

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 21, Number 8

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ARRL News

From the ARRL Bulletin , July 21, 2005

FCC PROPOSES DROPPING MORSE CODE REQUIREMENT ENTIRELY

The FCC has proposed dropping the 5 WPM Morse code element as a requirement to obtain an Amateur Radio license of any class. The Commission included the recommendation in a July 19 Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 05-235, but it declined to go along with any other proposed changes to Amateur Service licensing rules or operating privileges. Changes to Part 97 that the FCC proposed in the NPRM would not become final until the Commission gathers additional public comments, formally adopts any new rules and concludes the proceeding with a Report and Order specifying the changes and an effective date. That's not likely to happen for several months.

"Based upon the petitions and comments, we propose to amend our amateur service rules to eliminate the requirement that individuals pass a telegraphy examination in order to qualify for any amateur radio operator license," the FCC said. The NPRM consolidated 18 petitions for rule making from the amateur community--including one from the ARRL--that had proposed a wide range of additional changes to the amateur rules. The FCC said the various petitions had attracted 6200 comments from the amateur community, which soon will have the opportunity to comment again--this time on the FCC's NPRM.

The Commission said it believes dropping the 5 WPM Morse examination would encourage more people to become Amateur Radio operators and would eliminate a requirement that's "now unnecessary" and may discourage current licensees from advancing their skills. It also said the change would "promote more efficient use" of amateur spectrum.

To support dropping the code requirement, the FCC cited changes in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003. WRC-03 deleted the Morse testing requirement for amateur applicants seeking HF privileges and left it up to individual countries to determine whether or not they want to mandate Morse testing. Several countries already have dropped their Morse requirements for HF access.

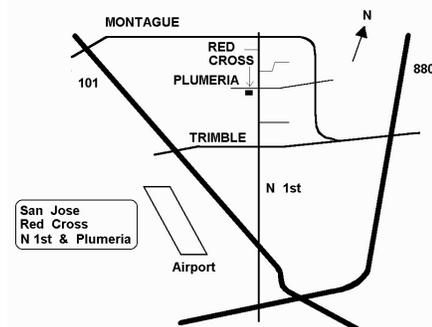
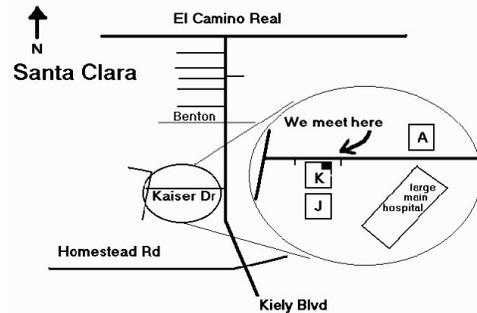
ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said he was not surprised to see the FCC propose scrapping the Morse requirement altogether, although the League had called for retaining the 5 WPM

Calendar

- 8/8 SCCARA General Meeting
- 8/13 Electronic Flea Market
- 8/15 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting:

Day: Monday, April 11, 2005
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Bld K, Rm 1
Featuring: Kristin McIntyre, software defined 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>.

OFFICERS - DIRECTORS - STAFF

President	Clark Murphy, KE6KXO	262-9334
	e-mail: clarkmurph@yahoo.com	
Vice President	- - -	
Secretary	David Paul, AE6MV	946-3423
	e-mail: ae6mv@arrl.net	
Treasurer	Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI	225-6769
	e-mail: kd6fji@arrl.net	
Station Trustee	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
Director	Don Steinbach, AE6PM	867-3912
	e-mail: ae6pm@arrl.net	
Director	Don Apte, KK6MX	629-0725
	e-mail: aptekk@aol.com	
Director	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	241-7999
	e-mail: wa6qys@aol.com	
Director	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
	e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net	
Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	269-2924
	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	

COMMITTEES

Repeater	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
	e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net	
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). Sysop: Gary WB6YRU

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

requirement only for Amateur Extra class applicants. Sumner expressed dismay, however, that the FCC turned away proposals from the League and other petitioners to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license class.

"We're disappointed that the Commission prefers to deny an opportunity to give Amateur Radio the restructuring it needs for the 21st century," he said. "It appears that the Commission is taking the easy road, but the easy road is seldom the right road."

Sumner said ARRL officials and the Board of Directors will closely study the 30-page NPRM and comment further once they've had an opportunity to consider the Commission's stated rationales for its proposals.

In 2004, the League called on the FCC to create a new entry-level license, reduce the number of actual license classes to three and drop the Morse code testing requirement for all classes except for Amateur Extra. Among other recommendations, the League asked the FCC to automatically upgrade Technician licensees to General and Advanced licensees to Amateur Extra. In this week's NPRM, the FCC said it was not persuaded such automatic upgrades were in the public interest.

The FCC said it did not believe a new entry-level license class was warranted because current Novice and Tech Plus licensees will easily be able upgrade to General once the code requirement goes away. The Commission also said its "Phone Band Expansion" (or "Omnibus") NPRM in WT Docket 04-140 already addresses some of the other issues petitioners raised.

A 60-day period for the public to comment on the NPRM in WT 05-235 will begin once the notice appears in the Federal Register. Reply comments will be due within 75 days

Flea Market

This year's SCCARA sponsorship of the Electronic Flea Market was a great success. Enough volunteers came forward to man the food booth as well as our surplus equipment sales tables. Through the efforts of Don K6PBQ, Wally KA6YMD, Lloyd KD6FJI, Clark KE6KXO, Don AE6PM, Gary WB6YRU, Don KK6MX, Fred AA6QL, Jim KG6UDW, Mike KB6LCJ, Joan KB6LFZ, Bob WA6WHT, David AE6MV, Scott KG6SPF, Skylar and Gwen KF6OTD the club had an influx of more than \$3500 from vendor fees, food booth profit (yes we got bananas) and sales tables. Thanks for a job well done.

Lou WA6QYS

Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting, July 18, 2005



Attendees: Clark Murphy, KE6KXO, President; Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI, Treasurer; Don Village, K6PBQ, Director and Station Trustee; Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, Director; Wally Britten, KA6YMD, Director; Don Steinbach AE6PM, Director; Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, Editor and BBS Chairman; David Paul, AE6MV, Secretary, Fred Townsend, AE6QL, Member; Fred Townsend, Member; Gwen Steirer, KF60TD, Member.

Information from Net
Doug Eaton changing call signs, per K6VIP: N7QS, Vancouver, Washington, 360-883-5501. Hugh Collis, his brother-in-law, is available from VIP.

John NU6P, Wed night WVARA meeting, Bob Vallio, W6ARG San Jose Res Cross.

SVECS this Saturday 7/23, Washington Park, S'vale 94086. WB6MRQ, APRS for ARES emergency work.

President Clark Murphy, KE6KXO, called the meeting to order at 19:41. A quorum was present.

Minutes: no changes were requested to the minutes of last month's Board meeting.

Treasurer: Deposited 3266.11 into the account. 6800.79 minus some, savings \$431.28. 7000-ish dollars total club net worth. Assume next year we will need to pay another 1400 next year too.

Repeater: Wally reported that the 440 repeater is not dead, but is near mute and deaf. But Red & Wally tested the wrong cable, so more testing is needed. The Board wishes to thank Red W6ALC for his valuable assistance. Echolink is an interesting suggestion for that repeater.

2M: A member of the club north of us with the repeater on the same frequency as ours, measured S2 from their repeater, and S8 from ours with 10Db attenuation, at De Anza College. Gary reported that on the way in, he heard theirs almost as loud as ours. Fred Townsend suggested that the maps they sent look like they are using a directional antenna? If they are coming off the side of their tower, could they just move to the north side of the antenna? Lou Steirer added that according to the Band Plan, this is a splinter pair that is not meant to be a high-level signal, only low-level. Their antenna is perhaps too high? If they are using 146.985 as a test pair, then perhaps they have tested long enough? This splinter pair was set up to be inverted. To Wally from John Glass W6SON, 4/2/2002; forwarded, initially sent to Sxxx. Response from SARA: we were not aware that there was a repeater there. And we were inverted and un-tone, and we were not coordinated. (Townsend: balderdash). But we were using tone, yet their signal overrode ours. So we inverted.

Gary BBS: Reset again recently, everything running well, phone line (modem) locked up again, but the machine continued to run.

Newsletter: should we use a length limit? Clark: No.

Steirer - We need a representative from SCCARA to attend the NARCC meetings?
- What is the band plan for this band?
- When is the next hearing for the trial?

Send comments regarding the W6SON email to Don Steinbach, ae6pm@arrl.net, and he will assemble the comments.

The second Mondays of 2006, 1/9, 2/13, 3/13, 4/10, 5/8, 6/12, 7/10, 8/14, 9/11, 10/09, 11/13, 12/11x. plus fourth weekend June is 6/24-25 of June. August 2nd Sat = 8/12.

Flea Market Sales, we heard a complaint about the Kenwood 520. The one without box and microphone wasn't expected to operate. Clark will phone him and refer him to Fred.

Old Business

Clark lost the papers Gary gave him.

QSL cards, would not print 4/page, but they are 4x5, and could be 3.5x5.5 = a quarter sheet. We need the file. Don Townsend suggested we use a printer in Oakland that will/can do to the edge for a good price. They just had a special on cards. They look good. Nice-looking cards: they were well-received by the board. Thanks to KG6YOR for the excellent design work.

Gary has 25 more advertisements left

New Business

Mount Madonna will again be \$180/night. Park Ranger is ham-friendly. Good site. Down-side, it's not close to the public. Someone suggested Henry Coe, but it wouldn't work. Finding a place where we can operate and stay overnight, is not easy.

PARA meeting, six new people, 60 cards sent. Meet at a city hall.

Next Month's speaker, software defined radio. Kristin McIntyre. Mother of a teenager.

Ned, AB6YY, suggested we make more use of the Tower trailer. Where can we set it up? The Flea Market? Don remembers speaking to Ned, years ago.

The rotator needs to be re-greased and the deck needs to be re-painted.

The 30th, what time will we operate? 10:00 a.m. until when? Clark gave Don the key and the key.

Inventory: The club printer is not on the list.

\$659.30 from sales of club equipment at the recent flea market.

Collins's some radios are better than others. \$2400, no shipping no problems. Bob might put it on the Collins collector's website. Moved PM, seconded \$2400 if local and no problems, seconded by Lou S & Don V. Unanimous.

Last year, last Saturday of September for the Picnic, this year 9/24/05 tentative.

Don Steinbach moved that we adjourn, Lou Steirer seconded, and Clark adjourned the meeting at 21:28.

David Paul, AE6MV
Secretary

General Meeting, June 13, 2005



Monthly Meeting, Monday, June 13, 2005, 18:30, Bldg K, Kaiser Santa Clara.

Attendance: 19 including one non-member.

Members present (in alphabetical order): Donald R Apte KK6MX, Barbara Britten KD6QEI, Wally Britten KA6YMD, Lloyd Devaughns KD6FJI, Jeannie Felix KG6YOR, Del Harbold K6JPX, Joan Hastings KB6LFZ, Mike Hastings KB6LCJ, Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, Clark R Murphy KE6KXO, David Paul AE6MV, Scott Petersen KG6SPF, Don Steinbach AE6PM, Gwen Steirer KF60TD, Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Gerald Thompson N6SWC, Fred Townsend AE6QL, James W Tyranski KG6UDW, Don Village K6PBQ, Bob Wharton W6OOY,

Non-member present: Keith Butts, KN6K.

The meeting began at 19:40 with introductions

The President, Clark Murphy, then told us that Bill Parent, KE6OUG, an ex-member, has become a Silent Key. Discussion covered who knew him and when. Clark has his address. There will be no funeral, but a military memorial. Bill hasn't been a SCCARA member is 4 years or more, per Clark. (Database search indicates Bill was last a member in 2001 - MV).

- We had a booth at the May Flea market, and cleared \$1279.75, with Gary Mitchell responsible for much of that, per Clark.

- Regarding repeater interference, Lou Steirer reported a contact by a member of the Santa Rosa group, who recently returned to the area and was shocked at the state of affairs. Evidently NARCC told them that they might be able to use 146.985/143.985, but when they tried it, they cause interference. Lou gave this person copies of the emails involved; they "didn't know" that there was an existing repeater using that pair. They are running 300 watts output. (!) Their new "Technical Advisor" is a broadcast Engineer; resolution of the interference problem is pending.
- The newest ARRL book has us listed correctly.

We had a special Guest for the evening, an ex-President of SCCARA, KN6K, nee WD6CHF, Keith Butts. Keith wished to donate to the Club a number of antennas, two tower sections with base plate and rotor plate, a twelve-foot mast and several lengths of coax. He will be moving from Ben Lomond by mid-July.. maybe we could list all the material in the Newsletter?

- Cookie Break, 20:17 - 20:39.

Field day information:

Fred Townsend will arrive at Clark's house at 11:00, and will pull the trailer to the site.
Clark has the wattmeter.
Clark will bring the gas cans, 2 x 5 gallons.
Lloyd will handle the three batteries and chargers.
Clark will bring the boxes of wires/cords.
The generator is on the trailer.
There has been a change in the rules; you don't have to stay on a band for fifteen minutes.
Clark will bring the computers.
Wally will handle the radios.
Lou & Gwen will bring 20 pound of charcoal.
Fred Townsend will bring a BBQ.
Gary will bring a wattmeter.
Wally will bring cups, plates, etc.
Barbara will make and send CDF Chili.
Don Village will be the CW Captain, with Lou Steirer second
Phone station Captain: Lloyd.
GOTA Station: Wally Barbara will handle the Visitor Sign-in log and advertising on the Cable channel.

Other Business:

We still have the ICOM Antenna Tuner (IC-AT500) to sell, a 1500W Transmatch and a Heathkit amplifier.

Fred Townsend spoke of a recent meeting of the EMI Society. The BPL equipment are giving the Power Companies free equipment. Many "trial tests" have been authorized around the country. The ARL is about to sue. The current line is "serving the greater need". Fred has videos, which he will show soon.

Don Village moved, Don Steinbach seconded, and we adjourned at 21:46.

- The topic of the July meeting will be plans and preparations for

Field Day.

Upcoming SCCARA Activities:

- The June Board Meeting will be 6/20/05 at 19:30 at the San Jose Red Cross HQ.
- Field Day will be held June 24-26 at Mount Madonna Park.
- The July General Meeting will be 7/11/05, 19:30 at the Santa Clara Kaiser Hospital, Bldg K.

David Paul, AE6MV, Secretary

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the packet network:

Date: 18 Feb 2004 09:10
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: HUMOR FOR TODAY 0214

A man was walking in the mountains just enjoying the scenery when he stepped too close to the edge of the mountain and started to fall. In desperation he reached out and grabbed a limb of a gnarly old tree hanging onto the side of the cliff. Full of fear he assessed his situation. He was about 100 feet down a shear cliff and about 900 feet from the floor of the canyon below. If he should slip again he'd plummet to his death.

Full of fear, he cries out, "Help me!" But there was no answer. Again and again he cried out but to no avail. Finally he yelled, "Is anybody up there? "
A deep voice replied, "Yes, I'm up here."
"Who said that?"
"It's the Lord."
"Can you help me?"
"Yes, I can help. Have faith in me."
"Help me!"
"Just let go."
Looking around the man became full of panic. "What?!?!"
"Have faith in me. Let go. I will catch you."
"Uh... Is there anybody else up there?"

Date: 18 Feb 2004 09:09
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: HUMOR FOR TODAY 0211

Rhonda went to a pet shop and immediately spotted a large beautiful parrot. There was a sign on the cage that said \$50.00.

"Why so little?" she asked the pet store owner.
The owner replied, "Look, I should tell you first that this bird used to live in a house of prostitution, and sometimes it says some pretty vulgar stuff."

The woman thought about this, but decided she had to have the bird anyway. She took it home and hung the bird's cage up in her living room and waited for it to say something. The bird looked around the room, then at her, and said, "New house, new madam."

The woman was a bit shocked at the implication, but then thought "That's not so bad."

When her two teenage daughters returned from school the

bird saw them and said, "New house, new madam, new girls."
The girls and the woman were a bit offended but then began to laugh about the situation.
Moments later, the woman's husband, Robert, came home from work. The bird looked at him and said, "Hi Robert."

Date: 18 Feb 2004 11:51
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: HUMOR FOR TODAY 0216

Today's Joke

A preacher, who shall we say was "humor impaired," attended a conference to help encourage and better equip pastors for their ministry.

Among the speakers were many well known and dynamic speakers. One boldly approached the pulpit and, gathering the entire crowd's attention, said, "The best years of my life were spent in the arms of a woman that wasn't my wife!"

The crowd was shocked! He followed up by saying, "And that woman was my mother!" - The crowd burst into laughter and delivered the rest of his talk, which went over quite well.

The next week, the pastor decided he'd give this humor thing a try, and use that joke in his sermon. As he surely approached the pulpit that sunny Sunday, he tried to rehearse the joke in his head. It suddenly seemed a bit foggy to him.

Getting to the microphone he said loudly, "The greatest years of my life were spent in the arms of another woman that was not my wife!" The congregation inhaled half the air in the room. After standing there for almost 10 seconds in the stunned silence, trying to recall the second half of the joke, the pastor finally blurted out, "...and I can't remember who she was!"

Reader's Story

When my daughter was 3 years old we were sitting in church. I looked over at my her and noticed she was picking her nose. I told her that was dirty, gross etc. and explained that we needed to go get a tissue and wash her hands. At which time she told me, in no uncertain terms, that she wasn't picking her nose, she was moving the boogers so that she could breathe better.

~ Lorri M.

Last Laugh

A man is trying to understand the nature of God and asked him: "God, how long is a million years to you?"

God answered: "A million years is like a minute."

Then the man asked: "God, how much is a million dollars to you?" And God replied: "A million dollars is like a penny."

Finally the man asked: "God, could you give me a penny?" And God says: "In a minute."

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: kd6fji@arrl.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

There hasn't been any official report submitted on how we did at Field Day. However, I do have the raw numbers from the logs. Here are the contact counts made by each station:

CW	236
Phone	164
GOTA	62
VHF	23

For those who don't know, there's been a friendly rivalry between the code and phone station for years. Looks like the code station takes the prize again this year.

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 <====



SCCARA
Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Assn.
PO Box 6
SAN JOSE CA 95103-0006

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS