.

I'm not sure what one is supposed to do with the last item, but in general these are probably good guidelines to keep in mind at home or away. I really felt that the

30 MHz and up guideline was weak and basically useless if you are running more than 10 watts into any real antenna. I also didn't see this "Safety representative" anywhere.

Emily Clarke, W0EEC, gave an interesting one hour presentation entitled "An Introduction to Amateur Satellites." Aside from an overview of the various satellites currently operational, Emily stressed that it doesn't take rocket science and a fat pocketbook and extreme antennas to become involved. You might want to have some sort of tracking software (to know when and where to look, although you might depend on a friend or a website for casual observations), a transceiver or HT with dual-band capability (since the uplink and downlink are usually on two different bands) and whip antennas, or better yet, yagis for each band (about 3' worth) that can be manually pointed in the appropriate az/el direction and rotated using the famous Armstrong method.

While we were at SLAC, Emily made several contacts via Sudisat 1C (SO-50) on two different passes. The signal quality was amazing. That satellite is "nothing" more than a single channel FM repeater with a 145.850 MHz uplink and a 436.795 MHz downlink. If memory serves me correctly, the satellite is roughly a 9" cube weighing about 33 pounds built in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Its transmitter power is— get this 250 mW! It's a LEO (low earth orbit) satellite at about 650 km or 391 miles. At that altitude the orbital period is about 98 minutes. This demo really got my heart started! I can barely talk to W6OOY across town on 40 meters running 100+ watts on SSB.

I think Clark Murphy has Emily lined up for a talk to us in the near future, but if you can't wait for a preview, the presentation is available at: http://www.projectoscar.net/symposium/Intro_sats.pdf

Item 2:

The Livermore Amateur Radio Club says it has received notice from Las Positas College that the LARK swap meet can continue there only until April 5. This according to a handout picked up at the February 6 swap meet (a cold and foggy swap meet at that).

Donald Steinbach

Club Station

Club Station to operate Saturday, March 26th. Some members may not be aware that SCCARA has a Club Station. It is located in the Radio Room of the Red Cross Santa Clara County HQ building at North First and Plumeria, in northern San Jose. We don't use the club station for Field Day, and we tend to make little use of it throughout the rest of the year.

Some of us think we should use it as a Club more often,

maybe once a month. Others see it as being mostly for emergency situations: as most of us have our own stations at home, why drive to Red Cross HQ to operate? Others in our Club have only Technician-class licenses, and might enjoy the opportunity to operate on HF, with a General or Extra as the control operator.

So, we plan to have the station open for at least part of the day on the last Saturday of March, 3/26. If you think it's a good idea, set the date aside on your calendar! If you think the idea stinks, then don't set the date aside on your calendar! See you there (or not).

AE6MV

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the packet network:

=====
 Date: 18 Feb 2004 09:06
 From: W1GMF@W1GMF
 To: HUMOR@USA
 Subject: HUMOR FOR TODAY 0206

Daily Thoughts

"Go through your phone book, call people and ask them to drive you to the airport. The ones who will drive you are your true friends. The rest aren't bad people; they're just acquaintances." Jay Leno

Today's Joke

A recent college graduate took a new job in a hilly Eastern city and began commuting each day to work through a tiring array of tunnels, bridges and traffic jams.

Thinking it would make the trip more bearable, he invited several coworkers to share the ride. However, the commute actually got more stressful, especially the trips through the tunnels.

He consulted the company doctor.

"Doc," the frustrated commuter complained, "I'm fine on the bridges, in the traffic, in the day and at night, and even when Joe forgets to bathe all week. But now, when I get in the tunnels with those four other guys crowded into the car, I get anxious and dizzy, and I feel like I'm going to explode."

Without further analysis, the doctor announced he had diagnosed the ailment.

"What is it, Doc? Am I losing my mind?"

"No, no, no, my boy. You have something that is becoming more and more common."

"Tell me! What is it?"

"You have what is known as Carpool Tunnel Syndrome."

Daily Thoughts

I have good news and bad news. The good news is that the car's air bag works...

"He who laughs last is generally the last to get the joke." Terry Cohen

The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.

Today's Story

I live in Baltimore, MD in an apartment complex. I left my apartment to go to work at 6 a.m one Monday.

When I got outside I noticed that all the cars were covered with snow. Going to my car and cleared the whole thing of snow. When I went to open the door, my key wouldn't fit into either door's locks. At one point the key even got stuck and I thought I wouldn't be able to get it out. I then thought maybe the key was bent so I went to look under my license plate where I keep a spare key in a magnetic box. The box was gone.

I proceeded to go back to my apartment to get another key and for some reason I turned around first. Lo and behold, I looked at the license plate and cleared off the wrong car!!! I couldn't believe it. I hurried up and cleared off my car enough to get the heck out of there before anyone saw what I did.

I wish I had a hidden camera to see the expression of the person who owned the car when they came out and realized that their car was all cleared and ready to drive.

~ Lynn K.

Last Laugh

A young executive was leaving the office at 6 p.m. when he found the CEO standing in front of a shredder with a piece of paper in his hand.

"Listen," said the CEO, "this is a very sensitive and important document, and my secretary has left. Can you make this thing work?" "Certainly," said the young executive.

He turned the machine on, inserted the paper, and pressed the start button.

"Excellent, excellent!" said the CEO as his paper disappeared inside the machine, "I just need one copy."

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

Newsletter Notes

In the last issue, I mentioned that plans were underway to offer the *SCCARA-GRAM* via e-mail. That project has hit small a snag. However, we'll get the kinks worked out. So, stay tuned on that.

The e-mail version (when it gets implemented) could be done a couple of different ways. We could e-mail each person who wants it a full newsletter (PDF format), which would be roughly a megabyte, or more if there are photos. Or we could just e-mail a brief notice that the newest *SCCARA-GRAM* is available on the club web site, and have one full-size PDF posted there.

If anyone has any feelings on the subject, now is a good time to mention it.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

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**