

# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 22, Number 4

April 2006



## ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, March 24, 2006

### BPL CHIP MAKER SHOWS INTERFERENCE ABATEMENT IMPROVEMENTS TO LEAGUE

A demonstration at ARRL Headquarters of DS2 BPL equipment suggests the chipset developer and manufacturer is working to minimize--if not altogether eliminate--interference from its products on amateur bands, ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, says. Hare met with two DS2 officials at ARRL to discuss the company's improved approach to Amateur Radio band notching techniques. Based upon his observations during a demonstration of DS2's latest generation G2 technology, Hare says he's cautiously optimistic. A spectrum analyzer check of the modem's output showed the G2 modem could attain a notch depth of up to 40 dB.

"While there's no certainty that all BPL products using this technology could achieve 40 dB of protection within notched spectrum, our tests show the capability to do so is there," Hare commented. "This may not prevent all interference problems, but a 10 to 15 dB improvement over the notching used by many BPL systems in place today would be a significant improvement."

Hare points out that DS2 chipsets are used by BPL equipment makers Ambient, Amperion, Corinex and Mitsubishi, among others. "Our work with DS2 could help manufacturers as they address interference problems in earlier-generation equipment," he said.

In its October 2005 Petition for Further Rule Making in the BPL proceeding <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/filings/BPL-FNPRM.pdf>, ARRL cited BPL systems using Main.net and DS2 chipsets as among those that lack fixed, permanent notches in the ham bands and "have caused numerous cases of harmful interference to stations in the Amateur Service."

Hare says he was intrigued by an earlier demonstration showing that DS2 had improved the notching capability of its latest chipset. Preliminary tests showed that although close-in notching wasn't much better than other systems', BPL noise dropped below the ambient noise level deep into the notches. Hare and DS2 agreed to work with ARRL to further investigate the notching improvements.

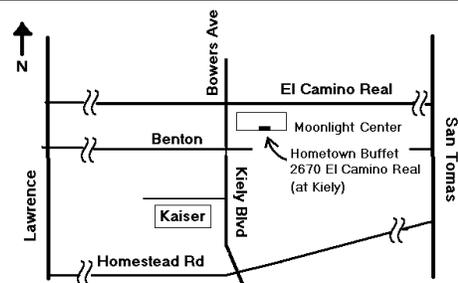
On March 9 DS2 Vice President of Technology and Strategic Partnerships Chano G?mez and Product Manager Eduardo Luna, EA5ETP, brought a pair of modems using DS2's latest-generation G2 technology to ARRL Headquarters. G?mez directs DS2's US

## Calendar

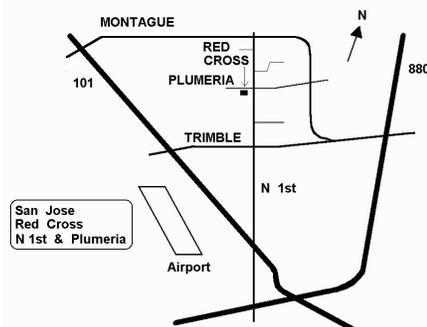
- 4/10 SCCARA General Meeting--dinner meeting
- 4/17 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 5/8 SCCARA General Meeting

### General Meeting:

- Day: Monday, April 10, 2006
- Time: 6:30 PM
- Place: Hometown Buffet, Santa Clara  
2670 El Camino Real, (at Kiely Blvd)  
[www.hometownbuffet.com](http://www.hometownbuffet.com)
- Featuring: Dinner meeting



Santa Clara



The **SCCARA-GRAM** is published monthly by the **SANTA CLARA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**, PO Box 6, San Jose CA 95103-0006. Permission to reprint articles is hereby granted, provided the source is properly credited.

**The deadline for articles is the last Monday of the month.**

SCCARA was formed in 1921 and became a non-profit corporation in 1947. SCCARA is an affiliate of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). The club station is W6UW.

Web page: <http://www.qsl.net/sccara>.

**OFFICERS - DIRECTORS - STAFF**

|                 |                                 |          |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| President       | Clark Murphy, KE6KXO            | 262-9334 |
|                 | e-mail: clarkmurph@yahoo.com    |          |
| Vice President  | Fred Townsend, AE6QL            | 263-8768 |
|                 | e-mail: fred@dcctolight.net     |          |
| Secretary       | Barbara BrittenKD6QEI           | 293-3847 |
| Treasurer       | Don Steinbach, AE6PM            | 867-3912 |
|                 | e-mail: dlsteinbach@comcast.net |          |
| Station Trustee | Don Village, K6PBQ              | 263-2789 |
|                 | e-mail: donvillage7@yahoo.com   |          |
| 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 |
|                 | 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      |          |
| Membership | Jeannie Felix, KG6YOR        | 293-3847 |
| 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,<br>Morris Jones, AD6ZH: | 408 507-4698 |

office in California. Lluna is based in Valencia, Spain. The modems were set up in the ARRL Laboratory's screen room, and checked on a spectrum analyzer in the 20-meter band. Hare said the 40 dB notch depth across the entire band was typical of all bands measured.

The DS2 modems also were tested at Maxim Memorial Station W1AW, where they were plugged into outlets in separate parts of the building and set to transmit data. Hare listened on a number of ham bands and on adjacent spectrum. Inside the ham bands, the signal was inaudible, he said.

"Although this was encouraging as a reasonable quick-look test of DS2 modems on premise," Hare cautioned, "testing on a BPL installation using overhead power lines would present a more realistic situation from which to draw firm conclusions." G'mez offered to look into ways such tests might be arranged.

G'mez said he's happy to be working with ARRL to demonstrate that DS2's chipsets are Amateur Radio-friendly. "We have made a huge effort to ensure that the 40 dB programmable notches in our OFDM chipset provide adequate protection," he said. Lluna said several vendors already have deployed DS2-based equipment in the US, "and this gives them the mechanism to avoid interference problems completely." Feedback from the ARRL "has been invaluable" in achieving that goal, he added.

Afterwards, Hare, G'mez and Lluna discussed BPL and electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) issues and potential solutions to head off most cases of interference. "We had a solid exchange of ideas about the technical aspects of interference problems and how improved notch depth could be combined with other techniques to prevent and correct interference," Hare said. "The DS2 staff has a good grasp of the technical issues involved and believes many of them ultimately can be implemented in deployed systems."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, concurred with Hare's cautious optimism. "We very much appreciate this dialogue with DS2, and we are looking forward to turning talk into action and solutions," he said.

**LEAGUE REQUESTS RULE CHANGE TO EASE SPREAD SPECTRUM OPERATION**

The ARRL has asked the FCC to modify one of its rules governing spread spectrum (SS) operation on Amateur Radio frequencies. The League has petitioned the Commission to drop all but the first sentence of 97.311(d), which now requires the use of automatic power control (APC) for SS stations running more than 1 W. The ARRL request would retain the 100 W overall power limitation for SS.

"The effect of the rule change would be to eliminate an automatic power control provision that has proven over time to be impractical" in terms of compliance, the League said in its Petition for Rule Making filed March 13 <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/SS-Rulemaking-Petition.pdf>>. It also conceded that the provision--one the League had proposed and supported more than 10 years ago--was unnecessary to protect the operations of other licensees and had "unfortunately served as an unintended but effective deterrent to spread spectrum experimentation" on ham radio.

Since the FCC first approved the use of spread spectrum techniques for Amateur Radio in 1985 on bands above 225 MHz and at power levels up to 100 W, there's been limited--but never

widespread--experimental amateur operation. More recently, the FCC has made the SS rules less restrictive in response to League showings that the rules were hampering SS experimentation and that interference has not proven to be an issue.

The ARRL says it now agrees with those who opposed the automatic power control provision in WT Docket 97-12, concluded in 1999. Those changes not only relaxed rules governing the use of spread spectrum techniques by radio amateurs but opened the door to the possibility of international spread spectrum communication.

"Now seven years later, it is apparent to ARRL that the rules requiring APC indeed have proven to be difficult to implement, unnecessary and something of a barrier to SS experimentation," the ARRL said in its latest rule making petition. "Section 97.311(d) can be greatly simplified without increasing the risk of intra-service or inter-service harmful interference."

The ARRL said keeping the maximum power at 100 W limits the power spectral density of an SS emission, contributing to compatibility between Amateur Radio SS and narrowband modes in the same allocations. The rules already in place make spread spectrum "essentially secondary to any amateur narrowband emission modes," the League pointed out, and make the APC requirement unnecessary to avoid interference to other users of the same spectrum.

In any event, the League concluded, radio amateurs employing SS modes would remain obliged to comply with the rule requiring use of "the minimum transmitter power necessary to carry out the desired communication." That was a primary reason the ARRL asked for the APC provision in the first place.

The FCC has not yet assigned a rule making (RM) petition number to the ARRL's petition nor invited comments.

In its Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) WT Docket 04-140, the FCC, in response to another ARRL petition, proposed extending the bands available for spread spectrum to include 222-225 MHz. On its own initiative, the Commission also recommended permitting SS operation on 6 and 2 meters, a move the ARRL opposes. In its comments, the League cited concerns about raising the noise floor on 6 meters and the fact that both bands already support substantial narrowband and weak-signal work, meaning "fewer opportunities for frequency reuse in those allocations."

The Commission is expected to conclude WT Docket 04-140 this year. The FCC suggested that restrictions on spread spectrum already in place should be sufficient to prevent any adverse impact of SS operation to other users of 6 and 2 meters.

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## Secretary Says

There are 5 2005 members who have not renewed yet. Check the mail label, if you are a regular member and there is no 2006 (or higher) number opposite your name, we have not received your renewal and this will be your last news letter.

Barbara Britten KD6QEI

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## "Hello" campaign provides rallying point to promote Amateur Radio

NEWINGTON, CT, Mar 15, 2006--The first components of the ARRL's "Hello" [<http://www.hello-radio.org/>] Amateur Radio public relations campaign now are available. "This campaign will give hams the tools they need to reach out in their communities to non-hams and influence their perception of Amateur Radio," says ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, WIAGP, who conceived the campaign and is its principal Headquarters contact. The "Hello" campaign is aimed at recasting Amateur Radio in the light of the 21st century and focus on its universal appeal. At the same time, it will mark the 100th anniversary of what many historians consider the first voice radio broadcast in 1906 by Reginald Fessenden.

What's Available Now?

A series of 30-second radio public service announcements (PSAs) [<http://www.arrl.org/pio/pr.html>] have been developed for the "Hello" campaign. The plan is make a new one available about every eight weeks. These "mini-commercials" for ham radio are already being played on dozens of stations across the country, and the numbers keep growing.

"You can help by downloading the PSAs from the ARRL Web site onto a CD and taking it to your own local radio station," Pitts suggests. Tools include a distinctive "Hello" Web site [<http://www.hello-radio.org/>] and radio and TV public service announcements. A broadcast-quality video for the "Hello" campaign will be available in April.

Copies of the special four-page "Hello" brochure [<http://www.arrl.org/pio/hello/Hello-Campaign-Brochure.pdf>] are available from ARRL Headquarters for use during presentations to non-ham groups. (Full details on the "Hello" campaign plus a pull-out copy of the brochure are available in the April issue of QST.)

Pitts suggests the brochures are suitable for talks to schools, clubs, displays and other venues promoting Amateur Radio to the public. There is a space on the back page to add your local club info.

"It's your world. Get on the radio and say "Hello."

To obtain copies, e-mail [<mailto:hello@arrl.org>] the "Hello" campaign. Donations are welcome (make checks out to "ARRL") to help cover return postage to ARRL, Public Relations, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

"Hello" logo bumper stickers [<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9731>] will be on sale through the ARRL on-line catalog.

Local clubs and hams can find this promotion most rewarding. The Section needs a PIO/PIC to coordinate this activity. Since it is tough to find a single "stuckee." I will lead a working group to investigate this program and move on it locally. Please contact me, SCV Affiliated Club Coordinator, at [n2rhv@arrl.net](mailto:n2rhv@arrl.net) or 408-263-5325.

See full article from the ARRL: <http://www.arrl.org/>

(submitted by Bill, N2RHV)

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## Meeting Minutes

### General Meeting, March 13, 2006



Meeting began at 7:30 PM

Introductions: members present: 23; Visitors: KD6YOP

Old Business:

Calendar passed around from a ham group in Gilroy.

It was suggested that we put our antenna trailer up in the parking lot of DeAnza College at the Flea Market to attract attention. We would need to clear it with the school first. Howard Krawetz, N6HM, to do this by next meeting. The rainout fund will apply to the SVECS group. They had 45 vendors. The donuts tonight are compliments of SVECS

Del Harbold, K6JPX, has a friend who has 40 acres on Summit Road that we might be able to use for this year's Field Day. The trouble with the area is it is very remote, and the road to get to the area is narrow and winding, and might prove a great challenge to get the antenna trailer to the sight. There will be more information at future meetings.

The April 10th meeting will be at The Hometown Buffet on the El Camino and Kiley in Santa Clara. We will gather at 6:30 PM, and finish by 9:00 PM. This is a social event and all family members are welcomed.

SVECS Breakfast: To be held Saturday, April 22, at the VFW hall in Santa Clara. Breakfast is served at 09:00 AM. The program begins at 10:00 AM. The speaker will be David Chamberlain, who ran the OEC at Katrina. He will have some interesting stories to tell. Please contact Lou Stierer, WA6QYS, so he knows how many eggs to cook.

The Palo Alto club, is holding a ham radio / Tech class in Saturday, 3/18/06 and 3/25/06. The price, \$40.00 includes the book..

Bill Dale would also like your vote for him for section manager. The vote occurs in April / May 2006.

Bill Dale also offered us a spot at Pinewood Park in Milpitas near Montague and Calaveras, for Field as an alternate to Mt. Madonna for Field Day. We would be allowed to have our own site and call sign. They would run the GOTA station. This will be taken under advisement by the board.

The MS Walk needs a few more people to ride SAG vehicles. The route has changed this year. It starts at Los Gatos high school, goes through Vasona Park, then back to the high school.

Gary has the repeater codes for those that have not received them yet.

Welcome to new member Michael Arnoff, WB0TOW.

Speaker: Fred Townsend, AE6QL, read a paper regarding BPL benefits. You can e-mail Fred to get the link to the website, ae6ql@arrl.net. The ARRL is aware of the problem of some types

of broadband over power lines. A discussion followed. A new chipset, uses approximately 47.42Mhz, Red Cross and CHP use frequencies near this. The chipset would interfere with these frequencies. California PUC is aware of this problem. Then there was a lab regarding the controller that is going into the 440 at regional hospital. Fred tried to make the auto patch very similar to 2M so that no new auto codes need to be learned. First channel: for user commands. Second channel: for Control Operator Commands. Third channel: Programming commands. It has another feature: Reverse Auto Patch: You can use your phone to get into the repeater.

Motion made by David Paul to adjourn, seconded by Don Steinbach.

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### General Meeting, Feb. 13, 2006



Meeting began: 7:35 PM

Members Present: 23; Visitors: W6HOC, Howard Califf; W6WTY, J. Judson. Please forgive me if I have not spelled these names correctly.

Membership renewals were due as of January 1. If you have not paid your dues, send in your renewal using the form on the back of the newsletter. The latest renewal year is now listed on your mailing label.

Gary Mitchell asked how many people would use the patch if they were available. Many hands went up. Okay, we need to keep that going.

Bill Dale, N2RHV, asked SCCARA to join them for Field Day at the Milpitas Fire Dept. He is running for section manager, and needs our votes. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

Speaker: Howard Califf W6HOC, from HRO. He introduced himself. He is a member of RACES, and is an AEC. His topic was "What's going on in retail now". He talked about the new 7000 units. Yaesu has discontinued 2 models. There is not much going on at Kenwood. There is not any new product development. ICOM and Yaesu are continuing to develop new equipment. Club members get a 5% discount on non-radio merchandise over \$20.00. Then he presented a "show and tell" of things he brought from the store.

Amateur Day at the Stanford Linear Accelerator, 8 AM to 8 PM. Contact the web site: WWW.FARS.K6YA.ORG

Adjourn: 2100

Submitted by: Barbara K. Britten, KD6QEI, Secretary

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### Board Meeting, March 20, 2006



Meeting began: 7:40 PM, with Gary Mitchell excused.

Members Present: Ben Vickers, WB6FRM; Fred Townsend, AE6QL, Vice President; Lou Stierer, WA6QYS, Dir; Jim Tyranski, KG6UDW; Don Village, K6PBQ, Dir; Don Steinbach, AE6PM, Treasurer; Robert Forster, N6PCQ; Clark Murphy, KE6KXO, President; Wally Britten, KA6YMD, Dir; Gwen Steirer, KF6OTD; Barbara K. Britten, KD6QEI, Secretary; Don Apte,

KK6MX, Dir.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Secretary: Notes in newsletter. No Known corrections,  
Treasurer: Need to transfer money from savings to checking. A proposed budget plan is to be forthcoming.

ASVARO: Ron Chester from PAARA, is a professional CPA, explained nonprofit status, and why the school demands the total bill to be paid at the beginning of the year. The Rain Out fund works. SVECS gained \$200.00 from food at last flea market but just broke even on the setup fee due to the rainout funds help.

Repeater: If there is a lot of wind, there is a lost of crackling noise heard over 2M repeater.

BBS: It is open and working.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Welcome Letter: Lou Stierer and Don Steinbach will work together to finalize a version of the welcome letter for the Board to vote on at next months meeting.

Bill Dale offered us our own site in the same park that they will be operating from at Pinewood Park in Milpitas. There is no cost to us. The Board thought that it was a good idea and would think about it and vote on it at next months meeting.

Collins Amplifier only: Valued at \$1000.00-\$2000.00. Les Zwiebel, WB6ORZ suggested that we sell it for \$1500.00.

The Radio Station at Red Cross will be open Saturday, 3/25. There is a phone contest that day if anyone wants to participate.  
Sonoma Station Repeater: Ben Vickers read the letter from the Sonoma Club. Clark read a proposed response from SCCARA. The new President of the Sonoma club claims to be willing to work with us, unlike the last President. A discussion followed regarding the continued interference problem and possible solutions. Sonoma is willing to change their net times and night. Fred mentioned that the ARRL has mediation specialists. If necessary, we may need to take that route. Lou and Clark to rewrite the response letter to Sonoma. Wally and Fred to go to the next NARCC meeting on 4/1/06.

Repeater Motion: Fred Townsend passed around info sheets: (1) Pros and cons of using an isolator. (2) Single stage ferrite isolator. (3) RF isolators. Fred says the isolators are like having insurance. You may not need it, but if a problem arises, you'll be glad you did have it. Ben Vickers says he can retune it to our frequency. He suggested that we get a used one to start off with, and see if it works. Motion made by Fred to table the subject until next meeting. Seconded by Don Steinbach. Motion carried.

Christmas Luncheon: The place we were at last year, Jericho's of Milpitas, is closed. We need to find a new place quickly to get our reservations in on time. Suggestions were: Coco's; Mariani's, (a little pricey). Don Village will continue to search.

Motion by Fred Townsend to adjourn, seconded by Lou Stierer. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned @ 9:15 PM.

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## Board Meeting, Feb. 20, 2006



Meeting began: 7:20 PM.

Members present: Clark Murphy, KE6KXO, President; Fred Townsend, AE6QL, Vice President, Barbara K. Britten, KD6QEI, Secretary; Don Steinbach, AE6PM, Treasurer; Wally Britten, KA6YMD, Dir.; Don Village, K6PBQ, Dir; Lou Stierer, WA6QYS, Dir; Don Apte, KK6MX, Dir; Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, Newsletter publisher; Gwen Stierer, KF6OTD, visitor; Jim Tyranski, KG6UDW, visitor.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Radio Fest: The Monterey Ham Fest has requested our participation on 2/25/06 from 7AM to 2 PM. Talk in on 146.97

Secretary Report: The minutes for last month are in the newsletter. An addendum to that meeting listing the officers present at the meeting will be placed in this month's newsletter. Clark says it is not necessary to put minutes from the regular meeting in the newsletter, unless business is conducted. Secretary comment: I disagree with Clark. Members, who cannot get to the meetings, still want to know what went on. I intend to continue putting the minutes in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: All records completed for new officer. \$3000.00 put into savings to offset bank so no bank fees will be charged. Don is going to investigate the details of a change into an interest bearing account. Clark asked the treasurer for a list of the regularly occurring bills, (storage, phone, etc.) Bills: 1) Check to Clark Murphy: \$69.59 for: \$15.00, power strip; \$5.00, aluminum strap; \$2.00, extension cord; \$47.59, tarp that went over antenna trailer. 2) Check to Clark Murphy: \$1500.00 to ASVARO for Flea Market, August. Motion made by Clark Murphy to pay \$1500.00 to ASVARO for SCCARA's part of flea market in August; seconded by Fred Townsend. Motion passed unanimously. Check to Don Village: \$390.89, reimbursement for \$24.89, Christmas gift to restaurant and \$366.00 for Mt. Madonna for Field Day reservation.

Repeater Chairman: Nothing to report.

SCCARA received a letter from the Sonoma/Santa Rosa club regarding the repeater and its interference with our repeater. A discussion ensued. The Sonoma repeater is at 200 watts, we are at about 40 watts. Sonoma is constantly interfering with our use of the repeater. They refuse to turn down their power. They want to give us the codes to turn them off in an emergency, as we are an emergency repeater, and they are not. The Sonoma club is the originator of the problem of interference, not us. The current president of the Sonoma club is trying to work with other clubs to resolve problems. SCCARA Board does not agree with the parameters set down in the letter from the Sonoma repeater group. NARCC will be notified of our standing on the issue. The repeater at Kaiser Santa Teresa (KST) is there for back up if needed. Our repeater is to be used by San Jose RACES in the event of an emergency. Don Apte, a RACES Board member, reported the desire of RACES to have a clear triangular link between other repeaters in San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose. FEMA wants all three cities coordinated as well. It was suggested that we change the KST repeater with the 440. No action taken on suggestion. Clark brought up the idea of signing a legal document with Trish regarding the coordination of our repeater when the repeater was moved from her property to the new location in Alum Rock Park. Then we need to notify NARCC as to why we aren't coordinated yet. We have been an established repeater on the 146.985/.385 pair in the San Jose area for over 25 years. The Sonoma club is not willing to compromise. Bob Lanning worked with the Sonoma antenna group to check the power of their unit. SCCARA is not yet coordinated due to Sonoma's conflict resolution status - according to NARCC. Lou Stierer, WA6QYS, and Clark Murphy, KE6KXL, and Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, are

going to write a letter to the Sonoma repeater group regarding our stand on the issues presented in their letter.

**ASVARO:** A professional accountant from the club PARA is asking how big of an account is ASVARO building. He believes ASVARO is being unreasonable asking all of the clubs in the ASVARO organization to demand all of the monies for the whole year to be paid before any flea markets are even held.

**BBS:** Gary Mitchell, BBS coordinator, reported that all is running fine.

**NEWSLETTER:** Wally Britten sent Gary a preliminary roster by email. Wally is to send the same list to Fred Townsend. Gary suggested that we combine the old and new rosters into one list.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

**Amplifier at Red Cross:** Lou took the amplifier to Frank's Lock Shop, who picked the lock and then removed it, and took it into the shop to have new keys made. The key was made then, finding out it was for SCCARA, his boss - the owner refused to charge SCCARA anything to do the work as he was a ham, and was a member and instructor of SCCARA many years ago. (Thank you Paul Schmidt, WB6YRS). We may have a buyer for the Collins amplifier and radio. The tuner at the Red Cross is acting up. **Club Station:** The club station was opened on the last Saturday of January rather than the third Saturday, by special request.

**April Meeting:** the April meeting will be a dinner meeting, held at the Home Town Buffet on El Camino in Santa Clara.

**President's Prose:** Fred Townsend will write an article on the 440 repeater.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

**Christmas Luncheon:** We need a new place to hold the Christmas luncheon as Jericho's has closed. Suggestions were: IHOP on Great America and Mission, Coco's on Fremont and Mary in Fremont. If anyone has any suggestions, contact Don Village. **MTT Convention:** The MTT convention will be held at Mosconi Center in San Francisco, June 10-13. Don Apte has tickets. There will be a free ham radio reception, and a museum of early ham radio history. There will be an exhibit area. No sales are to be made.

**QSL Cards:** The QSL cards need to be cut down to 3 1/2 by 5 1/2 and sent to all the addresses in the logbook that cards were promised QSL cards. We have received one card. Gary will revise the cards before reprinting more. Don Village will mail the current ones out ASAP.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lloyd's records were up-to-date going back to 2003. Balances: Checking: \$5500.00; Savings: \$400.00. Don Steinbach went over the report and explained everything. Report available to anyone by making arrangements with Don.

**Field Day Discussion:** Mt. Madonna is too expensive. Lou Stierer said we could put out fliers at the SVECS flea market in March. Gary Mitchell will make up the fliers, and print about 50 or a hundred in time for the flea market date.

**Equipment from silent keys:** SCCARA has acquired a lot of equipment from silent keys that we can sell or pass on to other hams. Clark and Lou are going to take down an antenna and make it available to other hams, also. If you are interested in the antenna, contact Clark for the particulars.

**Club Station:** The Club station at the American Red Cross

building on North First and Plumeria, will be open on the last Saturday of every month from 10 AM to 3 PM.

**Speaker for March:** Fred Townsend and Wally Britten will do a demonstration of the repeater.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 930 PM.

**Submitted by:** Barbara K. Britten, KD6QEI, Secretary.

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I apologize for not including the secretary reports from 2/06 with other mail sent to our newsletter publisher on 2/25. It was late in the evening & there were many distractions due to preparing for a 2 day vacation trip to start Monday.

Wally

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## ARRL 2006 Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology

From the Affiliated Club Coordinator: Bill, N2RHV.

I received from the ARRL a notice about the ARRL 2006 Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology. Every year the League supports this weeklong summer workshop for teachers (expense paid\*) to promote radio arts in the classroom.

The hands-on program has had much success teaching the basic concepts of wireless, space and robotics technology in the classroom. I am looking for contacts with local school systems and teachers to who might be interested in this program. An Amateur Radio license is not required to attend the Teachers Institute.

Four, one-week-long, expense paid sessions are offered in 2006 to qualified applicants. (\*To receive reimbursement, participants must attend the full week.)

#### Dates and Locations:

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| June 19-23       | Parallax, Roseville, CA                 |
| July 24-28       | ARRL, Newington, CT                     |
| July 31-August 4 | ARRL, Newington, CT                     |
| August 7-11      | Liberty Science Center, Jersey City, NJ |

THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MAY 15, 2006

For more information, questions and application requests contact:

Mark Spencer, WA8SME, Director  
ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology  
774 Eastside Road  
Coleville, CA 96107  
(503) 495-9150

Please visit the ARRL Education and Technology Program site:  
<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp>

I have a few brochures that I can pass along to local school principals and school board directors. Please contact me at [n2rhv@arrl.net](mailto:n2rhv@arrl.net) or 408-263-5325.

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# Section Manager

My name is Bill, N2RHV. I am running for Section Manager of the Santa Clara Valley Section.

First licensed in New Jersey in 1993 as a No-Code Tech, I upgraded to General and Amateur Extra by 2001. I completed CERT training, Level 1 Emergency Communications and work Emergency Communications events. I held the EC/RO position for Milpitas and I'm still active in Milpitas ARES/RACES. In 2001 I helped found the Milpitas Amateur Radio and Electronics Society (<http://w6mlp.org>), a Special Service club, and serve as Affiliated Club Coordinator for the section. I teach Ham Radio and Electronics Workshop classes in Milpitas.

The key concepts I bring are Community, Clubs and Kids the three "C's." Community includes both the general ham radio community and the larger community in which we live. We need to communicate with each, with the general public and with local community leaders. I will work with all hams to improve communications among ourselves with regular public meetings at the Section Manager's level. I will recruit speakers to talk to outside organizations who will increase understanding of what we have to offer the general public.

Clubs are very important and as Affiliated Club Coordinator I have been working to strengthen clubs within the section. The Special Service Club program is very useful here. Clubs should share capabilities with each other to leverage our opportunities within the section. Cost benefits in sharing mailing permits, newsletter articles, and club speakers.

Kids are the last but most important part of my three "C's" Youth are the future of Ham Radio. A former Scoutmaster, I am active with KM6BSA, Troop 92, in Milpitas. I will work to get ARISS contacts from the Space Station and the ARRL Education & Technology program established.

Thank you for your vote. See my blog: <http://radioflier.blogspot.com>

73, Bill N2RHV

Affiliated Club Coordinator, Santa Clara Valley Section, ARRL Milpitas Amateur Radio & Electronic Society (MARES) Treasurer <http://w6mlp.org> [treasurer@w6mlp.org](mailto:treasurer@w6mlp.org) [n2rhv@arrl.net](mailto:n2rhv@arrl.net)

Monitor Charlie 147.855-[100p] / W6MLP 224.72-[100p] / 145.43-[85.4p]  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SB\\_Radio\\_Clubs](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SB_Radio_Clubs)  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SB\\_Radio\\_Events](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SB_Radio_Events)  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SB\\_Radio\\_Training](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SB_Radio_Training)  
408-263-5325

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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](mailto:kd6fji@arrl.net)

KK6MX, Don Apte, (408) 629-0725  
e-mail: [kk6mx@aol.com](mailto:kk6mx@aol.com)

KB6NP, Jon Dutra, day & msg (408) 428-2058  
evening (408) 867-8654  
packet: home BBS NOARY  
e-mail: [jad@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:wb6yru@aenet.net)

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## Newsletter Notes

You all know memberships expire December 31, but we always get a few who forget. In the past, the February issue would contain a list of those who haven't yet renewed, (which would be their last issue).

The board felt that publishing such a list wasn't a good thing to do. So, we've started putting people's membership year on the mailing labels, just like the sort of thing that magazine publishers do.

I'm not convinced this works any better as a reminder. So, I'm going to propose we stop using the newsletter for this purpose altogether and instead mail out renewal notices in January to those who haven't renewed.

If anyone has any other ideas, please let us know.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

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# S.C.C.A.R.A. 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.  
PO Box 6  
SAN JOSE CA 95103-0006

Affiliate of the ARRL,  
American Radio Relay League



**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**FIRST CLASS**