

# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 22, Number 2

February 2006



## ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, January 6, 2006

### ARRL RENEWS INTERFERENCE COMPLAINT AGAINST AMBIENT CORP BPL INSTALLATION

In the wake of continued FCC inaction in response to several previous complaints, on January 5 the ARRL filed a renewal of the complaint against the Ambient Corporation's Broadband over Power Line system in Briarcliff Manor, New York. The BPL system is operated by Ambient, on power lines owned and operated by Consolidated Edison, under an experimental FCC authorization.

The latest communication points out that the FCC, without adjudicating ARRL's repeated complaints about interference throughout the amateur 20 meter band, renewed Ambient's experimental license for an additional term, from August 1, 2005 to August 1, 2007. "The Briarcliff Manor BPL system currently (still) causes harmful interference to Amateur Radio communications and it is not compliant with applicable FCC part 15 regulations," according to the ARRL complaint. "Neither," it continues, "is it compliant with the terms of the experimental authorization granted by the Commission, most recently on August 1, 2005."

It continues: "ARRL reiterates its request, now more than a year old, that the BPL facility be instructed to shut down immediately; and that it not resume operation unless the facility is shown to be in full compliance with Commission rules regarding radiated emissions and with the non-interference requirement of the Commission's Rules and the terms of the experimental authorization. Finally, information about it must be listed in the BPL publicly accessible database."

Appended to the January 5 complaint letter was a 25 page engineering report entitled "Additional Testing of BPL System in Briarcliff Manor, NY." ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, wrote the report after conducting further tests at the site December 5, 2005. The report points out that he had conducted similar tests twice before during 2005, and three times during 2004. In this earlier testing, Hare found significant violations of FCC rules regarding Part 15 emissions limits.

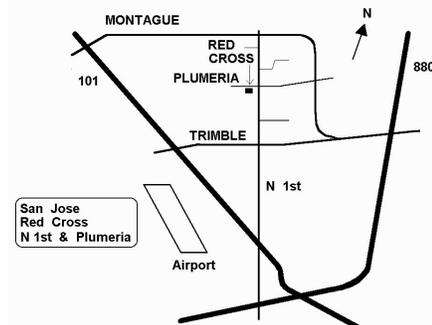
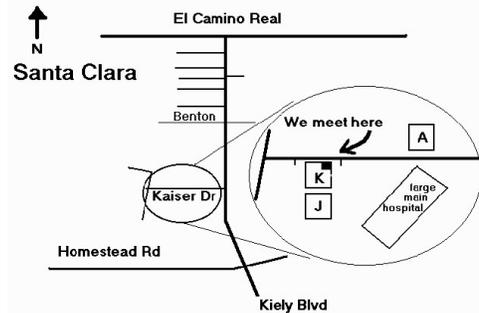
The January 5 ARRL complaint, entitled "Continued Request for Immediate Cessation of Operation," was signed by ARRL Counsel Christopher D. Imlay, W3KD, and was sent to the FCC's Joseph

## Calendar

- 2/13 **SCCARA General Meeting**
- 2/20 **SCCARA Board Meeting**--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 3/13 **SCCARA General Meeting**

### General Meeting:

Day: Monday, Feb. 13, 2006  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Bld K, Rm 1  
Featuring: {to be announced}



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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**

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	e-mail: fred@dcctolight.net	
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	e-mail: kd6qei@arrl.net	
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Director	Don Apte, KK6MX	629-0725
	e-mail: aptekk@aol.com	
Director	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
	e-mail: donvillage7@yahoo.com	
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 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

Casey, Bruce Franca and James Burtle. Casey is Chief, Spectrum Enforcement Division, while Franca serves as Acting Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology, and Burtle is Chief, Experimental Licensing Division. A copy was also sent to the counsel for Ambient Corporation.

For more about BPL, see the BPL pages on the ARRLWeb <<http://www.arrl.org/bpl>>.

**CANADIAN AMATEURS TO LOSE 220-222 MHz**

Barring an outpouring of "compelling arguments to the contrary," Industry Canada will reallocate the 220-222 MHz portion of 220-225 MHz from the Canadian amateur service to the mobile and fixed services. Under the provisional reallocation, which will take effect January 25, the amateur service will be allocated the 219-220 MHz subband on a secondary basis. Additionally, the amateur service may be permitted use of 220-222 MHz "in exceptional circumstances on a secondary basis to assist in disaster relief efforts."

From *The ARRL Letter*, January 13, 2006

**FCC INVITES COMMENTS ON LEAGUE'S "REGULATION BY BANDWIDTH" PETITION**

Comments are due by Monday, February 6, on the ARRL's Petition for Rule Making that asks the FCC to regulate the amateur bands by necessary bandwidth rather than by mode. The petition, designated as RM-11306, recommends what the ARRL calls "a shift in regulatory philosophy" to encourage and enable development and refinement of digital techniques and advanced technologies.

"This petition seeks for the Amateur Radio Service the flexibility to experiment with new digital transmission methods and types to be developed in the future while permitting present operating modes to continue to be used for as long as there are radio amateurs who wish to use them," the League said in its petition, filed November 14. The ARRL says the changes it suggests also will update the FCC's rules and eliminate the need for "cumbersome procedures" to determine whether a new digital mode is legal under Part 97.

The next step in this proceeding would be either a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) or a dismissal of the League's petition. An NPRM would kick off a further round of formal comments. For the rules to take effect, the FCC would have to issue a Report and Order putting the changes into place and setting an effective date.

The ARRL is asking the FCC to replace the table at §97.305(c) with a new one that segments bands by necessary bandwidths ranging from 200 Hz to 100 kHz. Unaffected by the ARRL's recommendations, if they're adopted, would be 160 and 60 meters. Other bands below 29 MHz would be segmented into subbands allowing maximum emission bandwidths of 200 or 500 Hz or 3.5 kHz, with an exception for AM phone.

\* 200 Hz would permit CW "at all speeds that human operators can decode" as well as PSK31.

\* 500-Hz bandwidth would accommodate RTTY and data modes and possibly some new image modes.

\* 2.8 kHz would remain the bandwidth for 60-meter operation on USB.

\* 3.5 kHz would accommodate SSB and digital telephony, image, high-speed data and multimedia.

\* 9 kHz is the ARRL's recommendation for double-sideband AM.

\* 16 kHz is "a reasonable compromise bandwidth" to continue to permit analog FM voice, data, digital voice and multimedia at 29.0 to 29.7 MHz.

\* 100 kHz, now permitted for RTTY and data in bands above 420 MHz, should be allowed starting at 50 MHz, with the exception of 50.0-50.3 MHz and 144.0-144.3 MHz to allow digital multimedia and high-speed meteor scatter work.

The ARRL says the Part 97 changes it's proposing constitute a balance "between the need to encourage wider bandwidth, faster digital communications and the need to reasonably accommodate all users in crowded bands." Conceding that its regulation-by-bandwidth regime would place increased responsibility on the amateur community to establish workable, accepted band plans, the League has expressed confidence that such an effort would be successful.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, has discussed the subject of regulating by bandwidth in three "It Seems to Us . . ." QST editorials: "Regulation by Bandwidth" in September 2004, "Narrowing the Bandwidth Issues" in April 2005 and "Self Regulation" in October 2005.

"This petition does not favor one mode at the expense of another," the ARRL concluded in urging FCC adoption. "It merely allows expansion of the repertoire of options that amateurs may pursue compatibly."

A copy of the ARRL petition is on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/bandwidth/Bandwidth-Minute-64-Petition-FINAL.pdf>>

Comment via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>. Under "ECFS Main Links" on the right-hand side of the screen, click on "Submit a Filing" to file comments. To view others' comments, click on "Search for Filed Comments." In either case, type "RM-11306" in the "Proceeding" field using capital letters and including the hyphen (but not the quotation marks).

## **GROUP PETITIONS FCC TO ELIMINATE SEGREGATION OF EMISSION MODES**

A group calling itself the Communications Think Tank has filed a Petition for Rule Making asking the FCC "to discontinue mandatory segregation of emission modes and the activities using these modes in the Amateur Service." Instead, the petitioners would substitute "a voluntary system of coordination" on the bands. The FCC has designated the petition as RM-11305. Comments are due by February 6. The petitioners assert "there is a chronic need to allow greater leeway in selecting a place to operate" on the ham bands. "We propose ending mode-based subbands in the Amateur Radio Service, and we seek affirmation of established operator responsibility against interference as part of this request for greater latitude in frequency selection," the petitioners state. A survey, "An Analysis of Band Occupancy by Mode" accompanies the group's petition <[http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native\\_or\\_pdf=pdf&id\\_document=6517982317](http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6517982317)>.

# **Meeting Minutes**

## **General Meeting, Jan. 9, 2006**



Meeting Began: 7:35 PM

Introductions: # present: 19; Visitors: 1

Health and Welfare: El Wirt, K6VIP, fell in the kitchen and broke his arm. He's okay, at home. John Parks, a frequent visitor, is laid up due to foot surgery.

Pictures of the repeater were passed around to members present. Clark Murphy commented, "Now we understand why it needed to be worked on."

Speaker: James W. Aspinwall, K9GDF.

Topic: OES/ACS (Auxiliary Communication Services). His territory reaches from northern Sonoma to San Benito County. He talked about exercises and drills they participate in to real disasters, where their services using amateur radio communications. I.e., Field Day, Fire Camp Training, floods, earthquakes, fire storms, all over the USA using the ICS. This unit was on stand-by for hurricane Katrina and Rita. All aspects of team equipment can fit onto a military transport, ready to be flown anywhere they are requested. The two components are: Com 25, a recycled news truck; and Com 62, a generator with a dish. The program explained what they do, and how they do it.

The lone surviving West Virginia coal miner is a ham. They are asking that QSL cards be sent to him as get-well cards. Contact the ARRL website to get the address.

Fred is working on recrystaling the repeater.

All members are entitled to phone patch codes. If you are a member and don't have the patch codes, contact Clark Murphy, president. Updating the database is an ongoing process. That database is based on paid membership and other clubs, who get the newsletter every month.

Lou Steirer reports that the club station at Red Cross is open on the third Saturday of the month, from 10AM to 4PM.

The next SVECS breakfast is Saturday, 1/21/06 at the VFW hall in Santa Clara.

A general class license is being planned for this spring. Details to follow, soon.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Barbara K. Britten, KD6QEI, Secretary.

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## **Board Meeting, Jan. 16, 2006**



Meeting Began at 7:40 PM, after the net.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

>From Clark to Sec'y: According to the bank, the rules for treasurer have changed. Barb needs to go to the bank to sign a new signature card. She needs to take the minutes of the meeting printed in a newsletter stated the new list of officers for 2006. Barb agreed to do this by Friday, 1/20. The minutes are to be sent to

Gary for publishing in the newsletter.

Fred has taken the 440 repeater from the vault in the hospital to Don Steinbach's garage where it will be re fitted with the new transmitter & receiver once the parts arrive. The parts have been ordered.

The database and the mailing list are two separate items. Each needs to be updated, ASAP, as there are paid members who are not getting the newsletter.

Fred wants nonmember list to see if they are interested in becoming members. Per Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, ham radio classes are the best way to get new members.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Wally Britten, KA6YMD, will send the dues to NARCC for 2006 until the club checks situation is resolved, with reimbursement due at a latter date.

Clark stated that he had paid the rent to the storage locker for December 2005. This is not the first time he has done this. Fred motioned that the storage locker fee become an automatic payment from our checking account every month. Don Steinbach seconded it. Motion passed.

Clark brought in 4 "new" laptop computers to replace 4 old ones that are out of date, and longer of use to the club. They were checked out and then added to current inventory. The old ones are to be disposed of.

The club station at the Red Cross will be operated the third Saturday of every month from 10 AM to as late as 4PM.

February 28: Monterey Ham Fest will include a tour of the ham station at Fort Ord/Seaside University.

From ASVARO: DeAnza College may raise the price for the electronic flea market by another one hundred dollars per event, but with the concession of allowing hot dogs to be sold at the event. ASVARO is still working out the details.

SVECS breakfast meeting: Saturday, Jan. 21. SCCARA's time is in August.

Adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Restart at 8:10 for purposes of inventorying the laptop computers. Lloyd DeVaughns, KE6KXI, retiring treasurer, turned all treasurer materials over to Don S., new treasurer. Lloyd reported that he paid the restaurant for Christmas luncheon and six months on the club mailbox.

Don S. motioned to get rid of the out dated Toshiba's and Dell laptops. Seconded by Wally, KA6YMD. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned by 9:30 PM.

Barbara K. Britten, KD6QEI, Secretary.

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## Board Meeting, Dec. 12, 2005



The meeting began with pizza, brought by the President, Clark Murphy, KE6KXO. Meeting portion began at 7:40 PM. David Paul, the regular secretary was excused due to a cold. Minutes

taken by Barbara k. Britten, KD6QEI, secretary elect. Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI, was also excused due to illness.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Clark Murphy paid \$47.99 for a tarp that was placed over the antenna trailer to protect it from winter weather. Clark also paid \$63.00 for the storage unit. It was moved by Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, and seconded by Don Steinbach, to reimburse Clark for money spent on behalf of the club.

The American Red Cross has changed all the locks in the building. Our club has three new keys to the building and the radio room.

Repeater: The codes have been written up by Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, and sent them out to persons entitled to have them. Some of them are wrong and need to be rechecked. Another revision is forthcoming by next meeting. The instructions to get into the repeater are wrong.

No word from Fred about the crystals that were supposed to be ordered. The repeater is in Don Steinbach's garage, waiting for crystals to update it.

The old laptops are to be replaced with three new ones. The club may need one more. Computers are being updated to accommodate for Field Day logging.

The President's Prose will include a wrap-up of activities of this year. We are using the club station at Red Cross on the third Saturday of every month for contesting. Property lists are straightened out. QSL cards have been made and some mailing done.

Don Village, K6PBQ, has found a coffee can of change. There are several uses for the "slush fund". Stamps for QSL cards, cookies for meetings and coffee. Exact amount of money is not known yet.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Next Year: Sell the Collins radio; get new 440 repeater up and running; work on antennas; continue with club station use, and get more people to come in and use it as a club event; lubricate rotor on antenna trailer before Field Day; increase membership.

Don Village to pick up gift tea basket for Irwin Electric as thank you for allowing them to house our antenna trailer on their property. Motion made by Lou Steirer, seconded by Don Steinbach.

Don Village will reserve Mt. Madonna site for Field Day, for June 23,24.

GARY: Handed out, and mailed out repeater codes to entitled members. Gary Believes 10 members are not getting SCCARA-GRAM. New membership changes on Jan 1.

Barb Britten, secretary, and Don Steinbach, treasurer, takes over their positions as of Jan 1. Both of them substituted at the last Board meeting of the year due to illness of current officers. El Wirt is in very bad health. Mailing list and roster list are different. The secretary is to generate mailing list with year of currency date. Secretary and treasurer will work closer together to resolve past errors.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:00PM.

Barbara K. Britten, KD6QEI

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# Packet Pieces

## Downloaded from the packet network:

=====  
Date: 11 Jan 2005 06:25  
From: ZL3AI@ZL3VML  
To: HUMOUR@WW  
Subject: Dyslexia/Computer/Bureaucrat  
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### Dyslexia

I'm dyslexic and attended a conference about the disorder with a friend. The speakers asked us to share a personal experience with the group. I told them stress aggravates my condition, in which I reverse words and letters when I'm tense.

When I finished speaking, my friend leaned over and whispered to me, "Now I know why you named your daughter Hannah."

### Bureaucrat

A civil servant is badly hurt falling down the stairs at city hall. He is taken to the hospital where he remains in a coma for several days.

Finally, an eye opens and his doctor tells him, "My friend, I have bad news and I have good news. First of all, you'll never be able to work again..."

"Okay," muttered the injured bureaucrat.... "What's the bad news?"

=====  
Date: 13 Jan 2005 02:26  
From: ZL3AI@ZL3VML  
To: HUMOUR@WW  
Subject: Lawyer  
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A lawyer dies and goes to Heaven. "There must be some mistake," the lawyer argues. "I'm too young to die. I'm only fifty five."

"Fifty five?" says Saint Peter. "No, according to our calculations, you're eighty two."

"How'd you get that?" the lawyer asks.

Answers St. Peter, "We added up your billable hours."

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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):  
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

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## Newsletter Notes

Regarding the repeater codes, this isn't *exactly* about the newsletter, but it was published like the newsletter...

I got tired of waiting for the repeater codes and so decided to do it myself. I obtained the information, edited it into a document and double checked it with the repeater chairman. It was then published and handed or mailed out to every dues-paying member. However, just as Murphy's law dictates, no sooner did the last one get delivered that a mistake was discovered.

Everyone should have received a postcard by now explaining the error. If you didn't, please let me know. (New versions of the document have been corrected.)

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

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# 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 ARRL member  
 Renewal

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.  
PO Box 6  
SAN JOSE CA 95103-0006

Affiliate of the ARRL,  
American Radio Relay League



**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**FIRST CLASS**