

# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 22, Number 6

June 2006



## President's Prose

It is getting to that time of year when all hams are starting to anticipate big weekend event of the year and that would be field day. The date is the weekend of June 24th and 25th.

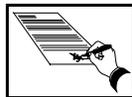
Our regular meeting June 12th will be mostly be about organizing for field day. This year the field day chairman is Jim KG6UDW. With Jim's leadership I am sure we will have a bigger and better field day than ever. Some indication of this is the very big turn out we had for the antenna work party. As a result I think we are better prepared than we have been in the last few years. Among the many repairs was a new paint job. We will have a good looking trailer unit. I don't think we will get points for that but we should all enjoy having a good looking trailer.

I hope that we have a lot of participation this year. One doesn't have to spend all weekend at the park, why not just stop by for a short visit if that is all the time you have.

Since we last meet we had a small outing as a club. The club had a demo station at the Stanford Powwow. Perhaps with more prior planning next year we will have a special event station. It is an opportunity to show a presents in the community.

I hope to see every one on the 12th.

Clark, KE6KXO



## Pow Wow Station

SCCARA set up a demonstration HF station on Saturday, May 13th, at the 35th Annual Stanford American Indian Pow Wow. It generated many comments from the public such as: "I haven't seen a station like this since my Signal Corps days" and "Will you get into our PA system?".

Clark KE6KXO, Don AE6PM, Fred AE6QL, Jim KG6UDW, Gwen KF6OTD and Lou WA6QYS were instrumental in publicizing Amateur Radio to curious Pow Wow attendees. Six different tates and one DX contact were logged and no we didn't get into the PA system. At least five other hams came and checked out our operation. Gwen pointed out that this was a typical SCCARA event as you could eat all day!

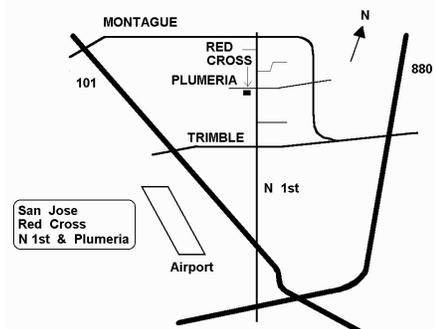
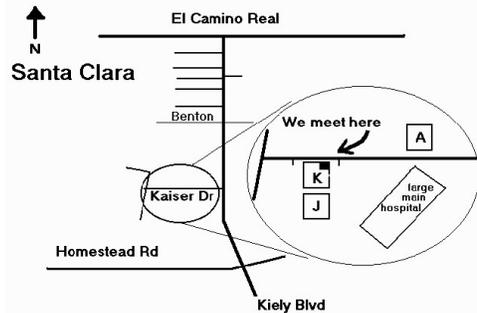
Thanks to all who participated. Let's plan for a "Special

## Calendar

- 6/10 Electronic Flea Market
- 6/13 SCCARA General Meeting
- 6/19 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 6/23-25 Field Day

### General Meeting:

Day: Monday, June 10, 2006  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Bld K, Rm 1  
Featuring: Field Day discussion



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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: <a href="mailto:clarkmurph@yahoo.com">clarkmurph@yahoo.com</a>	
Vice President	Fred Townsend, AE6QL	263-8768
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:fred@dcctolight.net">fred@dcctolight.net</a>	
Secretary	Barbara BrittenKD6QEI	293-3847
Treasurer	Don Steinbach, AE6PM	867-3912
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:dlsteinbach@comcast.net">dlsteinbach@comcast.net</a>	
Station Trustee	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:donvillage7@yahoo.com">donvillage7@yahoo.com</a>	
Director	Don Steinbach, AE6PM	867-3912
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:ae6pm@arrl.net">ae6pm@arrl.net</a>	
Director	Don Apte, KK6MX	629-0725
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:aptekk@aol.com">aptekk@aol.com</a>	
Director	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:donvillage7@yahoo.com">donvillage7@yahoo.com</a>	
Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	241-7999
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:wa6qys@aol.com">wa6qys@aol.com</a>	
Director	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:ka6ymd@arrl.net">ka6ymd@arrl.net</a>	
Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	269-2924
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:wb6yru@ix.netcom.com">wb6yru@ix.netcom.com</a>	

**COMMITTEES**

Repeater	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:ka6ymd@arrl.net">ka6ymd@arrl.net</a>	
Membership	Jeannie Felix, KG6YOR	293-3847
N0ARY BBS	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	269-2924
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:wb6yru@ix.netcom.com">wb6yru@ix.netcom.com</a>	

**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

Event Station" at the 36th Annual Stanford Pow Wow.

Lou, WA6QYS

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## For Sale

Yaesu Headphones, YH55, 8 ohm, mono, \$15.

Don Village, K6PBQ, 408 263-2789

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## SCCARA Supports MS Walk

On Saturday April 22, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society held their annual MS walk in Los Gatos from Los Gatos High School to Vasona Lake and back. There were 2000+ walkers participating in this year's walk. The weather turned out to be very nice. Joan made the whole walk this year with the help of Joan Hastings KB6LFZ, and the Spectra Physics team.

On Behalf of the MS Society and Joan and I, we would like to thank SCCARA for providing communications for the walk. We would like to thank Lloyd DeVaughns KD6FJI, Wally Britten KA6YMD, and Jeannie Felix KG6YOR for handling our net control. Mike Hastings KB6LCJ was at rest stop #2 and I was at rest stop #1. I would like to thank the following for handling our SAG verticals: John Felix KI6ANW, Don Steinbach AE6PM, Jim Tyranski KG6UDW, and Tom Root KF6NEW.

Again, thanks for SCCARA's help in providing communications for the MS walk 2006

73, Don Village, K6PBQ

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## Meeting Minutes

### General Meeting, May 8, 2006



Meeting began: 7:30 PM

Members present: 24; # of guests present: Ian Klufft, KO6YQ; Chris Verges, KG4YSN.

Speaker: Ian Klufft, KO6YQ, from the Stratofox Aerospace Tracking Team, who talked about stratosphere fox hunting. The team specializes in tracking high altitude rockets, "the ultimate hidden transmitter hunt". The fuel used most for the rockets is ammonium perchlorate. It was a very interesting speaker, with lots of information. The web sites for further information are as follows: [www.stratofox.org](http://www.stratofox.org). ; <http://ian.klufft.com>.,reaches Ian Klufft: <http://www.headnut.org>.,reaches Chris Verges.

No other business was conducted at this meeting. Meeting adjourned: 9:05 PM.

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### Board Meeting, May 15, 2006



Meeting began: 7:40 PM after the net ended.

Board members present: Clark Murphy, KE6KXO, president; Fred Townsend, AE6QL, vice president; Barbara K. Britten, KD6QEI, secretary; Don Stienbach, AE6PM, treasurer, and director; Don Apte, KK6MX, director, excused due to work; Wally Britten, KA6YMD, director; Lou Stierer, WA6QYS, director; Don Village, K6PBQ, director; Frequent visitors: Jeannie Felix, KG6YOR, membership; Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, newsletter editor; Gwen Stierer, KF6OTD; Jim Tyranski, KG6UDW, field day chair.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TREASURER: Balances: Checking: \$290.29, Savings: \$2908.77. Bills: Liability insurance: \$325.00; Telephone: \$13.14 (BBS/measured rate), \$18.70, (BBS/internet link - standard rate); Purchases battery from Costco for \$68.19; Deposit to the Bold Knight for the 2006 Christmas luncheon.

SECRETARY: No changes noted to last month's meeting notes. Lou Stierer moved to accept the minutes; seconded by Wally Britten. Motion carried.

VICE PRESIDENT: Crystals for the 440 repeater have arrived. Need to install them, rewire it, and put in circuit breakers. The rest of the work is in progress. Don Stienbach is helping to complete the project.

BBS: It is working well, sending messages north and south.

SCCARAGRAM: Reporting deadline this month is 5/29. Always need articles and pictures about club activities.

REPEATER: The 2 Meter repeater was coordinated by NARCC on May 3, 2006.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

The Collins Radio: Need a digital photo to show product on eBay. Don Stienbach agreed to take the picture with his digital camera.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Lou Stierer has purchased a group 27 marine deep cycle battery at Costco. Fred Townsend, to take it home, along with three others and do a trickle charge on them. Lou will also buy a battery box to store it in.

There was a special event station that SCCARA participated in: It was the 35th Annual American Indian Pow-wow. It took us back in history for two days, on May 20th and 21st. Gwen Stierer was in charge of food for the weekend. She was very busy helping at our special event station and her duties of the Pow-wow. The event station was trying for a "worked all states" certificate, made seven contacts. One of the contacts was in the Cook Islands. Everyone who participated had a good time. Set up helpers were: Don Stienbach, and Clark Murphy. Later on they were joined by: Lou Stierer, Fred Townsend, and Jim Tyranski. Stanford University envisions Pow-Wow #36. It was moved by Don Stienbach to make the Pow-wow an annual event station for SCCARA. It was seconded by Don Village. Motion carried. It was suggested that we could possibly use the antenna trailer, if Stanford University approves its use.

Our present yearly expenses: NARCC dues (every three years), Liability insurance, Secretary of State payment (\$20.00 every year), post office box, monthly storage unit.

We should put framed copies of license, sanction, and contact person with phone numbers at the hospital repeaters.

Don Stienbach is asking for volunteers for the Tour de Cure bicycle race. He also suggested we try for Field Day next year at Summit Road. They have 2 restaurants and ten acres of open land that we could set up in. There must be some further investigation to determine if they (the restaurant) will allow us to camp and set up in that area. More on this subject later.

Field Day, 2006, will be June 23 (Friday/ set up), 24 (operating begins at 11 AM), 25 (end of operating, and tear down). The

emphasis will be on the GOTA (Get On The Air). Jim Tyranski said we need a better antenna for this station. Perhaps a separate tower or vertical antenna would be the best way to go. Further discussion followed regarding what antennas will be used for each station to be at Field Day. Jeannie Felix agreed to be food coordinator for Field Day. All food at Field Day is going to be on a potluck basis. Jeannie will coordinate the plates, utensils, napkins, cups, etc., as well as the BBQ preps, and charcoal. The campers provide the food; SCCARA will provide the preparation setups.

2100 / 9:00 PM. Motion made by Fred Townsend, seconded by Don Stienbach, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Secretary

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## ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, May 12, 2006

### ARRL SHIFTS CONGRESSIONAL BPL FOCUS TO US SENATE

With an amendment requiring the FCC to study BPL interference now included in Section 502 of the House telecom bill, HR 5252, the ARRL is shifting its focus to the Senate. The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will conduct hearings on its own version of telecom legislation, S 2686, later this month and will begin consideration of the bill in early June. Between now and then, the ARRL is urging members in the 22 states with Senators on the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee to write seeking support to include similar BPL study language in the Senate bill.

"If we can protect Section 502 when the bill comes to the House floor for consideration, and if we can get similar language introduced on the Senate side, we'll be in a good position when and if the two bills go to a Conference Committee," observes ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ.

Proposed by Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), the amendment to the House bill, the Communications Opportunity, Promotion and Enhancement (COPE) Act of 2006, gained the support of Committee Chairman Joe Barton (R-TX), and House Energy and Commerce Committee voted 42-12 to send the COPE Act, amendment intact, to the full House for its consideration.

The Ross amendment has received significant opposition from electric utilities. The United Telecom Council (UTC), a bulwark of BPL support and administrator of the Interference Resolution Web site, has referred to the amendment as a threat and is urging its members to contact their members of Congress regarding its inclusion.

This week the League began getting out the word via e-mail to members in states with Senators on Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. The letter to members in targeted states asks League members to urge their Senators on the committee to support language addressing the BPL interference issue when the Senate bill is marked up in committee on June 8.

The language the League wants to see in the Senate amendment to the telecom bill would call on the FCC to "conduct, and submit to the House Energy and Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, a study of the interference potential of broadband over power line systems leading to

improved rules to prevent the deployment of systems having a potential to cause destructive interference to radio communication systems."

The ARRL plea includes a sample letter <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/files/BPL-Amendment-SenateSampleLetter0506-Rev2.doc>>, which members are encouraged to personalize as much as possible. The League wants members to fax their letters to the number indicated in the e-mail to members plus a copy to ARRL's government relations firm Chwat & Company, ATTN: Eric Heis, KI4NFC, 625 Slaters Ln -- Suite 103, Alexandria, VA 22314. Fax 703-684-7594.

The sample letter points out the value of Amateur Radio's role in recent disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina. "The reason we need your help is that the FCC continues to resist growing evidence that its rules are inadequate to protect radiocommunication systems, including those relied upon by First Responders, from radio spectrum pollution caused by BPL systems," it says. "The FCC needs to objectively and carefully review this evidence and adopt rules that will keep interference from BPL within reasonable bounds."

The sample letter notes that not only has the FCC shown no inclination to do that, it's so far failed "to enforce its existing rules in specific, well documented instances of harmful interference."

"Remember that it is not BPL that we oppose, but BPL interference," Sumner emphasized this week. "Some BPL systems are designed not to cause widespread interference, but many are not. The problem is that the FCC rules don't distinguish between the two. This is unfair to licensed radio services that must deal with the consequences of spectrum pollution."

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From *The ARRL Letter*, April 28, 2006

## **CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION APPROVES BPL REGULATIONS**

Saying that broadband over power line (BPL) will bring Internet access to "underserved communities," the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has adopted regulatory guidelines for electric utilities and companies that wish to develop BPL projects in that state. While the Commission's BPL guidelines include a requirement to maintain the safety and reliability of the electric distribution system, the state agency has no jurisdiction over radio frequency interference, which received no mention in the PUC's news release. ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, points out that the utility industry still must meet another tier of federal regulations that govern permitted BPL signal levels and interference issues.

"Although this action addresses how BPL operators will be responsible to state regulators, it does not address any of the technical problems with BPL in any way," Hare observed. "Utilities will still have to carefully choose BPL vendors with a proven track record of preventing interference complaints."

The CPUC said it wants to foster BPL deployment to solve the "last mile" problem of broadband delivery and to increase consumer choice in broadband providers. "BPL has the potential to bring broadband Internet services to communities who do not have broadband service available today from the telephone companies or cable companies," said CPUC President Michael R. Peevey.

One commissioner suggested that BPL faces an uphill battle. "This is a nascent technology with technological, market, and financial

hurdles before it," commented CPUC member John Bohn. "By removing unnecessary regulations from its path, we free BPL entrepreneurs to invest and take the risks they want, while protecting ratepayers from any downside."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said that while the League's concern is with BPL interference and not with BPL's viability in the broadband marketplace, "it's odd to see the California PUC echoing the pro-BPL rhetoric that was coming out of the FCC two years ago and that is so demonstrably wrong today." Sumner points out that BPL has been around for years now, and "after all the hype," the most-recent FCC statistics show no more than about 4000 BPL lines in service across the US.

"The California PUC would better serve its citizens by focusing on more capable broadband technologies, such as fiber and wireless, that do not have the potential to disrupt radio communication," Sumner concluded.

The policy the CPUC adopted April 27 stemmed from a draft developed by CPUC member Rachel Chong, a former FCC commissioner.

## **EUROPEAN HAMS HEAR SIGNALS FROM THE EDGE OF SPACE**

Hams in Germany and Portugal reportedly have received signals from the US Voyager 1 spacecraft <<http://voyager.jpl.nasa.gov/>> in March and April. On March 31, AMSAT-DL (Germany) radio amateurs at the Institute for Environmental and Future Research (IUZ) at Bochum Observatory used a 20-meter radio telescope dish to detect Voyager 1's 8.4 GHz signal.

Using Doppler shift and sky positioning, the German team received the signal from a distance of 8.82 billion miles (14.7 billion km)--nearly 100 times the distance from the sun to Earth. This is the first recorded reception of signals from Voyager 1 by radio amateurs.

Members of the AMSAT-DL/IUZ team included Freddy de Guchteneire, ON6UG, James Miller, G3RUH, Hartmut Paesler, DL1YDD, and Achim Vollhardt, DH2VA/HB9DUN. Assisting were Theo Elsner, DJ5YM of IUZ, and Roger Ludwig of Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), as well as the Deep Space Network (DSN) tracking station in Madrid, Spain.

Luis Cupido, CT1DMK, in Portugal reported April 15 that he spent "two nights without sleep" to hear Voyager I at his QTH using a 5.6-meter dish. To detect the signal, Cupido says he had to acquire and integrate spectrograms over an extended period.

"I did several acquisition periods of 15 minutes (900 s), the minimum I would expect to see something," he said on his Web site <<http://w3ref.cfn.ist.utl.pt/cupido/dsn.html>>, noting that any longer time period would be incompatible with his Doppler-shift correction scheme. "The receiver is operated at fixed frequency, and the Doppler variation was corrected by skewing successive spectrograms in software while accumulating [images]."

He based positive identification of Voyager 1's signal on the fact that signal is "only visible for the right skew amount that corresponds to the Doppler variation as predicted by the relative velocity calculation."

Voyager 1 was launched in September 1977 to conduct close-up studies of Jupiter and Saturn, Saturn's rings and the larger moons of the two planets. Designed to last only five years, the probe is expected to send back astronomical information to NASA and JPL until at least 2020. Voyager 1 will study ultraviolet sources among

the stars, and its fields and particles instruments will continue to search for the boundary between the sun's influence and interstellar space.

## HOUSE COMMITTEE OKAYS TELECOMS BILL WITH BPL-INTERFERENCE STUDY AMENDMENT

The US House Energy and Commerce Committee's version of the Communications Opportunity, Promotion and Enhancement (COPE) Act of 2006 includes an amendment requiring the FCC to study the interference potential of BPL systems. The panel voted April 26 to send the much-talked-about "telecoms rewrite" bill to the full House for its consideration. "Outstanding news!" was the reaction of ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ.

"This is a major victory for the ARRL," he exulted, noting that the amendment "received significant opposition" from utilities. Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), proposed the amendment, and, with the support of Committee Chairman Joe Barton (R-TX), the committee agreed by voice vote to include it in the bill.

A year ago, Ross sponsored House Resolution 230 (H Res 230) <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/filings/hres230/HRes230.pdf>>, which calls on the FCC to "reconsider and revise rules governing broadband over power line systems based on a comprehensive evaluation of the interference potential of those systems to public safety services and other licensed radio services."

"Hundreds of ARRL members who wrote their congressional representatives in support of Rep Ross's H Res 230 helped to achieve this week's success with the COPE Act amendment," Sumner observed.

A more-widely reported Internet "network neutrality" amendment to the COPE Act bill was defeated. The measure will get a number next week.

A statement released by Ross's office notes that his amendment, which received unanimous committee support, "would guarantee that valuable public safety communications and Amateur Radio operators are not subject to interference." One of two radio amateurs in the US House, Ross said infrastructure-free Amateur Radio, "often overlooked in favor of flashier means of communication," can maintain communication in disasters that bring more vulnerable technology to its knees. Ham radio operators "are often the only means of communication attainable in a devastated area," he said.

"I believe it is imperative that the interference potential [of BPL] is thoroughly examined and comprehensively evaluated to ensure that deployment of BPL, which I do support, does not cause radio interference for Amateur Radio operators and first responders who serve our communities," Ross added.

The COPE Act BPL amendment adds a section (under Title V) to the proposed legislation that would require the FCC to study and report on the interference potential of BPL systems within 90 days of the bill's enactment. "This puts the House Energy and Commerce Committee on record as having concerns about BPL interference," Sumner said. "If we are vigilant in protecting it against deletion on the House floor--assuming the bill is approved by the House--the BPL language will be included in the legislation that goes on to the Senate."

From *The ARRL Letter*, May 5, 2006

## FCC WRC-03 AMATEUR RULE CHANGES NOW IN EFFECT

Several FCC Part 97 Amateur Radio rule revisions to implement changes agreed to at the international level during World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) went into effect May 3 upon their publication in The Federal Register. The FCC Order <[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DA-06-79A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-06-79A1.pdf)>, released in January, affects §97.111, Authorized transmissions; §97.113, Prohibited transmissions; §97.115, Third party communications, and §97.117, International communications. The FCC has yet to deal with the so-called "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, which also stemmed from decisions made at WRC-03. The Commission has proposed deleting the Element 1 5 WPM code test as a requirement to obtain any Amateur Radio license.

"These amendments will ensure that the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules conform to Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference, and will further the Commission's ongoing efforts to streamline its Amateur Service Rules," the FCC Order said.

The FCC Order revises:

\* §97.111(a)(1) to permit "transmissions necessary to exchange messages with other stations in the Amateur Service, except those in any country whose administration has notified the ITU that it objects to such communications. The FCC will issue public notices of current arrangements for international communications." The old language permitted communication among amateur stations in different countries "except those in any country whose administration has given notice that it objects to such communications."

The FCC said the change does not prejudice its consideration of comments to rule changes it's proposed to §97.111(a)(2) in WT Docket 04-140--the so-called "Omnibus" proceeding that covers a wide range of rule changes and proposals. The Commission wants to amend that rule section to clarify that amateur stations may at all times and on all authorized channels transmit communications necessary to meet essential needs and to facilitate relief actions.

\* §97.115(a)(2) to facilitate the transmission of international communications on behalf of third parties in emergency or disaster-relief situations, whether or not a third-party agreement is in place between the US and the countries involved. The revision now permits communication with any non-US station "when transmitting emergency or disaster relief communications" as well as with any non-US station "whose administration has made arrangements with the United States to allow amateur stations to be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties."

The revised rule further provides that no station may transmit third-party traffic other than emergency or disaster relief communications to a station whose government has not made a third-party arrangement. Still excepted from the prohibition is any third party eligible to be the control operator of an amateur station.

\* §97.113(a)(4) to prohibit amateur stations exchanging messages with amateur stations in other countries from making transmissions that are encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning, except for control signals exchanged between Earth command stations and space stations in the Amateur-Satellite service, something Part 97 already provides for. The old rule referred to

the use of "codes and ciphers."

The same rule also already prohibits transmitting music, communications intended to facilitate a criminal act, obscene or indecent words or language and false or deceptive messages, signals or identification.

\* §97.117 to state that amateur stations may transmit communications incidental to the purposes of the Amateur Service and to remarks of a personal character.

The FCC also revised §97.3 and 97.309 to update the definition of International Morse code and of various digital codes in the amateur rules to reflect changes in the Radio Regulations.

The WRC-03 Final Acts revising the international regulations that apply to the Amateur and the Amateur Satellite services became effective July 5, 2003. These latest Part 97 revisions now bring the FCC's Amateur Service rules into conformance with the international Radio Regulations.

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From *The ARRL Letter*, May 19, 2006

### **FCC WON'T SAY PUBLICLY WHEN IT WILL ACT ON MORSE CODE ISSUE**

All bets appear to be off as to when the FCC might make a final decision on deleting the Morse code requirement. Last July, an FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235 proposed to eliminate the Element 1 (5 WPM) Morse code requirement for all license classes. Most observers expected the Commission to release a Report and Order (R&O) to that effect by the end of this year, but even that timetable could prove optimistic, based on what the Commission will say publicly. Before tackling the Morse proceeding, the FCC wants to wrap up another important Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, the so-called "omnibus" or "phone band expansion" proceeding. Responding to an ARRL inquiry, FCC personnel would not go on the record and declined even to hazard a ballpark guess on when the FCC might act on either Amateur Radio proceeding.

"They're at different points in the process," an FCC staffer said, refraining from saying anything that might suggest a commitment. "One is farther along in the review chain than the other." The staff member indicated that the "omnibus" proceeding is "way ahead" of the Morse proceeding in the WTB pipeline.

The FCC staffers attempted to assure ARRL that the WTB has not been sitting on its hands. "It takes a while to plow through 4000 comments," one said, referring to the huge volume of opinions filed in the Morse docket. "It's not being neglected." The staff member did allow that WTB staff had completed its comment review in the Morse proceeding but wouldn't say when it might see the light of day. "I'd hesitate to say," one staff member demurred. Neither would even say whether the WTB expected to conclude either proceeding by the end of 2006.

"They should probably start learning code," one staffer advised those waiting for the FCC to drop the Morse requirement before upgrading, noting that a Certificate of Successful Completion of Exam (CSCE) for a written exam element is only good for a year. Even after the FCC goes public with its decision on Morse code, still more time is likely to pass before any new rules go into effect, the staff member pointed out.

Earlier this year an WTB staffer, speaking without attribution, told ARRL, "We certainly hope to release WT Docket 05-235

sometime this year, but we're not making any predictions at this time. We certainly are not saving up any big announcements for Dayton Hamvention."

Bill Cross, W3TN, the FCC Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division staff member who typically addresses Amateur Radio-related proceedings during Dayton Hamvention's FCC forum, won't be attending this year's show.

When the FCC does act, no one's expecting any major surprises: The Commission appears poised to simply drop the Morse requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes as it proposed last summer. Beyond that, the FCC turned away several other petitions, including proposals to create a new entry-level license class.

Any FCC decision to eliminate the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for HF access would have no impact on either the current HF CW-only subbands or on the CW privileges of Amateur Radio licensees. Current Technician licensees who have not passed Element 1 will not gain HF access if the FCC drops the Morse requirement.

The "omnibus" Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 04-140, released in April 2004, consolidated a dozen petitions for rulemaking, some dating back to 2001. The Commission has proposed to go along with the ARRL's Novice reforming plan aimed at reallocating the current Novice/Tech Plus subbands to expand portions of the 80, 40 and 15 meter phone bands. The FCC also agreed with an ARRL proposal to extend privileges in the current General CW-only HF subbands to present Novice and Tech Plus licensees (or Technicians with Element 1 credit).

Among other things, the FCC also proposed to essentially do away with its rules prohibiting the manufacture and marketing to Amateur Radio operators of amplifiers capable of operation on 12 and 10 meters. And it further proposed to adopt a rule to limit the number of applications a licensee may file on a given day for the same vanity call sign.

The NPRM&O in WT Docket 05-235 is on the FCC Web site <[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-05-143A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-05-143A1.pdf)>. More information on WT Docket 04-140 is on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/04/15/102/>>, and the NPRM is on the FCC Web site <[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-79A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-79A1.pdf)>.

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From *The ARRL Letter* May 26, 2006

### **THE MAGIC OF AMATEUR RADIO IS STILL THERE, LEAGUE PRESIDENT SAYS**

Amateur Radio has not lost its magic, says ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN. Addressing the "ARRL: Main Street USA" forum at Dayton Hamvention, Harrison said the Amateur Radio community needs to recognize and acknowledge that "Main Street USA" has changed, and with it the pool of potential radio amateurs.

"We have to keep that in mind as we're going out and recruiting people," Harrison suggested. During the ARRL forum, Harrison asserted that the "Average Joe" today has far less time to pursue avocational interests such as ham radio than 30 or 40 years ago, when many older Amateur Radio operators got their first tickets. As workers' productivity has increased, so has the number of hours one spends on the job. Youngsters today already have heavy

activity schedules, he said.

"We have a more competitive market for people's time," Harrison said. He conceded that while Amateur Radio might not possess the "gee whizz" factor it did decades ago, the "magic" is still there for today's hams. "I don't care how advanced we get, it all boils down to getting a signal from Point A to Point B magically," the League President told the audience. Even with today's plug-and-play transceivers, "people still have to put up an antenna." As an avid VHF/UHF and microwave operator, Harrison has considerable experience in that area.

Attracting young people into Amateur Radio is a harder sell, Harrison allowed. "The more we integrate computer technology into Amateur Radio, it helps to attract [younger people,]" he said. Promoting Amateur Radio contesting to the younger generation could be another route, he suggested, given the increased interest in competitive sports.

"How many times can a kid compete in an international tournament from home?" he asked rhetorically. "Every weekend," someone in the audience piped up.

Harrison also pointed out that the current Technician ticket doesn't give newcomers the means to sample the HF spectrum. At the same time, the FCC has so far turned away proposals to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license for the likely no-code environment of the future. But, Harrison maintained, giving new licensees "a little taste" of HF is important to attracting newcomers and maintaining their interest.

He also predicted that the FCC would "take the path of least resistance" and eliminate the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement for HF access.

Harrison's "Main Street USA" comments generated a lively discussion among forum participants who offered their own suggestions on how to ensure a bright future for Amateur Radio. One Virginia radio amateur suggested that public service has become a big draw for newcomers in his rural community. Val Rose, N8EXV, of Michigan said rude on-the-air behavior is a deterrent to attracting new hams.

Deed covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) are another issue that more and more hams--newcomers and veterans alike--are facing, another radio amateur noted. "That's a serious, serious matter affecting Amateur Radio now," Harrison agreed.

Bill Klykylo, WA8FOZ, of Cincinnati, agreed with Harrison's view of Main Street USA. He suggested that one answer to piquing interest in ham radio is to piggyback on other hobby activities and interests. Be he also stressed the need to follow up with newcomers once they're licensed.

Harrison concurred on the importance of mentoring or "Elmering" newcomers. "We've stopped Elmering," he said. "Let's face it. We've stopped Elmering."

Harrison said the League's interest is in getting Amateur Radio promoted. "I'll take ham radio operators from any age group," he said. "There are hundreds and hundreds of things we can do in ham radio."

## **PUBLIC BPL DATABASE ACCESS RESTRICTIONS REMOVED**

United Telecom Council (UTC) has removed all restrictions on access to the BPL Interference Resolution Web site. In cooperation with the United Power Line Council (UPLC), UTC

administers the database, which FCC Part 15 rules mandate be "publicly available." Ever since the database debuted last October, the ARRL has taken strong exception to access constraints UTC had imposed. These included limiting searches solely on the basis of ZIP code and rationing the number of allowable searches. In February, the League filed a formal complaint with the FCC, demanding the Commission order UTC to "cease its arbitrary limits" on access to the database. ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the League was happy to hear that UTC now has eliminated search limits and posted all BPL system information.

"We are pleased that UTC finally has seen the merit of our arguments in favor of making the database truly accessible," Sumner commented. "This can't possibly hurt, and can only help everyone focus on the real issue: the avoidance and prompt correction of harmful interference to radiocommunications from BPL."

The UTC BPL database still offers the ability to search by ZIP code. Somewhat less prominent is a link to the entire database in ZIP-code order.

The League also has complained to the FCC that the BPL Interference Resolution Web Site database contains inaccuracies and is incomplete, although UTC has made some improvements since the ARRL raised the issues. That complaint is still pending.

The UTC's decision to modify its BPL database came two days after its representatives and a representative from Duke Power met May 17 with FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) staff to address "changes to the database concerning the search limits." ARRL representatives recently further discussed the League's perspective on the same subject with OET staff.

UTC Director of Regulatory Services/Associate Counsel Brett Kilbourne on May 19 informed Acting OET Chief Julius Knapp that it was revising the BPL database "in the interests of resolving the complaint without further dispute." UTC asked the FCC to dismiss the League's complaint "without further action."

## **RILEY HOLLINGSWORTH TO AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNITY: "LIGHTEN UP!"**

FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth advised those attending the FCC forum at Dayton Hamvention 2006 to try kindness instead of confrontation when problems arise on the bands. Hollingsworth spoke May 20 to a nearly full house at Hara Arena, and for the most part he praised the behavior of the majority of Amateur Radio operators, especially those who volunteered in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina last year. But, he noted, radio amateurs still could be more courteous and less inclined to fly off the handle at some perceived on-the-air offense.

"You need to lighten up and not embarrass the Amateur Radio Service," Hollingsworth advised. "All of us make mistakes, especially with the new features you have on radios today. It's very easy to make a mistake, to be on the wrong frequency or be operating split and not know it--there's a hundred ways to make mistakes." Hollingsworth said experience has shown him that at least 75 percent of the interference complained about is absolutely unintentional.

In Hollingsworth's view, radio amateurs all too often are hypersensitive and rude. "We have a radar going to detect offenses at all times, we assume the worst in people, we rarely give people the benefit of the doubt," he said. He joked that if there were three amateurs in a town, there would be two Amateur Radio clubs.

"And there'll be two hamfests with 20 people each, because they wouldn't dare consolidate them," he added.

Hollingsworth acknowledged that "certain problem operators" remain, but the real troublemakers are rarely the newcomers to Amateur Radio. "If there's a downfall in Amateur Radio, it won't be caused by no-code Technicians or codeless anything else," he said. "It'll be caused by the microphone--no doubt in my mind." He advised his audience to ignore the troublesome operators and not give them the attention they crave by engaging them on the air.

"Now, think about it: If what you're hearing annoys you, or angers you or is stupid, use the 'stupid filter,' which is that big knob--that VFO that will take you somewhere else," he quipped. "It's the largest knob on the radio." He recommended moving to another frequency or even another band altogether.

Hollingsworth praised the Volunteer Examiner program as "outstanding" and noted there had not been a single complaint in the past year stemming from an examination session. He also said the Amateur Radio community should have a greater appreciation for what the ARRL is doing on its behalf.

"Most of you have no idea how much work is done in Newington for you and the Amateur Radio Service generally," he said. "I see it every day, but I think you have no idea of the hard work and dedication that comes out of that office up there, and I don't think we would be there if it weren't for [the League]."

"This country's communications infrastructure needs Amateur Radio," Hollingsworth emphasized, praising Amateur Radio's overall performance following Hurricane Katrina. "You have a tremendous amount to be proud of."

He also suggested that radio amateurs have an obligation to stay informed about what's going on in Amateur Radio that might affect their activities. "You have to not only keep up, you have to lead the way, because it's in your charter," he said, pointing to §97.1 of the Amateur Service rules.

Hollingsworth noted at the start of his talk that he could not address any questions dealing with the FCC's long-awaited decision on the Morse code requirement (Element 1), because he works in the Commission's Enforcement Bureau. "We don't meddle in rule making," he explained, but added that he didn't expect CW to decline if the FCC does drop the 5 WPM Morse requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes as it's proposed to do.

The FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) handles Amateur Radio rule makings, Hollingsworth noted, including the "Morse code" proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, and the so-called "omnibus" proceeding, WT Docket 04-140. The WTB has said it will rule first on the omnibus proceeding, then tackle the Morse code proceeding, but it has not indicated when to expect either Report and Order.

No representative from the WTB was at Dayton Hamvention this year.

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## Packet Pieces

### Downloaded from the packet network:

=====  
Date: 18 Feb 2004 09:09  
From: W1GMF@W1GMF

To: HUMOR@USA  
Subject: HUMOR FOR TODAY 0211

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### Today's Joke

Jane walked into a pharmacy, strolled over to the counter, and caught the pharmacist's attention.

"Can I please get some arsenic?" she asked.

"Arsenic? What do you want arsenic for?" asked the pharmacist.

"It's for my husband," she replied.

"Your husband?" exclaimed the pharmacist, "I hope you don't mean what I think you mean!"

She just nodded.

"Well, lady," he replied, "I'm an honest man. I can't sell you arsenic, I wouldn't if I could, and I don't know what made you think you could just stroll into a respectable store and expect me to sell you arsenic.!"

She didn't say a word. She just reached into her purse, fished out a photograph, and handed it across the counter. It was a picture of her husband, in bed with the pharmacist's wife.

Slowly the pharmacist looks up, over the counter, and then straight at her. "Lady," he said, "why didn't you tell me you had a prescription?"

### Daily Thoughts

"I wish I would have a real tragic love affair and get so bummed out that I'd just quit my job and become a bum for a few years, because I was thinking about doing that anyway."

– Jack Handey

"Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died."

– Erma Louise Bombeck

"A doctor can bury his mistakes but an architect can only advise his clients to plant vines."

– Frank Lloyd Wright

### Today's Story

My granny went to the doctor one day with an awful cold. The doctor did all his routine checks. My granny asked him for a Kleenex and the doctor looked at her and said no one should ever blow his or her nose. Granny wanted to know why. The doctor told her it's not good for the blood vessels inside your nose.

The doctor walked out of the room for a few minutes. Granny looked at me and said she should pinch his butt when he walks back in here. I looked at her very puzzled and ask, "Why would you want to do that?"

She looked my way and said, "I bet he has a handkerchief in his back pocket for blowing his nose."

It really cracked me up for her to come up with that way of checking.

~Annette O.

### Last Laugh

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: 22 Nov 2005 12:00  
From: WIGMF@WIGMF  
To: HUMOR@USA  
Subject: HUMOR FOR TODAY 1026  
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### Today's Joke

An airliner was having engine trouble, and the pilot instructed the cabin crew to have the passengers take their seats and get prepared for an emergency landing.

A few minutes later, the pilot asked the flight attendants if everyone was buckled in and ready.

"All set back here, Captain," came the reply. "Except the lawyers are still going around passing out business cards."

### Daily Thoughts

If someone with multiple personalities threatens to kill himself, is it considered a hostage situation?

### Last Laugh

I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman, "Where's the self-help section?" She said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose.

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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

There's more stuff than usual from the ARRL Letter in this month's SCCARA-GRAM. I'd like to know what you think. More of the same? Less? Different subjects? If no one tells me, I just have to guess. Would it help if I published a list of the available headlines?

So far only a couple of people have said anything, and they like the news on the BPL front.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

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# Join SCCARA for Field Day 2006!

**Field Day 2006 is June 24 & 25. Mark your calendars!**

## What

Field Day is one of the biggest amateur radio contests of the year, involving the U.S. and Canada. The underlying idea is to give amateurs practice making contacts under disaster conditions. This means the participants are encouraged to set up and operate portable stations powered by something other than PG&E. You can operate at home, but it's better (worth more points) to "setup shop" elsewhere. We have 24 hours to make as many contacts as possible.

It's a lot of fun and a great way to hone those operating skills! Everyone is encouraged to participate.. We're expecting a great Field Day this year, so please come join us!

## Where

For the past several years we have been going up to Mt. Madonna County Park. SCCARA will participate in Field Day this year again at Mt. Madonna County Park at the Manzanita group camp site.

Mt. Madonna is at the Southern end of Santa Clara county, right on the ridge between Gilroy and Watsonville along Hwy 152. If coming from the east (the usual case) enter at Pole Line Road right at the top. If you find yourself going down the other side (to Watsonville), you've gone too far. (See the map.)

You don't need to stop at the park entrance station, just stay to the left and drive on in. But if you do stop, just tell them you're with the SCCARA radio club at the Manzanita group camp area. SCCARA pays your camping fee—just show up—although donations would be very welcome.

## When

The contest starts at 1800 UTC (11 AM PDT) on Saturday, June 24, and ends 1800 UTC Sunday, June 25. We are allowed up to 24 hours to set up.

The set-up crew plans to meet for lunch on Friday, June 23 around 1 PM at Carl's Jr. at Branham and Almaden in San Jose. If you wish to be part of the set-up crew, you are encouraged to join us for lunch; otherwise, we'll meet at the Manzanita group camp site around 3 PM.

You can make a weekend of it or just show up for part of it, whatever you like.

## How

We usually have a variety of stations and antennas. In the past, stations have included phone, CW, digital, novice, solar, VHF, etc. The antennas have been: beams on towers (one is a sizable crank-up on a specially made trailer), a long wire, and miscellaneous dipoles and verticals. The more exotic the power source, the better. In the past we have used batteries, generators, and solar cells.

We operate under a classification where several transceivers are on the air at one time. (For a copy of the rules see the ARRL web site: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/rules-fd-2006.html>.)

## Set-up Crew

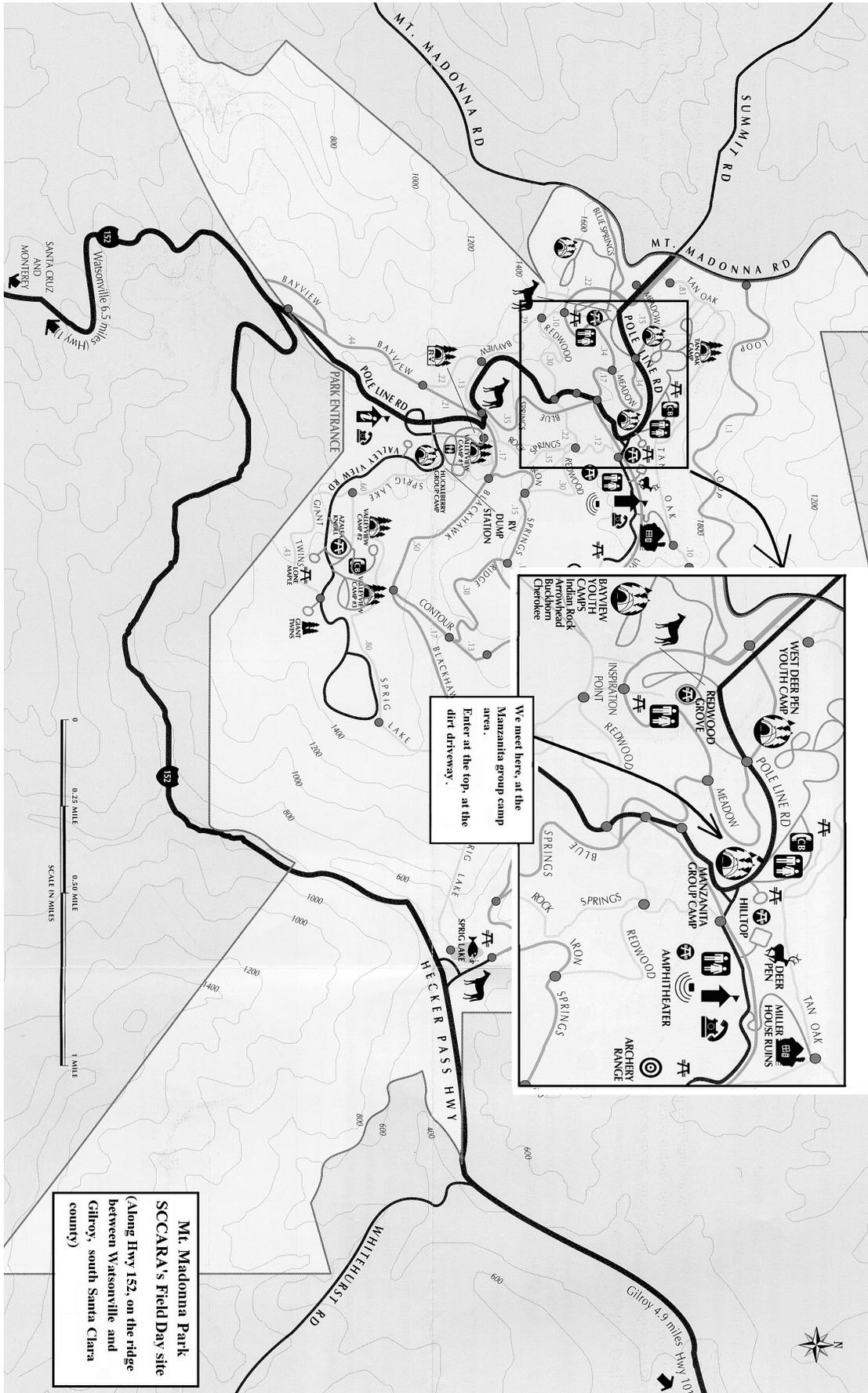
You are encouraged to join the set-up group going up on Friday, June 23 and stay through Sunday, helping with both setup and tear-down. We'll meet for lunch (see above) then take off in a convoy to Mt. Madonna, chatting along the way—this by itself is kind of fun! We'll be on our repeater 146.985(-), switching to simplex once we get into the mountains. Anyone may join the set-up group. If you don't go up with us in the convoy (but you should), meet us at the Manzanita group camp area around 3 PM. Monitor the repeater output (146.985) in the mountains.

## Food

Meals will be pot-luck or fend for yourself if you wish. There's always a camp stove available on the picnic tables in the middle of the camp site. In general, anything on those central tables is part of the pot-luck and up for grabs. If you want to keep something for yourself, don't leave it there. ☺

## Who

Jim Tyranski, KG6UDW is SCCARA's Field Day 2006 Committee Chairman. If you would like to get more involved, contact Jim: [kg6udw@arrl.net](mailto:kg6udw@arrl.net) or President Clark Murphy KE6KXO at 408 262-9334. or [clarkmurph@yahoo.com](mailto:clarkmurph@yahoo.com)



**Mt. Madonna Park  
SCCARA's Field Day site**  
 (Along Hwy 152, on the ridge  
 between Watsonville and  
 Gilroy, south Santa Clara  
 county)

We meet here, at the  
 Manzanita group camp  
 area.  
 Enter at the top, at the  
 dirt driveway.

# 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.

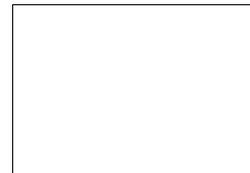
Rev. 5/17/2005

====> 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



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**FIRST CLASS**