

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 22, Number 9

September 2006



Picnic

The SCCARA picnic this year will be on Saturday September 23, at 10AM until 4PM or so, at Mary Gomez Park in Santa Clara. It's located at the north-west corner of San Thomas Expressway and Forbes. Enter from the west side: go west on Forbes, north on Bucher, then turn right into the small parking lot. (see the map below)

We will have a HF radio set up again for a miniature Field Day operation. Gwen and Lou will be running our bingo game, so please bring a gift or two for prizes. The club will provide sodas, plates, utensils, condiments, and charcoal. Please bring your own meat and a dish to share.

Don Village K6PBQ

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, August 4, 2006

FCC DENIES RECONSIDERATION PETITIONS, ADOPTS MINOR CHANGES TO BPL RULES

An FCC that's still optimistic and enthusiastic about BPL met August 3 to consider and unanimously adopt a Memorandum Opinion and Order (MO&O) in response to several petitions for reconsideration of its BPL rules - including one from ARRL. But one commissioner stressed that the FCC has an obligation to protect Amateur Radio operators from BPL interference and to respond promptly to interference complaints. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, and General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, were on hand for this week's meeting, during which the FCC suggested it was attempting to strike a balance between interference to licensed services and the BPL industry's needs.

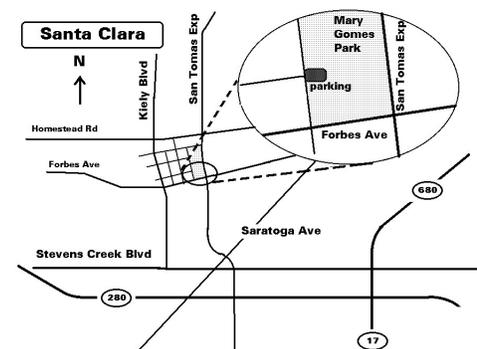
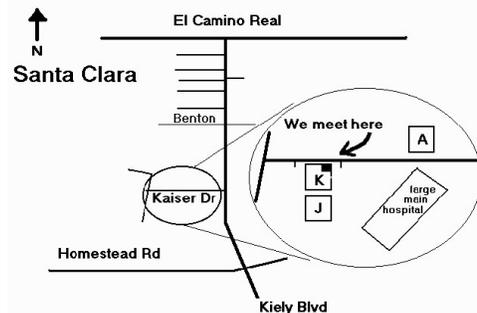
"This rule making proceeding was initiated to provide regulatory certainty that will encourage investments in BPL, particularly so that consumers can reap the benefits," the FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) told the commissioners. "Equally important, the Commission sought to ensure that licensed radio services are protected against harmful interference." The OET said the Commission also wanted to provide guidance so compliance measurements "are made in a consistent manner with repeatable results."

Calendar

- 9/9 Electronic Flea Market (DeAnza)
- 9/11 SCCARA General Meeting
- 9/18 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 9/23 SCCARA picnic, 11AM, Mary Gomez Park

General Meeting:

Day: Monday, Sept. 11, 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>.

OFFICERS - DIRECTORS - STAFF

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	e-mail: ka6ymd@arrrl.net	
NØARY 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 NØARY 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.

NØARY PACKET BBS

SCCARA hosts the packet BBS NØARY (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

The FCC adopted its current BPL rules - under a new Subpart G of its Part 15 rules governing unlicensed devices - in October 2004.

Commenting after the OET's presentation of the MO&O, Commissioner Michael J. Copps reiterated that the FCC must also ensure that BPL providers protect existing spectrum users from interference.

"This applies with special force to Amateur Radio operators whose skills and dedication once again proved so valuable in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina," Copps remarked. "Amateur radio serves the public interest in so many ways that we must be always mindful of its needs."

Copps said he believes the FCC's MO&O "strikes an acceptable balance," but added that the Commission "must be available and positioned to respond to interference complaints with alacrity. Amateur operators shouldn't have to wait for months to get complaints resolved - they deserve better."

The FCC denied a BPL industry request to extend the effective date to meet equipment certification requirements, but it did create a limited exception, the OET's Anh Wride said. BPL systems now will have another year to continue installing or replacing equipment "that otherwise meets the Part 15 rules" in their present coverage areas. "This relief is a reasonable accommodation that will limit the proliferation of non-compliant equipment," Wride said.

In addition, the Commission rebuffed the BPL industry's request to drop the 30-day advance notification requirement for the public BPL database. Wride said the advance notification provision ensures that licensed users are aware of new BPL deployments in advance of their startup..

The Order also turned down requests by the ARRL and individual Amateur Radio operators to exclude the use of the HF ham bands for BPL operations. The Commission also denied petitions from the ARRL and others to prohibit BPL deployment "pending the adoption of a definition for 'harmful interference,' the completion of all ongoing studies of BPL and the initiation of further studies of BPL interference characteristics," Wride said.

The FCC further denied requests to keep BPL signals off overhead medium-voltage power lines and to impose more stringent technical restrictions and measurement requirements on BPL operations.

Wride said the OET believes the requirements the FCC adopted in 2004 regarding emission levels and notching "are adequate to fully protect amateur operations." She said going along with ARRL's request to reconsider, rescind and re-study the BPL rules in further proceedings could leave radio amateurs with less protection than they now have.

The FCC did grant a request from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to expand BPL exclusion zones in the vicinity of certain radio astronomy systems.

"We continue to believe that the interference concerns associated with the operation of these systems are adequately addressed through the adoption of Access BPL rules in Part 15, particularly as a new generation of BPL equipment that complies with our rules becomes available," Wride concluded.

The FCC released a public notice to report its August 3 BPL-related actions <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-266773A1.pdf>. The MO&O it adopted is not

expected to become available to the public for a few weeks.

LEAGUE CALLS MANASSAS BPL INTERFERENCE REPORT "FLAWED," "MISLEADING"

The ARRL has told the FCC it has found a radio interference report filed on behalf of the Manassas, Virginia, BPL system "flawed in numerous respects." The League responded this week to a July 17 letter and BPL interference study the FCC mandated following repeated complaints from local radio amateurs.

"ARRL objects to the report because it is based on improper engineering practice and contrary to the instructions provided by your office in your letter dated June 16, 2006," ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, wrote FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Chief Joseph Casey on August 2. In June, Casey had ordered the City of Manassas and BPL provider COMTek to investigate complaints from several Manassas radio amateurs of BPL interference to their mobile operations and report back to the Commission on their findings. The League, and local amateurs, contend the BPL system is still causing harmful interference to Amateur Radio operations, despite the clean bill of health the engineering report purports to present.

"It did so both before and after the tests conducted by COMTek; and there is no doubt at all that the interference is from the COMTek BPL system operated in the City of Manassas and not from any other source." The League reiterated its demand that the system be shut down immediately.

"Unless the Enforcement Bureau is willing to do that, you are going to have to send Commission staff to observe this interference and conduct their own measurements in the presence of both COMTek and the local Amateur Radio operators who are receiving the interference," Imlay asserted. Manassas radio amateurs who have complained to the FCC about the BPL interference also have suggested that the FCC must investigate the problem firsthand.

The League maintained that COMTek "has filed incorrect and misleading reports" and has "manipulated the BPL system to show false readings." In particular, the ARRL -- and local radio amateurs -- suggest that the BPL system was not operating at peak user loading during the testing, as the FCC had ordered. Either that or COMTek and BPL equipment manufacturer Main.net adjusted system power levels downward for the testing, Imlay told the FCC.

"The Commission is going to have to investigate this matter itself, without advance notice to COMTek or the City, so that the system is not powered down or otherwise manipulated to show other than peak loading characteristics at the power levels typically used in Manassas," the ARRL stated. The League said it's clear that the FCC can't rely on reports from consultants hired by the system's operators while excluding the victims of the interference.

In its dealings with the Manassas BPL system, the League concluded, the FCC has "completely ignored" Part 15 rules requiring a BPL operator, upon learning of harmful interference, to investigate and resolve it successfully within a reasonable time. "The recent submission of COMTek and the City have produced no resolution of the interference at all," ARRL said. "Rather, COMTek and the City have shown a complete inability, and now, by their denials, the unwillingness, to resolve the interference."

From *The ARRL Letter*, August 25, 2006

LONG-SILENT SUITSAT-1 KEEPS GOING AND GOING

When SuitSat-1 -- the novel satellite built in a surplus Russian Orlan spacesuit -- was launched during a spacewalk from the International Space Station last February 3, those familiar with orbital mechanics predicted it would stay in orbit for 120 days at best. As of August 25, some 203 days (nearly seven months) later -- largely forgotten and its ham radio voice long since silent -- SuitSat-1 has defied the odds and remains in orbit some 155 miles above Earth.

A project of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program, SuitSat-1, identifying as RS0RS, transmitted its voice greetings on 2 meters plus an SSTV picture thousands of times. Although its signal was far weaker than it was supposed to be for reasons never determined with any certainty, SuitSat-1 remained operational for more than two weeks.

ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, had credited ARISS-Russia's Sergei Samburov, RV3DR, and his colleagues with coming up with the SuitSat concept, called Radioskaf or Radio Sputnik in Russian.

The SuitSat-1 mission proved to be an Amateur Radio public relations bonanza. In addition to prompting dozens of news items on Web sites and in journals around the world, Reader's Digest judged SuitSat-1 "Best Empty Suit" in its "America's 100 Best: The 2006 List" Popular Science ran an article about SuitSat-1 in its June issue called "Tossed in Space."

To keep the SuitSat-1 momentum going a bit longer ARISS and AMSAT in May announced a "Chicken Little Contest" <<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/ariss/suitsatContest.php>>, in which participants pick the date on which they believe SuitSat-1 will drop out of orbit and burn up in Earth's atmosphere. Entrants are only allowed one guess, and the winner will be the individual who picks the date closest to SuitSat-1's actual demise. Those who have not already entered may do so by filling out the online entry form on the AMSAT Web site. The odds could be in their favor.

Certificates will go to winners in each of three age groups. Winners not only earn bragging rights, but the fame and notoriety associated with successful satellite re-entry prognostication.

Even before SuitSat-1 went silent, ARISS and AMSAT already were discussing the possibility of a SuitSat-2 with contacts in Russia, although plans remain tentative at this stage. ARRL ARISS Liaison Rosalie White, K1STO, is among those named to the SuitSat-2 team, which will meet prior to the ARISS International Meeting/AMSAT Space Symposium October 5-10. Among other things, the team will look into the possibility of equipping SuitSat-2 with solar panels instead of just batteries, to extend its usable life. No formal announcements about SuitSat-2 are expected until around mid-October.

Meanwhile, the time grows nigh when Suit-Sat-1 will pick up enough additional drag from Earth's atmosphere that friction-generated heat will cause it to burn up and vaporize. Just when that will happen is still anyone's guess.

Flea Market

SCCARA sponsorship of the August 12th Electronics Flea Market was a successful endeavor. In true SCCARA club spirit the membership united to make it the rewarding event that it was. Thanks to Don K6PBQ, Don AE6PM, Clark KE6KXO, Wally KA6YMD, Jim KG6UDW, Fred AE6QL, Gary WB6YRU, Ned AC6YY, Mike WB0TOW, Andrew K16DSN, Jeannie KG6YOR, Lloyd KD6FJI, Dick KD6QG and Gwen KF6OTD for

giving of their time and talents for making it a productive day. Of course thanks also to ASVARO and PA-Red Cross for their help. I am looking forward to having another successful event in September 2007.

Lou WA6QYS

Treasurer's Treatise

SCCARA hosted the August 12 Electronics Flea Market at DeAnza College. The event was well attended and there was an exceptional selection of ham radio gear and test equipment. There were an estimated 125 vendors.

The club cleared \$1729.23:

138 spaces sold	\$2,760.00
Used equipment sold	\$ 121.00
Net from food sales	\$ 348.23
Gross income	\$3,229.23
Less ASVARO fee	\$1,500.00
Net profit	\$1,729.23

The ASVARO (Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Organizations) fee covers all of the venue expense items such as portable toilets, DeAnza parking lot rent, DeAnza security personnel, rainy-day insurance fund, liability insurance (probably), gasoline for the generator, cleanup crew/garbage collection, etc. The eight participating clubs pay the fee on an annual basis in January/February based on ASVARO's cost estimates.

The final two Flea Markets for 2006 will be held on September 9, hosted by the Southern Peninsula Emergency Communications System, and October 14, hosted by the Foothills Amateur Radio Society.

Don Steinbach

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Aug. 14, 2006



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

Board Meeting, Aug. 21, 2006



The meeting was called to order at 19:44 by president Clark Murphy.

The attendees were:

KE6KXO	Clark Murphy	President
AE6QL	Fred Townsend	Vice President
AE6PM	Don Steinbach	Treasurer & Director
K6PBQ	Don Village	Director
KA6YMD	Wally Britten	Director
KK6MX	Don Apte	Director
WB6YRU	Gary Mitchell	Editor

AC6YY	Ned Tufekcic	Member
KG6UD	Jim Tyranski	Member
KI6FAN	Chris Demille	Member

The minutes from the previous board meeting were emailed by David Paul on 8/14/2006. The minutes were approved as received.

The Treasurer reported bank account balances of \$969.08 in checking and \$5,361.70 in savings after depositing the proceeds from the flea market. He has requested the bank to stop returning the cancelled checks for a savings of \$3.00/month. Storage locker rent is paid to 11/1/2006, the P.O. box rent is paid through June 2007, and the liability insurance is paid to 6/8/2007. Options for increasing the savings account interest rate were discussed with no conclusions reached.

The possible benefit of purchasing a yearly permit for county park use was discussed. John Parks (not present) is believed to be looking into the details. Mt. Madonna costs us \$180/night plus \$6 registration.

Gary Mitchell addressed the possibility of setting up a wireless link to replace a telephone line used by the BBS. He will arrange a test with a potential supplier to see if the proposed 5 GHz link will close. Don Apte will also be involved.

Fred Townsend stated that he will have the 440 repeater hardware to AE6PM by September 1.

The meeting was adjourned at 2055.

AE6PM

Board Meeting, July 17, 2006



Attendees:

KE6KXO	Clark Murphy	President
AE6QL	Fred Townsend	Vice-President
AE6PM	Don Steinbach	Treasurer
K6PBQ	Don Village	Director, Trustee
WA6QYS	Lou Steirer	Director
KA6YMD	Wally Britten	Director
WB6YRU	Gary Mitchell	Editor
KG6UDW	Jim Tyranski	Field Day Chairman
KF6OTD	Gwen Steirer	Member
AC6YY	Ned Tufekcic	Member
AE6MV	David Paul	Member
W6JPP	John Parks	Visitor
KI6DSN	Andrew Stoddard	Member

Clark opened the meeting at 19:51, and asked for reports.

The Vice-President will arrive late, so his report will be given later in the meeting.

The Treasurer reported the current Balances: Checking \$153, Savings \$3409.

The Secretary had no report due to absence; a member presented last month's minutes and accepted corrections.

The Repeater Trustee had nothing new to report.

Editor: The welcome-to-the-club package is done, but Gary has received no list of new members.

The Field Day Chairman is still working on the summary results from Field Day and vowed that he will not let us down.

Filed Day topics:

- A **motion** passed unanimously to repay Clark Murphy and Gary Mitchell for their Filed Day and Newsletter expenses.
- A **motion** passed unanimously to pay each person who towed the trailer \$25 for expenses. [Village/Steinbach].
- The gas cans missing from the trailer were found safely hidden behind Clark's house.

Some members visited Skyline and set up a temporary station. The sheriff dropped by and said that he was happy to have them there. Several contacts were made. Further contact with the Sheriff revealed that kids often used the area for fireworks or booze, and that if we could set up a temporary station there once in a while, it would be a good addition. The Board agreed, and authorized the club call to be used for those situations.

- It was discussed that we could also visit and transmit from Fremont Peak (outside San Juan Bautista). - Concerns were that radio transmissions might not be allowed because of the telescopes, and also that a generator might not be allowed for the same reason.
- Ned suggested that an ARRL UHF contest is held in September, and that might be a good time.
 - Jim Tyranski mentioned that members using the Club Call need to stay within the license rights of the Control Operator.
 - John suggested that he could contact the county for a year-round permit. The Board agreed.
 - Lou Steirer added that other club members need to be advised when a temporary station is to be set up using the Club Call, so that other members can attend, and so that the Trustee is aware of the situation.

Don Village mentioned that a date needs to be set for the annual Club Picnic. After discussion, September 23 was agreed by all, except by Clark, who abstained. So it will be at 11:00 on 9/23/06.

The Club Flea Market is 8/12. It was discussed that we might also set up a table/booth to sell excess equipment.

- The Vice-President, Fred Townsend, arrived at 20:57. He reported:
- He is negotiating for a 6-week contract in Arizona, so he will work on the repeater this week and pass it on to Don Steinbach this weekend.
 - San Jose RACES will work the San Jose Grand Prix on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the race, so SCCARA members should use AA6BT rather than the W6UU 2m repeater for that whole weekend.
 - FEMA has re-defined Amateur radio from third-level communications to first-level communications.
 - We could have made more points on Field day by being more vigilant, but it was a very enjoyable Field Day. Red Vernier wants to help in-advance coordination. Faulty coax caused significant problems this year; we need to set up a work party to prevent that kind of thing from happening next year. Lou Steirer added that we need to evaluate the ropes also.

John reported that he took the trailer to a public scale and learned that 25% of its weight is on the tongue.

Clark added that we had battery problems on Field Day: we now have one good battery, but need two more. Fred added that Costco has good prices on batteries; Don Steinbach said they cost \$68.19.

Don Steinbach moved and Fred seconded that that adjourn; adjournment was at 21:14 hrs.

After adjournment items:

- For Field Day, we need a big sign saying "Visitors Welcome"
- We also need fliers for the Ranger to pass out.
- We also need more, or more-available handouts for visitors.

AE6MV

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
KG6UDW	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-GRAM besides the BPL 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 site 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 with no negative votes, and with Lou Steirer abstaining.

Adjournment was at 21:45

AE6MV

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the packet network:

Date: 18 Feb 2004 09:11
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: HUMOR FOR TODAY 0212

Cat Physics

1 - Law of Cat Inertia

A cat at rest will tend to remain at rest, unless acted upon by some outside force--such as the opening of cat food, or a nearby scurrying mouse.

2 - Law of Cat Motion

A cat will move in a straight line, unless there's a really good reason to change direction.

3 - Law of Cat Magnetism

All blue blazers and black sweaters attract cat hair in direct proportion to the darkness of the fabric.

4 - Law of Cat Thermodynamics

Heat flows from a warmer to a cooler body, except in the case of a cat, in which case all heat flows to the cat.

5 - Law of Cat Stretching

A cat will stretch to a distance proportional to the length of the nap just taken.

6 - Law of Cat Sleeping

All cats must sleep with people whenever possible, in a position as uncomfortable for the people involved as is possible for the cat.

7 - Law of Cat Elongation

A cat can make her body long enough to reach just about any countertop that has anything remotely interesting on it.

8 - Law of Cat Acceleration

A cat will accelerate at a constant rate, until he gets good and ready to stop.

9 - Law of Dinner Table Attendance

Cats must attend all meals when anything good is served.

10 - Law of Rug Configuration

No rug may remain in its naturally flat state for very long.

11 - Law of Obedience Resistance

A cat's resistance varies in proportion to a human's desire for her to do something.

12 - First Law of Energy Conservation

Cats know that energy can neither be created nor destroyed and will, therefore, use as little energy as possible.

13 - Second Law of Energy Conservation

Cats also know that energy can only be stored by a lot of napping.

14 - Law of Refrigerator Observation

If a cat watches a refrigerator long enough, someone will come along and take out something good to eat.

15 - Law of Electric Blanket Attraction

Turn on an electric blanket and a cat will jump into bed at the speed of light.

16 - Law of Random Comfort Seeking

A cat will always seek, and usually take over, the most comfortable spot in any given room.

17 - Law of Bag / Box Occupancy

All bags and boxes in a given room must contain a cat within the earliest possible nanosecond.

18 - Law of Milk Consumption

A cat will drink his weight in milk, squared, just to show you he can.

19 - Law of Furniture Replacement

A cat's desire to scratch furniture is directly proportional to the cost of the furniture.

Daily Thoughts

"When the mouse laughs at the cat, there is a hole nearby."

- Nigerian Proverb

Today's Story

A few years back we had a very wily cat who could sniff out and find a new bag of cat food no matter where I tried to hide it.

One day I thought I would be smarter than that cat. I put the new bag of cat food in the washing machine and closed the lid. I knew he couldn't get to the bag in there!

Well, a few days later I remembered the hidden cat food and went to get it. It wasn't there and I was puzzled for a few minutes. I noticed there were little, tiny bits of soggy brown paper on the inside of the machine. After examining them carefully the light bulb went on. Not thinking, I had filled the washer with clothing and washed that bag of cat food along with the load of clothes!

The whole bag had dissolved except for a few tiny pieces of paper. I didn't notice a thing in the laundry, either after being washed and dried. The whole bag of cat food had just disappeared!

~K.P.

Last Laugh

Timmy went with his dad to see a litter of kittens.

On returning home, he breathlessly informed his mother, "There were 2 boy kittens and 2 girl kittens."

"How did you know?" his mother asked.

"Daddy picked them up and looked underneath," he replied. "I think it's printed on the bottom."

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

Does your SCCARA-GRAM show up crinkled?

What condition is the *SCCARA-GRAM* when you receive it? I've noticed sometimes it gets damaged slightly in the mail.

I'm in another club where they recently went through a review of their newsletter mailing; specifically, the requirements for bulk mail. Now, the *SCCARA-GRAM* goes by first class mail, but it still gets sorted by the same equipment. One thing I learned is that folded newsletters, like the *SCCARA-GRAM*, will go through the sorting equipment much smoother if the fold is along the bottom.

So, starting with this issue, you'll notice the back cover and fold are a little different.

Let me know if your *SCCARA-GRAM* still shows up crinkled. There's one other thing that can be done: replace the staples with a sticker.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor



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

Affiliate of the ARRL,
 American Radio Relay League



FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SCCARA Membership Form for 2007

(Fill in name and address if there is no mailing label above; 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 club address above.