

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 22, Number 7

July 2006



President's Prose

Field day 2006

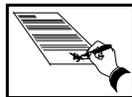
If you didn't attend at least part of the time you missed it. This year the weather was perfect. Had you been there around about noon Saturday you could had a great lunch London boil and Tri tip roast supplied by Mike wb0tow and Jim kg6udw respectively. That was just one of the many highlights concerning the food. I have learned that food is the first order when it comes to this club. I must say that this club certainly does enjoy a great deal of camaraderie which helps add to an enjoyable weekend.

Oh yes the radios. Under the leadership of the Field day chairmen Jim KG6UDW we also had success with that endeavor also. We deployed both the 60 foot and 40foot towers with rotors and full seized three band beam antennas. This is the first year in many years that we erected both towers. The task was rather easily accomplished because we had sufficient man power. We also had many wire dipoles high up off the ground supported by the tall trees on the site. One has to be rather impressed upon driving on to our set up with all the antennas four operating positions with power supplied to all of them. And you would all so see the tables piled high with food.

One other interesting event Saturday night Gary WB6YRU set up his 6 inch telescope and pointed some of the interesting things about planets and stars. One view was of Jupiter. We were able to see four of its moon and the clouds across the middle of the planet. This was just one of the many happenings that occurred at SCCARA's Field day. You should have been there!!!

I must say I want to thank every one who helped to make it a great Field day.

73, Clark, KE6KXO



Field Day Our Preliminary Results

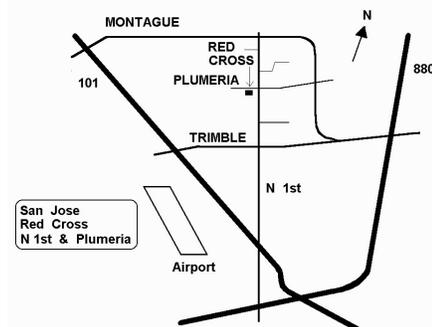
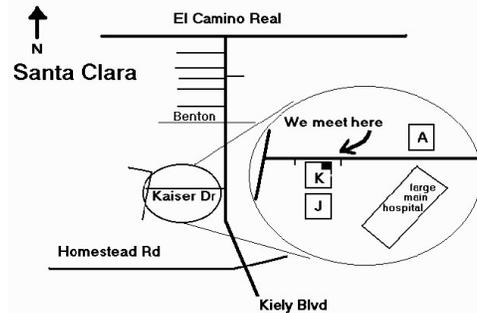
Station	Contacts	Station	Contacts
HF Phone	219	CW Phone	148
GOTA	311	VHF	28

Calendar

- 7/8 Electronic Flea Market (DeAnza)
- 7/10 SCCARA General Meeting
- 7/17 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 8/14 SCCARA General Meeting--dinner meeting

General Meeting:

Day: Monday, July 10, 2006
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Bld K, Rm 1
Featuring: {to be announced}



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

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

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

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

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	e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net	
N0ARY BBS	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	269-2924
	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	

SCCARA REPEATERS

SCCARA owns and operates two repeaters under the call W6UU:

2 meter: 146.985 - PL 114.8
70 cm: 442.425 + PL 107.2

Phone auto-dial and auto-patch is available. The two meter repeater is located at Eagle Rock near Alum Rock Park in the foothills of east San Jose. The 70 cm repeater and N0ARY BBS is located at the Regional Medical Center (formerly Alexian), east of downtown San Jose, north of 280 and 101.

SCCARA NETS

On our two meter repeater: Mondays at 7:30 PM, (not the second Monday--our meeting night). Coordinator: Don Village, K6PBQ. On ten meters, 28.385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00 PM. Net control: Wally Britten, KA6YMD. Visitors welcome.

N0ARY PACKET BBS

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

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

Fog Wind and Radios

By Andrew Stoddard KI6DSN

Palo Alto, CA- Saturday, June 10, 2006 started out as any other Saturday would. Coffee, De Anza Flea Market, and sunshine but that was soon to change. A small group of SCCARA members traveled to the area of Page Mill Rd and Skyline Blvd. (HWY 35) to participate in the ARRL 2 m contest.

Originally brought to light by Ned (AC6YY), a group of SCCARA members chose to organize a trip to the Page Mill summit in efforts to explore the 2 m contest. The goal was not to be active participants in the contest, but to use it as a dry run for the fast approaching SCCARA Field Day.

Prior to the trip, John (KI6ANV) and Andrew (KI6DSN) scouted out several locations along Skyline Blvd. before deciding on the Page Mill location. John and Andrew acquired various information including access to repeaters, GPS lat/long coordinates, site altitude, and permission from the Sheriff to utilize the site. Additionally, Ned, Jim (KG6UDW), Clark (KE6KXO), along with John and Andrew met during the evening hours to prepare and tune antennas for the day trip.

Once the group arrived at the summit, John (KI6ANV), along with Ned, Jim (KG6UDW) and Clark KE6KXO set up several antennas, a generator, radios, and most importantly, the BBQ for cooking up some dinner. The weather was cold and breezy being that the fog bank sat to our backs by about a half-mile.

Once antennas, generator power, and radios were operational, participants began making contacts. Contacts through out the state, including Palm Springs, and Lake County. While operating, many visitors and curious onlookers stopped in to ask questions and participate in the fun. Interestingly, a ham operator from Australia stopped by and traded stories from down under.

All in all, the event was a huge success. With the knowledge of the competition gained from the outing, this event could become a larger event for SCCARA in the future.

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, June 9, 2006

US HOUSE OKAYS TELECOMS BILL WITH BPL STUDY LANGUAGE INTACT

On a 321 to 101 vote, the US House of Representatives on June 8 passed the Communications Opportunity, Promotion and Enhancement (COPE) Act of 2006. The House-passed bill, HR 5252, leaves intact language that would require the FCC to study the interference potential of BPL systems. US Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), one of two radio amateurs in Congress, sponsored the BPL study requirement, "Study of Interference Potential of Broadband over Power Line Systems," contained in Title V, Section 502 of the complex bill. HR 5252 now goes to the US Senate, where a separate--and very different--telecoms bill, the Communications, Consumer's Choice, and Broadband Deployment Act of 2006 (S 2686) is still in committee.

"We were concerned that a representative might be persuaded by BPL interests to introduce an amendment to delete or dilute Section 502," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. "As it turns

out that didn't happen, although we had taken steps to counter it if it had. So for now our focus returns to the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee." Sumner says that if similar language were introduced on the Senate side, it would be more likely to remain when and if the House and Senate versions go to a conference committee.

Section 502 calls on the FCC to "conduct, and submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, a study of the interference potential of broadband over power line systems," within 90 days of the bill's enactment.

Ross proposed including the study wording while the bill was still in the Energy and Commerce Committee. With the support of Committee Chairman Joe Barton (R-TX), the panel agreed by voice vote to include it when it reported the bill out.

The BPL study requirement reportedly 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, last month referred to the study requirement as a threat and urged its members to contact their members of Congress regarding its inclusion in the House measure.

A year ago, Ross sponsored House Resolution 230 (H Res 230), 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." That non-binding resolution has eight cosponsors.

In an April 27 statement, Ross said including the FCC study requirement in the House bill "would guarantee that valuable public safety communications and Amateur Radio operators are not subject to interference." He 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," Ross 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 Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will consider S 2686 in a markup session later this month. The ARRL has e-mailed members in the 22 states with Senators on the committee, urging them to write seeking support to include similar BPL study language in the Senate bill.

FCC CITES FLORIDA UTILITY FOR INTERFERENCE TO RADIO AMATEUR

The FCC has issued a Citation to Lakeland Electric, a municipally owned utility in Lakeland, Florida, for violating Part 15 rules by interfering with a local radio amateur. ?15.5(c) of the FCC rules requires that the operator of an "incidental radiator" must cease operating the device after an FCC representative notifies the operator that the device is causing harmful interference. The "incidental radiator" in this case is overhead power lines. Under an agreement, the ARRL and the FCC cooperate in resolving cases of line noise interference to Amateur Radio licensees.

"Power line noise continues to generate the bulk of interference

complaints that ARRL receives," says ARRL Electromagnetic Compatibility Engineer Mike Gruber, W1MG, who says the League reviews hundreds of such complaints each year. About half of them are resolved promptly by the utilities, in some instances with assistance from the ARRL Laboratory. Gruber says he believes this is the first time the FCC has issued a Citation to a utility in a case involving power line interference to ham radio.

The radio amateur involved, J. C. Flynn, W4FGC, told ARRL that Lakeland Electric has been good about fixing routine problems, but he doesn't think the utility personnel know how to resolve cases of power line noise. "I have been 10 years trying to get something done," he said, adding that the noise affects all HF bands. "It is terrible!"

Flynn first noticed the power line noise around 1995. Subsequent complaints, assurances from the utility that it was addressing the problem--or that it couldn't find one--and even some FCC warnings followed before the FCC issued its Citation to Lakeland Electric on May 16. Flynn, who's now 84, told the League that as of June 7, nothing had been done to fix the severe line noise at his location, which he demonstrated over the telephone on several bands. He said he especially enjoys getting on 40 meter SSB with a large roundtable of friends.

Commented Gruber: "There has been no activity by the utility in resolving this problem in over a year, and Mr Flynn's noise case now appears to be at a standstill." The League's involvement in the case goes back to January 2001, when Flynn requested the League's assistance. Gruber says the League's role is to provide technical information and guidance to utilities "to keep a complaint from reaching the point of a Citation."

In late 2005, Gruber had a chance to check the line noise at Flynn's QTH firsthand. He had taken RFI gear to a Florida ham radio convention for a talk and demonstration. Afterward, on his own time, Gruber--with help from ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager Dee Turner, N4GD--took some noise measurements of his own.

Gruber submitted the results of his on-site inspection to the FCC. Personnel from the Commission's Tampa field office followed up with their own inspection before issuing the Citation, which lays the groundwork for a possible Notice of Apparent Liability proposing to fine the utility if the interference problem is not resolved.

"I hope this case serves as a precedent for FCC enforcement, where appropriate, in power line noise cases," said Gruber, who's compiled various reports and correspondence relating to the Lakeland Electric power line interference case into a booklet of approximately 60 pages. "While the League will work with amateurs in such cases for as long as it takes," he added, "we hope the FCC Citation will serve as a warning to electric utilities that it's not acceptable to take months or years to fix the problem causing the interference."

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, June 12, 2006



Meeting began: 7:30 PM

Self introductions: # of members present: 19; # of visitors

present: 0 New members: Andrew Stoddard KI6DSN; Ron Keeling, W6RLK; Steve Schumaker, KE6VKC; Joe Castellano W6SNV. Welcome to these new members.

Event Station: It was a public station with many visitors. The same group may go to San Juan Bautista in August.

Antenna trailer: The work was done by John Parks, KI6ANV, Andrew Stoddard, KI6DSN, and Jim Tyranski, KD6UDW. They put two coats of paint and made sure it was road worthy.

Fred Townsend, Vice President: House resolution #5252, B.P.O.B.B., has passed. The next step is the Senate. Florida is being stopped from producing harmful interference (noise). The process started in 1995. It affected all HF bands.

The Collins Radio: We have an offer to buy the 30S Collins amplifier. The Board is to remain after the meeting to give the offer a formal review.

Report on the Dayton Hamfest: It occurs over a weekend, (Fri.-Sun.) There are several thousand vendors. It takes one day to go through the flea market. A raffle is held on the last day. There was a trip to Wright Patterson Air Force Base Air Museum, with a side trip to the Corvette manufacturing company in Bowling Green, KY. If you plan to go to the Dayton Hamfest in the future, book early as hotel/motel reservations are hard to get. The cost to attend: Airfare will cost the most; Hotel, about \$75.00; \$15-20 for entry into the Hamfest; 18% discount on anything purchased at booths, no taxes or shipping costs.

Lou Stierer: SCCARA is host to the De Anza flea market on August 12. July 22 is the next SVECS breakfast. The speaker will be Washington Park of Sunnyvale, from the Santa Clara Valley Water District to talk about their emergency preparedness. Breakfast is at 9:00 AM, with speaker at 10:00AM. Cost is \$5.00, with a door prize, and raffle.

Jim Tyranski, Field Day Chair: Reported that he learned much from the recent Pow-wow that he will apply to this years Field Day. He needs 5 people who will find a co-chair to run a particular phase for the weekend. Andrew Stoddard, EMT; John Parks, safety; Jeannie Felix, food; Jeannie is to get the utensils from the locker. The BBQ will come from John Parks. There will be a tarp behind every station to decrease the glare on the laptop screens. Gary Mitchell, communications; reported that there is a laptop for each station. Wally Britten, phone station. Don Village, CW, with Lou Steirer as co-chair. The GOTA station needs a chair. It is the most important station for points. It will use the other call when operating. The operating class will be "2A" for all stations, UHF/VHF. One person will man the radio, the other to do the logging. Anyone operating from home would be class "1D", running on emergency power. Team leaders are supposed to meet with team members before Field Day.

Convoy to Mt. Madonna: Meet at Carl's Jr. on Almaden Expressway at Branham at 1:00 PM on Friday, June 23, then travel to Mt. Madonna.

Special Opportunity: Eric Ankney has experience with satellites. Jim Tyranski has an antenna that will probably work for this process, and will bring it to Field Day. We may have television via Mike Wright from NASA.

John Parks has four gas can we can fill. This may last us for the entire event.

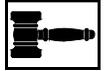
Tables: Lou and Gwen Stierer have four large tables from Costco they will bring for the weekend.

Radios: Wally will bring the club radio from Red Cross. The Kenwood TS450 S will be used for the CW station. The Yaesu

757 will be used for the phone station. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

There is a plan to have backup radios available.

Board Meeting, Jan. 17, 2006



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

Newsletter Notes

I usually include something from the *ARRL Letter* in each issue of the *SCCARA-GRAM*. The question I always have to ask is: which of the articles should I include?

Below is the contents of a recent *ARRL Letter* issue. This will give you an idea as to the sort of things that are available. So far only a couple of people have told me that they like to see news on BPL (broadband over power lines), but there are many topics. If there's any subject matter you'd like to see, (even if it's not listed here), please let me know.

The ARRL Letter, June 23, 2006

- Wildfire season keeping Western US ARES volunteers on alert
- FCC to invite comments on Katrina Panel recommendations
- Youngsters in two states take a turn at ham radio's microphone to space
- ARRL asks FCC to protect amateur operations on 902-928 MHz
- Ham-Com 2006 in Texas a big success at its new location
- League invites nominations for Knight Distinguished Service Award
- Astronaut still collecting cards to earn DXCC from space
- Solar Update

IN BRIEF:

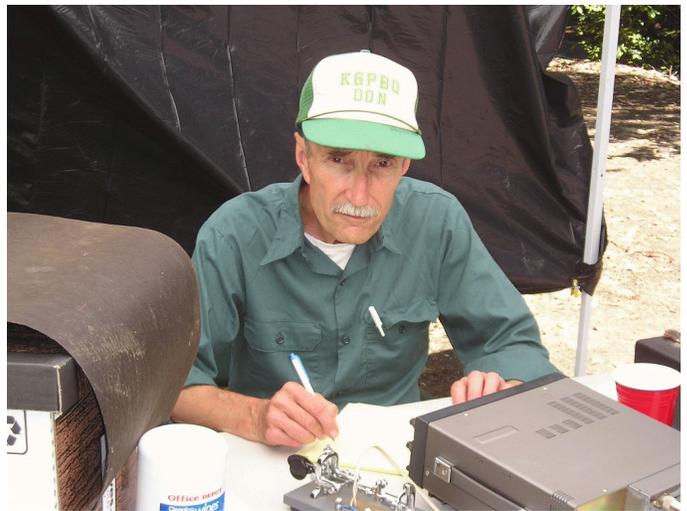
- This weekend on the radio: It's ARRL Field Day Weekend!
- ARRL Certification and Continuing Education course registration
- Minnesota student-ham presented with 2006 ARRL Goldwater scholarship
- Three radio amateurs aboard Discovery for July 1 launch
- Special WRTC 2006 call signs announced
- Spain, the Netherlands report Amateur Radio regulatory changes
- Yukon Territory radio amateur exploring LF spectrum

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

SCCARA's Field Day

Photos by Don Stienbach, AE6PM





Certificate of Coordination

Station Callsign: **W6UU****TX Frequency:** 146.9850**Transmitter Access:** 114.8**Site Name:** Eagle Rock**Site County:** Santa Clara**Latitude:** 37° 23' 47"**Longitude:** 121° 48' 57"**Site Elevation:** 636' MSL**Antenna Gain:** 6 dbExpiration: **May 3, 2009****SCCARA****Wallace Britten KA6YMD**

585 S 14th St

San Jose CA 95112-2319

Compliance with FCC Part 97 rules mandatory

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.

Topics:

Antennas, feed-lines, tuners: 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: K6PBQ

Emergency operating/preparedness: WA6QYS

HF operating techniques (SSB, CW): 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

People:

W6ACW, Ed Hajny, (408) 739-6105

KD6FJI, Lloyd DeVaughns,
day: (408) 918-4635, evening: (408) 225-6769
e-mail: kd6fji@arrl.netKK6MX, Don Apte, (408) 629-0725
e-mail: kk6mx@aol.comKB6NP, 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 NOARYWB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, msg (408) 265-2336
also (408) 269-2924
packet: home BBS NOARY
e-mail: wb6yru@aenet.net

SCCARA Membership Form for 2006

(Fill in name and address if there is no mailing label below; make corrections if the label is incorrect)

Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: E A G T+ T N

Address: _____ Licensed since (yr): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____ Licence Expiration Date (mo/yr): _____

Telephone: () _____ New Member I'm also an ARRL member
 Renewal

E-mail: _____ Packet: _____

For family memberships (at the same address), please fill out a separate form for each. Indicate the "primary member" here for mailing purposes: _____

Annual membership dues are payable at the first of the year and expire the following December 31. New members joining on or after July 1, pay half the membership dues.

Annual Membership dues: \$20 Individual \$25 Family \$10 Student (under 18)

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

Rev. 5/17/2005

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



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

Affiliate of the ARRL,
American Radio Relay League



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS