

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 22, Number 1

January 2006



President's Prose

I wish everyone a Happy New Year. I think before we take up with the new year we might review a few things that the club was able to accomplish during the past year:

One of the most important things is we now have a full slate of club officers. Thanks to Fred AE6QL stepping forward to fill the vice presidents office. Barbara KD6QEI has become the new secretary this allows us to have a club historian. David AE6MV who was our past secretary has volunteered to become club historian and sort and archive some of our old files.

The club now has a OSL card thanks to the design efforts of Jeannie KG6YOR.

Thanks to Robert N6PCO we have three new second hand computers for logging.

We have started to repair the 440 repeater. Most of the credit for the work goes to Don AE6PM, Fred AE6QL and Lou WA6QYS.

We have been able to operate the club station every month. We also set up the tower one Saturday and gained some practice with the whole procedure of setting up and operating our trailer tower.

Through the efforts of many members we have been able to take a good inventory of all the club property. This also included the contents of the locker which had accumulated for many years. We were able to sell the surplus equipment and enrich the club coffers.

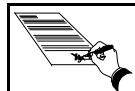
A few of things we might do is to finish the repair of the 440 repeater and be able to access echo linking with it. We would also like to sell the Collins equipment. The antenna for the club station needs some work to be done. It is my hope that we can continue to have many club actives and remain very radio active.. I think in all of our endeavors should be able to have fun and fellowship.

I hope we can move forward in the new year and by doing so, be able to enrich our experience of being a ham

Please don't forget to renew your SCCARA membership. Every membership expires on December 31. Use the form on the back of the *SCCARA-GRAM*.

Here is wishing all of you and SCCARA a very happy and productive new year.

Clark, KE6KXO

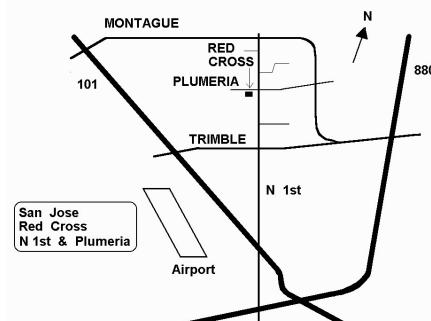
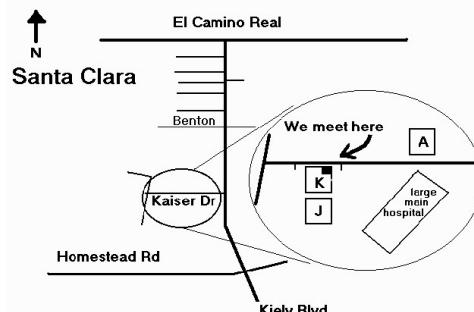


Calendar

- 1/9 SCCARA General Meeting
1/16 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
2/13 SCCARA General Meeting

General Meeting:

Day: Monday, January 9, 2006
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Bld K, Rm 1
Featuring: {to be announced}



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/scara>.

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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 Village, K6PBQ. On ten meters, 28.385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00 PM. Net control: Wally Britten, KA6YMD. Visitors welcome.

N0ARY PACKET BBS

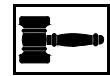
SCCARA hosts the packet BBS N0ARY (San Jose). User ports: 144.93 (1200 baud), 433.37 (9600 baud), telephone 408 259-8497.. Sysop: Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Dec. 17, 2005



{No minutes received by the deadline. --Ed.}

Board Meeting, Dec. 12, 2005



{No minutes received by the deadline. --Ed.}

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, December 16, 2005

MICROWAVE RECORD-BREAKER TOPS OWN NEW RECORD; 134 GHZ VUCC CLAIMED

No sooner had microwave enthusiast Brian Justin, WA1ZMS, set a new world DX record on 134 GHz than he topped it less than a week later.

"Several of you must have seen this coming," quipped Justin, who'd reported his earlier 134 GHz world distance record of 60.1 km (approximately 37.3 miles) on December 8. "I'd like to claim what should be a new and latest world DX record of 79.6 km [approximately 49.35 miles] for the 134 GHz band as well as the very first ARRL VUCC claim."

Justin says his latest DX record QSO occurred December 14 (UTC) between W2SZ/4 and WA1ZMS/4. WA1ZMS/4, roving alone at the time in EM96wx, worked W2SZ/4 (with Pete Lascell, W4WWQ, operator) in FM07fm--both in Virginia.

"The gear was the same equipment that was used for last week's former 134 GHz DX record," Justin explained, "but this time the noisy Gunn source was cleaned up, and the resulting improvement in phase noise allowed us to copy the FSK CW signals down into the noise floor by ear."

At the same time, W2SZ/4 picked up the last three needed grids for the first ARRL VUCC claim on the 134 GHz band. "I'd like to really thank Pete, W4WWQ, for pushing me to 'go for it' last night in an attempt to get the VUCC effort completed during the cold night air," Justin said after all was said and done. "It was a long and late night."

Justin received the 2003 ARRL Microwave Development Award, for his pioneering work in developing the Amateur Radio microwave bands above 30 GHz.

From *The ARRL Letter*, December 23, 2005

RESPONSE TO BPL COMPLAINTS AN "ILLUSION" OF RESOLUTION, ARRL SAYS

In a strongly worded letter to the FCC, the League has once again asked the Commission to shut down the Manassas, Virginia, BPL system because it's still causing harmful interference to Amateur

Radio and otherwise does not comply with FCC Part 15 rules. The December 19 letter from ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, was in response to a November 30 letter from Spectrum Enforcement Division Chief Joseph Casey, who suggested further cooperation between the complaining radio amateurs and the city-owned BPL system. Imlay said more meetings and discussions about ongoing interference are no longer productive while "this hopelessly flawed BPL system" is allowed to continue operating.

"These meetings have not produced any solution to the interference problem but have, instead, created the illusion that the problem is being addressed," Imlay wrote. Ham radio complaints of interference from the BPL system date back to early 2004. "This system should have been taken off the air long ago, pending reconfiguration or re-engineering of it," he added, "and the only operating that it should be doing is for purposes of interference testing."

Communication Technologies (COMTek) operates the BPL system over the municipally owned electric power grid using Main.net equipment on frequencies between 4 MHz and 30 MHz. The League said the FCC has not discharged its "most fundamental obligation" to prevent or resolve interference issues involving the Manassas system, which, the League charged, only remains operating "because the Commission, for political reasons, has consistently refused to enforce its rules with respect to BPL."

The League told Casey that the only solution at this point is to order the Manassas BPL system--an unlicensed RF emitter permitted to operate only on a non-interference basis--to cease operation except to test for interference.

The Part 15 BPL rules the FCC adopted in October 2004 require a BPL operator informed of harmful interference to "investigate the reported interference and resolve confirmed harmful interference . . . within a reasonable period," Imlay pointed out. "No reasoned examination of this case could produce a finding that this rule has been complied with in Manassas," he added.

Imlay says that at a December 13 meeting, COMTek and the City of Manassas "openly acknowledged the interference to amateur stations" but claimed that until a month or so earlier, they had been unable to "notch" amateur allocations because they didn't yet have the equipment to do so. "By the admission of COMTek, the capability of reducing interference in this system does not exist," Imlay noted.

Previous meetings between the complaining radio amateurs and the BPL operator "produced no measurable results," Imlay contended, referring to the response of Donald Blasdell, W4HJL, to Casey on December 9. At one point in the system, interference was reported at S9 plus 40 dB on typical ham gear. "That level precludes virtually all Amateur Radio communications," he asserted.

Imlay took the opportunity to again point out that the Manassas BPL system is out of compliance with 15.615(a) because its operator failed to provide full information to the public BPL database by the November 19 deadline.

"ARRL again requests that the BPL facility at Manassas, Virginia, be instructed to shut down immediately," the League's letter concluded, "and that it not resume operation unless the entire facility is shown to be in full compliance with Commission rules regarding radiated emissions; with the non-interference requirement of Section 15.5 of the Commission's rules; and not in any case until thirty days subsequent to full compliance with Section 15.615(a) of the rules."

Field tests conducted by Manassas radio amateurs established that

the city's BPL system "was an interference generator at distances of hundreds of feet from the modems on overhead power lines," the ARRL told the FCC October 13. "It was also, incidentally, determined that the system was susceptible to interference from nearby radio transmitters operating between 4 and 20 MHz," the League added.

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
HF operating techniques (SSB, CW): WB6EMR, K6PBQ
Classes/license upgrading: W6ACW

Legal/FCC rules: WB6YRU
SCCARA (club inner workings):
K6PBQ, 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

WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, msg (408) 265-2336
also (408) 269-2924
packet: home BBS NOARY
e-mail: wb6yru@aenet.net or wb6yru@ix.netcom.com

Sweepstakes 2005

This year SCCARA participated in both the CW portion on the November 5 and the phone portion on November 19 of the ARRL Sweepstakes contest.

We made around 50 contacts on both CW and phone portions. It was a lot of fun running the contest as our club activity.

Thanks to the following members who turned out for the event: Don K6PBQ, Ned AC6YY, Clark KE6KXO, Fred AE6QL, Tim KD6UDU, Lou WA6ZYS, Gwen KF6OTD, and David AE6MV. I hope I didn't leave anyone out.

Thanks again for a fun club activity.

73, Don K6PBQ



Lou WA6ZYS working phone



Ned AC6YY working CW



Yes, that's really me working phone! No, I'm not saying dit dah!



Ahhh, a key. Now this is more like it!

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the packet network:

Date: 5 Jan 2005 10:53
From: ZL3AI@ZL3VML
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: Chocolates/Quote/Courses

Chocolate Christmas

T'was several days after Christmas and all round my hips
Were Fannie May candies that sneaked past my lips.
Fudge brownies were stored in the freezer with care,
In hopes that my thighs would forget they were there.

While Mama in her girdle and I in chin straps
Had just settled down to sugar-borne naps.
When out in the pantry there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the kitchen I flew like a flash,
Tore open the icebox then threw up the sash.
The marshmallow look of the new-fallen snow
Sent thoughts of a binge to my body below.

When what to my wandering eyes should appear:
A marzipan Santa with eight chocolate reindeer!
That huge chunk of candy so luscious and slick
I knew in a second that I'd wind up sick.

The sweet-coated Santa, those sugared reindeer,
I closed my eyes tightly but still I could hear;
On Pritzker, on Stillman, on weak one, on TOPS
A Weight Watcher dropout from sugar detox.

From the top of the scales to the top of the hall
Now dash away pounds; now dash away all.
Dressed up in Lane Bryant from my head to nightdress
My clothes were all bulging from too much excess.

My droll little mouth and my round little belly
They shook when I laughed like a bowl full of jelly.
I spoke not a word but went straight to my work
Ate all of the candy then turned with a jerk.

And laying a finger beside my heartburn
Gave a quick nod toward the bedroom I turned.
I eased into bed, to the heavens I cry
If temptation's removed I'll get thin by and by.

And I mumbled again as I turned for the night
"In the morning I'll starve..."
'til I take that first bite!"

Quote Of The Month

Tim Allen, comedian, had this to say about Martha Stewart:

"Boy, I feel safer now that she's behind bars. O.J. & Kobe are walking around; Osama Bin Laden too, but they take the one woman in America willing to cook, clean and work in the yard and haul her off to jail."

===== Date: 7 Jan 2005 07:25
From: ZL3AI@ZL3VML
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: Ethics/Developer/Form/Volvo

Ethics

A father is explaining ethics to his son, who is about to go into business.

"Suppose a woman comes in and orders a hundred dollars worth of material. You wrap it up and you give it to her. She pays you with a \$100 bill. After she leaves, you realize she's given you two \$100 bills. Now, here's where the ethics come in: should you or should you not tell your partner?"

Developer

A developer is someone who wants to build a house in the woods.

An environmentalist is someone who already owns a house in the woods.

Form

The day I started my construction job, I was in the office filling out an employee form when I came to the section that asked:

Single____, Married____, Divorced____.

I marked single. Glancing at the man next to me, who was also filling out his form, I noticed he hadn't marked any of the blanks. Instead he had written, 'Yes, in that order.'

Volvo

"Volvo says its new car, the YCC, is the first car designed and developed exclusively by women, for women. They say it is safe, it is fuel-efficient, and the exterior is designed to always make the trunk look as small as possible." --Jay Leno

Newsletter Notes

We're going to try something a little bit different starting this year.

Normally we list the call signs of people who have not renewed in the February *SCCARA-GRAM*. This gives everyone a chance to check and make sure they were properly renewed or to learn whether they forgot.

Most magazines list your expiration date on the mailing label. We're going to try that. Instead of "the list" showing up in the *SCCARA-GRAM*, just keep an eye on the mailing label. If it shows 2005, then we haven't received your renewal and this will be your last *SCCARA-GRAM*. If it shows 2006, you're all set. (Complimentary copies won't show a date.)

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

SCCARA Membership Form for 2006

(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" here 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: \$20 Individual \$25 Family \$10 Student (under 18)

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

Rev. 5/17/2005

==> PLEASE DO NOT TEAR OR CUT FORM <==



SCCARA
Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Assn.
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Affiliate of the ARRL,
American Radio Relay League



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS