

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 22, Number 8

August 2006



ARRL News

From *the ARRL Letter*, July 7, 2006

"INTRUDERS" SPOTTED IN SEVERAL AMATEUR RADIO HF BANDS

An "intruder" signal spotted on 20 and 17 meters - possibly originating from a Chinese HF broadcast station - has sparked a slew of reports and complaints from around the globe. In addition, those who volunteer to monitor the bands for out-of-place signals cite reports of so-called "single-letter beacon" stations on 40 meters. As the League's liaison with the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 2 Monitoring System (IARUMS) <<http://www.iaru.org/iarums/>> - also known as "Intruder Watch"

ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, is often the first to hear about strange signals that suddenly pop up on the bands.

"It was still on 18.160 MHz as of July 4," Skolaut said, citing reports of a "Chinese broadcaster" on 17 meters. "DARC Monitoring System Coordinator Uli Bihlmayer, DJ9KR, reported hearing the broadcasts on 20 meters as recently as July 2. He indicated the signal was showing up at various times on 14.230, 14.305 and 14.310 MHz." The signal has been heard on one band or the other in the US from the Northeast to Hawaii, as well as in Canada, Sri Lanka, the UK, Australia, Hong Kong and India.

Monitors in Connecticut and Pennsylvania reported a strong AM signal from the apparent broadcaster on 18.160 MHz on July 2 at 1100 UTC and 1300 to 1400 UTC. The signal has been heard on 14.180 MHz as well. Several listeners say their bearings put the source of the signal in central or southern China. Chris Cummings, G4BOH, says he's been able to match the audio to transmissions appearing on 15.495, 11.665 and 12.025 MHz. He filed a report with Ofcom, the UK's telecoms regulatory agency. Bihlmayer filed complaints with German telecoms authorities as well as with the Chinese Embassy in Berlin.

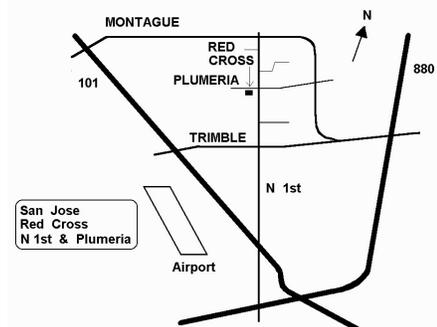
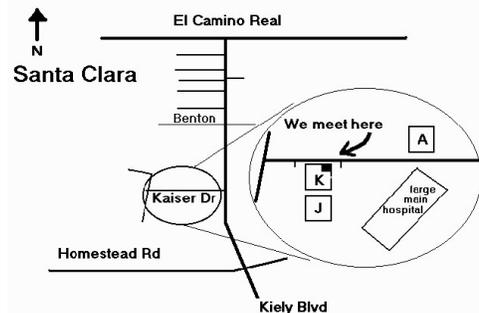
Reports filed with DX Listening Digest <<http://www.worldofradio.com/index.html>> suggested that the 14.180 and 18.160 MHz broadcasts are intended to jam the clandestine "Sound of Hope" transmission from Taiwan. The July 2 DX Listening Digest reports put the Chinese-language broadcasts appearing on 14.310 MHz - QRMing the Medical Amateur Radio Council (MARCO) net on 14.308 MHz - as well as on 18.160 MHz. Short wave listeners (SWLs) say the AM carrier

Calendar

- 8/12 Electronic Flea Market (DeAnza) WE HOST!
- 8/14 SCCARA General Meeting
- 8/21 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 9/11 SCCARA General Meeting

General Meeting:

Day: Monday, Aug. 14, 2006
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Bld K, Rm 1
Featuring: {to be announced}



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

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

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

OFFICERS - DIRECTORS - STAFF

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	
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

occasionally drops at the top of the hour for a monitoring check, only to reappear five minutes later.

Skolaut has shared reports and updates with the FCC, although the Commission has no authority to make intruder stations outside the US stop transmitting on Amateur Radio frequencies. Such situations typically are dealt with through diplomatic channels.

For several years now, monitors around the world have reported the presence of "single-letter markers" or "single-letter beacons" apparently emanating from Russia. The so-called "C" beacon has again been reported active on 7.039. Those familiar with the beacons - believed to be Russian Navy channel markers - say there has been a "beacon cluster" on and around 7.039 MHz in the past. These stations identify with a single letter in conventional Morse code.

IARU Region 2 Monitoring System Coordinator Bill Zellers, WA4FKI, compares the Intruder Watch program to a Neighborhood Watch that communities set up to reduce crime. He invites other radio amateurs or SWLs in IARU Region 2 (the Americas and some eastern Pacific Islands) to become part of the Intruder Watch program. He explains that IARUMS volunteers listen on the bands for intruders. IARU monitors have no legal authority but act only as band monitors, he points out.

Monitors in other parts of the world have logged "drift net buoys" on 160 meters, international broadcasters on 80 and 40 meters, fishing trawlers and pirates, paramilitary stations from India on 17 meters as well as something called "the Havana Gurgle" - the third harmonic of a broadcast on 6.030 MHz.

"To survive, the Amateur Radio community needs clean frequencies that are free of intruders," Zellers says. "Take a few minutes to join the Intruder Watch program and help us take care of our Amateur Radio neighborhood." Contact Zellers <wa4fki@nc.rr.com> for more information.

From *The ARRL Letter*, July 14, 2006

FCC INVITES COMMENTS ON KATRINA PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Comments are due Monday, August 7, in response to an FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) regarding recommendations of the independent panel that reviewed Hurricane Katrina's impact on communication systems (EB Docket 06-119). Reply comments are due by Monday, August 21.

"The Commission, in this proceeding, is to take the lessons learned from this disaster and build upon them to promote more effective, efficient response and recovery efforts as well as heightened readiness and preparedness in the future," the FCC said.

Some of the wide-ranging proposals in the NPRM, released in June, could affect the Part 97 Amateur Service rules. The FCC asked if it should explore amending its rules to permit automatic grants of certain types of waivers or special temporary authority (STA) in declared disaster areas. After last year's devastating hurricanes, the FCC issued a handful of STAs to permit licensees lacking HF privileges to operate on HF for emergency purposes.

The NPRM further offered three specific areas for consideration: Waiver of Amateur Radio and license-exempt rules, permitting transmissions necessary to meet essential communications needs; waiver of application filing deadlines, something the FCC did last fall for amateurs living in hurricane-stricken states; and a

streamlined STA process.

Interested parties may file comments and view the comments of others via the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>. In either case, enter "06-119" in the "Proceeding" field (without quotation marks but including the hyphen). A copy of the NPRM is on the FCC Web site <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-83A1.pdf>.

"MAGIC BAND" DOES ITS THING

Stations in several parts of the US took advantage of a monster opening on 6 meters -- the "Magic Band" -- Wednesday, July 12. The Daily DX <<http://www.dailydx.com>> Editor Bernie McClenny, W3UR, who also edits "How's DX?" for QST, says the band began warming up at his Maryland QTH before sunrise, but the biggest opening occurred just before 2100 UTC.

"The band stayed open to Europe until just after 0000Z today," McClenny said July 13. He credits fellow 6-meter DX chaser Marty Green, K2PLF, with tipping him off. "I ran downstairs and could not believe my ears," McClenny enthused in the July 13 edition of The Daily DX. "I have never heard conditions so good and so widespread into Europe."

McClenny said "the band was packed" from about 50.066 to well above 50.200 MHz with CW and SSB signals and even a few weak digital signals. So bountiful were the 6-meter DX spots, he recounts, "I didn't know where to begin." McClenny said conditions were so good "stations with 10-foot high antennas and 5 W were making it across the pond."

QST's "World Above 50 MHz" Editor Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ, called it "probably the best 6 meter Es [sporadic E] opening of all time" into Europe. "I worked about two dozen Europeans as far east as Bulgaria but no new countries," Zimmerman said.

Rich Lawrence, KB1DMX, in Connecticut reported hearing stations in Italy, France, Spain, England, the Canary Islands, Serbia, Belgium and the Azores.

Rick Tharrington, KD4JRX, in North Carolina was among those posting exclamatory reports to the SixClub reflector. "I could not believe the European stations on the band," he said. "It sounded like 20 meters for while!" He worked EH8BPX and ON4IQ, among others, with 59 reports. "The magic band is working its magic today!" he added.

On the same reflector, Paul Lenharr, KB3NDS, reported working 18 stations in just under 45 minutes from his modest station -- 100 W to a dipole at 35 feet -- in Maryland. "This was one of the best openings for me since I started using 6 meters," he said.

In another SixClub posting, Jack Shutt, W9GT, said the band "was hopping" at his QTH in Indiana the evening of July 12, but he couldn't hear any DX. "Six meters, however, was open coast to coast," he reported, noting that he worked several stations to his west, including a couple in Nevada and one in California.

"I hope we can enjoy these conditions for a while yet," Shutt said. "Sure is fun when 6 is open!"

McClenny said Jose DaSilva, N4IS, in Southern Florida, may have been the first US station to work Montenegro on 6 meters when he snagged YU6DZ at 1559 UTC. "After four seasons on the band," McClenny concluded, "I would have to say that overall this has been the best -- and we are just about at the bottom of the sunspot cycle! Are you on 6?"

MAJOR CHANGES TO UK AMATEUR RULES ANNOUNCED

The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) reports radio amateurs there soon will no longer have to keep a log unless telecoms regulator Ofcom specifically requests it. Other significant rules changes Ofcom has announced include a substantial relaxation of regulations regarding unattended operation and remote control. Amateurs will be able to use 10 mW on any amateur band for remote operation within a 100-meter range. "Interestingly," RSGB commented, "Ofcom appears to have formally recognized Amateur Radio as a leisure activity as well as a self-training hobby." In 2005, Ofcom unveiled a laundry list of changes to the Amateur Radio rules, including the introduction of a lifetime license that could be renewed free of charge via the Internet. The lifetime license and the new changes to the licence Ofcom has just announced go into effect in October 2006. RSGB encouraged UK amateurs to read and file comments on Ofcom's documentation <<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/aradio/lifetimelicense>> on the new license format.

From *The ARRL Letter*, July 28, 2006

CONGRESSMAN, ARRL APPEAL TO FCC TO ACCOMMODATE BPL INTERFERENCE CONCERNS

US Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), and the ARRL have appealed to the FCC to accommodate the Broadband Over Power Line interference concerns of Amateur Radio operators. Ross's letter to FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin and the League's plea to individual commissioners and a face-to-face meeting with one FCC member come in advance of the Commission's consideration of two significant BPL-related actions.

"As you reconsider the BPL rules, please accommodate the very reasonable interests of Amateur Radio operators in avoiding interference in residential and mobile deployment," Ross asked Martin. "It is in the best interest of our emergency preparedness efforts to do so."

The FCC will meet in open session Thursday, August 3, to consider the United Power Line Council's Petition for Declaratory Ruling (WC Docket 06-10) regarding the classification of BPL Internet access service as an "information service." The FCC also will consider a Memorandum Opinion and Order in response to petitions for reconsideration -- 17 in all, one from the ARRL -- of the rules that apply to BPL systems (ET 04-37).

In letters to each FCC member on the League's behalf July 26, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, spelled out what he called "a win-win solution" to the BPL interference issue. "Fortunately, as the result of extensive field studies and measurements conducted by ARRL, the Commission has an opportunity now to fix the rules before BPL deployment becomes widespread," Imlay said, "and before interference becomes an impossible enforcement burden and a substantial threat to the public service, emergency and disaster relief communications provided by the Amateur Service."

Imlay asserted the FCC does not have to choose between permitting BPL and protecting licensed radio services. The FCC only needs to do two things: Require that BPL providers only utilize frequencies above 30 MHz on overhead medium-voltage power lines, and make no use of Amateur Radio spectrum on underground lines and lines to customer premises. If the Commission does, Imlay said, any remaining interference issues

"become manageable on a case-by-case basis."

Imlay explained that BPL systems using DS2 chipsets or Main.net architecture have caused untenable instances of harmful interference to Amateur Radio operators. "Unfortunately, the Commission's Enforcement Bureau has been unresponsive in addressing a substantial number of BPL interference cases," he said.

"By notable contrast," Imlay continued, BPL systems that don't make use of HF spectrum on overhead lines avoid interference problems. He pointed out that the Current Technologies BPL system, which uses spectrum above 30 MHz, "has proven relatively benign toward Amateur Radio." The Motorola BPL system makes no use of HF at all on medium voltage lines "and is completely benign toward Amateur Radio," Imlay said.

In his letter, Ross noted that Amateur Radio was "instrumental in providing interoperability communications in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma last year." Infrastructure-free long-distance communication is provided "on a volunteer basis and cannot be duplicated," the congressman told the FCC chairman.

In their respective communications, Ross and Imlay emphasized that Amateur Radio operators are not opposed to BPL per se. They are opposed to interference and to the rules the FCC adopted in 2004 that "did not do anything to prevent inevitable, harmful interference from BPL systems" that employ HF spectrum on unshielded, overhead medium-voltage lines, Imlay said.

"This is the crux of the problem, and it is a very substantial one," Imlay maintained.

Earlier this week, Imlay was able to meet with FCC commissioner Robert McDowell and members of his staff to express Amateur Radio's concerns about interference problems the current Part 15 rules governing BPL fail to adequately address.

"The Amateur Radio Service and ARRL -- the National Association for Amateur Radio needs your support in arriving at a solution that meets the needs of all interested parties," Imlay concluded.

NEW EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS BILL INCLUDES ROLE FOR HAMS

A bill to enhance emergency communication at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) includes Amateur Radio operators as part of an overall effort to provide interoperability among responders. The 21st Century Emergency Communications Act of 2006 (HR 5852), an amendment to the Homeland Security Act of 2002, passed the US House this week on a 414-2 vote and has gone to the Senate. Its sponsor, Rep David G. Reichert (R-WA) -- who chairs the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Science and Technology -- says his legislation is designed "to improve the ability of emergency responders to communicate with each other" -- interoperability.

"Until the events of September 11, 2001, many people in this nation believed and assumed that first responders from different disciplines and jurisdictions could actually talk to each other," Reichert -- a former police officer -- told the House in support of his bill. "It wasn't happening. It is still not happening today. Unfortunately, that was not the case then, and, as demonstrated by the inadequate responses to Hurricane Katrina, that is not the case today."

Reichert told his colleagues that the inability of first responders to communicate with each another effectively led to the loss of many

lives along the US Gulf Coast last year. "This is simply unacceptable," he said.

His measure also would require the DHS to strengthen its efforts to improve emergency communications. HR 5852 calls for Amateur Radio operators to be part of a "Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group" (RECC Working Group) that would be attached to each regional Department of Homeland Security office. The RECC Working Groups would advise federal and state homeland security officials.

In addition to radio amateurs, membership in the RECC Working Groups would include state and local officials; law enforcement, first responders such as fire departments; 911 centers; hospitals; ambulance services; communications equipment vendors, telephone, wireless satellite, broadband and cable service providers; public utilities; broadcasters; emergency evacuation transit services; state emergency managers, homeland security directors or representatives of state administrative agencies; local emergency managers or homeland security directors, and "other emergency response providers or emergency support providers as deemed appropriate."

Federal government representatives to the RECC Working Groups would include representatives from the DHS "and other federal departments and agencies with responsibility for coordinating interoperable emergency communications" with state, local, and tribal governments.

According to the bill, the RECC Working Groups would function to assess the survivability, sustainability, and interoperability of local emergency communications systems to meet the goals of the National Emergency Communications Report. That report would recommend how the US could "accelerate the deployment of interoperable emergency communications nationwide."

The RECC Working Groups also would be tasked with ensuring a process to coordinate the establishment of "effective multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency emergency communications networks" that could be brought into play following acts of terrorism, natural disasters and other emergencies.

HR 5852 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

New Members

SCCARA would like to welcome these new members to the club (in "callbook" order):

KI6DSN, Andrew Stoddard

W6RLK, Ron Keeling

W6SNV, Joe Castellano

KG6VKC, Steve Schumaker

If you have any questions, ideas, or comments about SCCARA or any activities, please don't hesitate to ask.

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, July 10, 2006



Meeting began at 7:45 PM, followed by introductions. Clark Murphy is excused due to vacation. Fred Townsend, Vice President, will chair the meeting. Number of members present: 23; Number of visitors: 1

Speakers:

Del Harbold, K6JPX / Show and Tell
Jim Tyranski, KD6UDW Field Day review w/pictures
Fred Townsend, AE6QL Care and Feeding of Batteries

Money received: \$3.50 from John Parks, W6JPP (new call sign) for a badge \$3.50 from Mike Harnoff, WB0TOW, for a badge. Badge requests given to Gary Mitchell; money to be given to treasurer at Board meeting as he is excused for this meeting.

Fred Townsend: This talk comes as a result of Field Day, when they had some problems with batteries. First, Fred handed out a test on batteries for everyone to complete. then he went over all the answers. On the false questions, he noted what would make the statement right. Second, Jim and Fred showed a slideshow of Field Day, with added comments. Contact totals: GOTA: 31; phone: 219; CW: 148; VHF: 28. Total: 426. The bands have changed, but the forma and multipliers have not changed since 1936. Contacts were made with: Iceland, Japan, Nova Scotia, South Pacific, ARRL, W1AW/4. We also got the ARRL message.

The next SVECS breakfast is Saturday, July 22. Food at 9:00; speaker at 10:00. The price is \$5.00 at the door.

The next DeAnza flea market will be August, 12. SCCARA is the host for that event.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Board Meeting, June 24, 2006



Attendees:

KE6KXO	Clark Murphy	President
AE6QL	Fred Townsend	Vice-President
AE6PM	Don Steinbach	Treasurer
K6PBQ	Don Village	Board Member
WA6QYS	Lou Steirer	Board Member
KA6YMD	Wally Britten	Board Member
WB6YRU	Gary Mitchell	Editor
KG6UDC	Jim Tyranski	Field Day Chairman
KF6OTD	Gwen Steirer	Member
AC6YY	Ned Tufekcic	Member
AE6MV	David Paul	Member

Clark opened the meeting at 19:41, and asked for reports.

The Treasurer reported that we sold the Collins 305 Amplifier for \$1000. The KWM 380 is at the Treasurer's house, and he will list it on E-Bay after Field Day and after the Fourth of July. WE dropped the equipment insurance, saving \$269. The P.O. Box is paid through 6/2007 and the Storage is paid through 7/2006. Balances: Checking \$535.69, Savings \$3408.77.

Secretary – no report due to absence

Vice-President: no activity to report this last month

Lou passed around a sign-up sheet for the August 12 SCCARA Flea Market, and advised that the next SVECS Breakfast will be July 22 at Washington Park in Sunnyvale.

Editor: The newsletter listed that that we will meet for Field Day at Carl's Jr. at 1p.m., while a recent email announced that we would meet at the park at 1 p.m. Gary also asked if the Board would like to see anything from the ARRL Letter included in SCCARA besides the BPEL information he has been including.

Gary gave Clark a new corrected copy of the advertisement for the Club.

The BBS stopped responding, and the remote reset didn't work. Gary visited the location and determined that the UPS had failed, interrupting power to the unit. So now the BBS is running with no UPS. Fred offered to diagnose the UPS to see if it is worth repairing, and then supply plans for an alternate if not. After discussion, Don Steinbach moved that the UPS for the BBS be removed and scrapped. The **motion** was seconded by Don Village, and passed unanimously.

The Welcome to the Club package was discussed at length, and changes suggested. Don Steinbach moved and Fred Townsend seconded that the change be made and we move forward. The **motion** passed unanimously.

Lou Steirer moved that Guest Speakers be made honorary members of the club for one year. The **motion** was seconded by Don Village, and passed unanimously.

Ned suggested that the club visit Fremont Peak in August.

Field Day was discussed at length.

Don Steinbach moved, and Lou Steirer seconded, that the club authorize Gary Mitchell to purchase black plastic and/or other supplies needed to make glare shields for the laptop computers for Field Day. The **motion** passed unanimously.

Don Steinbach moved and Fred Townsend seconded that the club reimburse Jim the \$94.69 he paid for paint for the Trailer. The **motion** passed unanimously.

Fred pointed out that he brought a friend to the recent Open House, but learned that we have no information at the Club Station that we can hand out to visitors. Fred moved and Don Village seconded that we maintain a supply of documentation at the Club Station to hand out to visitors. The **motion** passed unanimously.

Fred moved and Don Steinbach seconded that that we authorize Gwen to spend \$ 100 for food for Field Day. The **motion** passed unanimously with Lou Steirer abstaining.

Adjournment was at 21:45

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the packet network:

=====
Date: 18 Feb 2004 09:10
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: HUMOR FOR TODAY 0213

Today's Joke

Ron and Kim were doing some shopping. Having purchased everything they needed, they returned to the parking lot to drive home.

"Where's the car? Good golly, someone has stolen it!"

They notified the police from a phone booth inside the mall and made a report at the Police station. A young detective drove them back to see if any evidence remained from the scene of the crime. But, what do you know, there is the stolen car, back in the exact spot! A note is on the windshield with two tickets to a concert attached. The note thanks the young couple for the use of their car, but the culprit's wife was about to give birth and had to be rushed to the hospital.

The young couple's faith in humanity is restored and they go to the concert and have a wonderful time. They arrive home late that night to find their entire house robbed, with a note on the door reading, "Well, I gotta put the kid through college, don't I?"

Daily Thoughts

"There is no such thing as "fun for the whole family." – Jerry Seinfeld

Its not that I don't want to clean my room its just that I have this theory that everything is balanced just right and if I attempt to move anything the whole structure of the house will come down like a house of cards.

"The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, but wiser people so full of doubts." – Bertrand Russel

Today's Story

One day my husband and I were discussing something and I made the comment that he should take care of things because he was the "Head of the household".

A few days later at a Christmas party he was introducing the children and I.

When he got to our 3 year old, she said, "My name is Tyler and my daddy is the head HOLE of the house."

We all got a nice laugh out of that, all except for the Head Hole, that is.

~ Megan

Last Laugh

Jon went to dinner at a new friend's house. While they ate, the new friend's small son kept staring at the guest.

Finally, Jon asked, "Why are you staring at me like that, young fellow?"

The kid says, "Daddy told me you were a self made man."

"I am."

"Well, why did you make yourself like that?"

=====
Date: 18 Feb 2004 09:10
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: HUMOR FOR TODAY 0214

Today's Joke

Charlie had a massive heart attack and died. His body was delivered to the mortuary. He had been wearing an expensive, expertly tailored black suit at the time of his demise, so he really looked wonderful, considering the circumstances.

His wife went to the funeral home to make the final arrangements for his interment. She spoke to the mortician about what her husband would be wearing.

The mortician pointed out that the man looked really nice in the black suit he was wearing, and that frankly it would be easier and less expensive to leave him dressed as he was.

The woman noted that Charlie had always looked his very best in blue, and that she really wanted him in a blue suit for his trip to eternity. To silence the mortician's continued outcries, she gave him a blank check and said, "I don't care what it costs, but please have my husband in the very best blue suit money can buy for the ceremony."

The woman came back the next day for the viewing. To her delight, she found her Charlie dressed in a gorgeous blue suit with a subtle chalk stripe; the suit fit him perfectly. She said to the mortician, "Whatever this cost, I'm very satisfied. You did an excellent job, and I'm very grateful. How much did you spend?"

To her astonishment, the mortician presented her with the blank check, indicating there was no charge for these extra services.

"No, really, I must compensate you for the cost of that exquisite blue suit!" she cried.

The mortician responded, "Honestly, ma'am, the change to the blue suit cost nothing. Funny thing, a deceased gentleman of about your husband's size was brought in shortly after you left yesterday, wearing an attractive blue suit. I asked his wife if she minded him going to his grave wearing an attractive black suit. She indicated that it made no difference, as long as he looked nice... So I switched the heads."

Daily Thoughts

"They say such nice things about people at their funerals that it makes me sad that I'm going to miss mine by just a few days." – Garrison Keillor.

Every day I beat my own previous record for number of consecutive days I've stayed alive.

Last Laugh

A man was walking in the mountains just enjoying the scenery when he stepped too close to the edge of the mountain and started to fall.

In desperation he reached out and grabbed a limb of a gnarly old tree hanging onto the side of the cliff.

Full of fear he assessed his situation. He was about 100 feet down a sheer cliff and about 900 feet from the floor of the canyon below. If he should slip again he'd plummet to his death.

Full of fear, he cries out, "Help me!" But there was no answer.

Again and again he cried out but to no avail. Finally he yelled, "Is anybody up there?"

A deep voice replied, "Yes, I'm up here."

"Who said that?"

"It's the Lord."

"Can you help me?"

"Yes, I can help. Have faith in me."

"Help me!"

"Just let go."

Looking around the man became full of panic. "What?!?!"

"Have faith in me. Let go. I will catch you."

"Uh... Is there anybody else up there?"

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

Newsletter Notes

Did you know there's a group of amateurs in the greater Bay Area who do transmitter hunts on a regular basis? Do you have any equipment for hunting transmitters?

If there's interest, I can publish in the *SCCARA-GRAM* calendar when the hunts occur and more info about them in articles.

The only fly-in-the-ointment is that this is one of those things where it's a distinct advantage to have the right tools for the job. Most hunters have specialized equipment for hunting transmitters. If you don't have a way of tracking a signal while driving, hunting the 'T' can still be done (e.g. with only a yagi antenna), but it's significantly more work. The most common device is called a doppler. These are electronic antenna arrays with directional properties.

Some of you may recall we had a presentation years ago on this topic. And then another presentation a couple of years ago. Did any of you get interested enough to look into it? I did after the first presentation, I even bought a doppler kit. Am I the only one in SCCARA? If not, let me know and I'll start publishing "T-hunt" info in the *SCCARA-GRAM*.

In the mean time, if you're curious and want to look into it, check out their web site: www.thunt.org.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

SCCARA Membership Form for 2006

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

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

Address: _____ Licensed since (yr): _____

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

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

E-mail: _____ Packet: _____

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

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

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

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

Rev. 5/17/2005

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



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

Affiliate of the ARRL,
American Radio Relay League



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS