

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 22, Number 10

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ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, September 8, 2006

IARU, MEMBER-SOCIETIES WANT BROADCASTERS TO END "BATTLE ON THE HAM BANDS"

As the so-called "Firedragon" jammer continues to transmit in one or more Amateur Radio bands, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) and three of its Region 3 member-societies so far have appealed to the jammer's target to move elsewhere. The Firedragon's all-music transmissions from the People's Republic of China (PRC) appear aimed at blocking the much-weaker broadcasts of the clandestine "Sound of Hope" (SOH), located outside the PRC. Responding via e-mail September 5 to an inquiry from IARU Region 1 Monitoring System (IARUMS) Vice Coordinator Uli Bihlmayer, DJ9KR, the SOH said its supporters use various avenues "including Amateur Radio frequencies" to get their message into the PRC.

"Through our investigation, we learned that the transmissions of SOH programs through Amateur Radio frequencies come from areas around China, and they each only target a local area of China with very low power, only for the intended audience and would interfere with nobody else," said SOH's Yue Chen.

Yue addressed the reply to "All Amateur Radio Community Members" and indicated it was copied to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), although no ITU addressee was displayed. Yue encouraged the Amateur Radio community to "openly urge the Chinese government to stop this outrageous act of radio jamming" and to urge the ITU to take action as well.

Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) Director Glenn Dunstan, VK4DU, told the Sound of Hope via e-mail this week that if it wants the support of the international community, it should move its transmissions into legitimate broadcasting spectrum.

"There is more than enough radio spectrum for you to use outside of the Amateur Radio bands," Dunstan said September 5. "You are in breach of international radio regulations."

A similar reaction came September 6 from Amateur Radio Society of India (ARSI) Monitoring System Coordinator B.L. Manohar Arasu, VU2UR, who pointed the finger at both the Sound of Hope and the Firedragon music jammer.

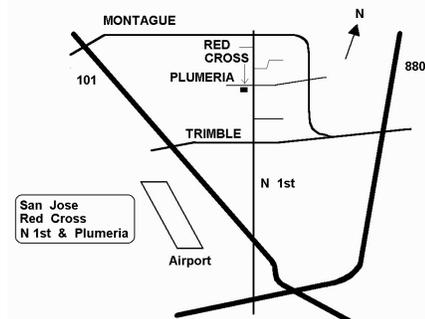
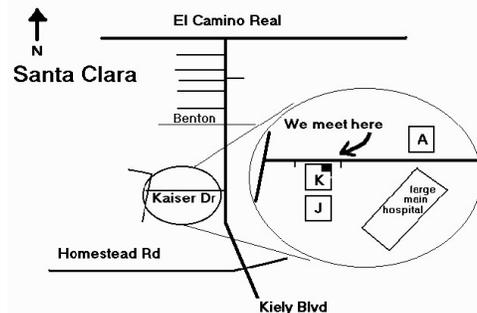
"We, the Indian Amateur Radio operators, condemn both of you

Calendar

- 10/14 Electronic Flea Market (DeAnza)
- 10/9 SCCARA General Meeting
- 10/16 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 10/28 Club station open afternoon
- 11/13 SCCARA General Meeting--elections

General Meeting:

Day: Monday, October 9, 2006
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Bld K, Rm 1
Featuring: Richard Huisman, N6DQ, will speak about Software Defined Radio



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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>.

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COMMITTEES

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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

for using Amateur Radio frequencies," he said. "Please leave the frequencies clear at the earliest." Arasu suggested the jamming not only was bothersome to everyday hamming but could cause problems for emergency communication by radio amateurs.

New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters (NZART) Monitoring Service Coordinator Len Martinson, ZL1BYA, e-mailed the Sound of Hope September 6 to say its "illegal broadcast transmissions" were causing unlawful and harmful interference to the legal occupants of the Amateur Radio bands in question.

"Your transmissions are also attracting the attention of jamming stations, which is increasing the interference to unacceptable levels," he said. "Please cease transmissions in the exclusive amateur bands immediately."

Writing SOH on behalf of the IARU, Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, asked the clandestine broadcaster to be more careful in its selection of transmitting frequencies. "Your operations in the 14 and 18 MHz bands have caused serious interference to the amateur radio service, which is allocated these bands (14.000-14.350 and 18.068-18.168 MHz) for two-way amateur radio communication," Sumner wrote. "Please do not operate in these or any other amateur radio bands."

Bihlmayer said September 6 that the Firedragon was back on 14.050 MHz -- a part of the 20-meter band allocated to the Amateur Radio Service on an exclusive basis worldwide -- after spending two days on 14.400 MHz. Over the past several months, the jammer also has been heard on 10.135 MHz, 14.260 MHz, 18.080 MHz and 18.160 MHz.

The music jammer takes apparent monitoring breaks on the hour. When the jammer's carrier is off, Bihlmayer, who lives in Southern Germany, says he's heard a weak carrier on 14.050 MHz broadcasting a Chinese program that included speech.

ARRL Monitoring System/Intruder Watch Liaison Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, says he's been able to hear the jammer from W1AW. In July, when the same jammer also was appearing on 18.160 MHz, Bihlmayer alerted telecom authorities in Germany and Hong Kong, as well as IARU Region 3 and the PRC embassy in Berlin to the situation. The 17-meter band also is a worldwide exclusive Amateur Radio allocation. Skolaut says he's received reports about the music jammer from all over the US, including Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

From *The ARRL Letter*, September 15, 2006

ARRL GRANTED EXPERIMENTAL LICENSE FOR 500 KHZ RESEARCH BY RADIO AMATEURS

The FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology on September 13 granted Part 5 experimental license WD2XSH to the ARRL on behalf of a group of radio amateurs interested in investigating spectrum in the vicinity of 500 kHz. The two-year authorization permits experimentation and research between 505 and 510 kHz (600 meters) using narrowband modes at power levels of up to 20 W effective radiated power (ERP). ARRL Member Fritz Raab, W1FR, of Vermont, will serve as experimental project manager for "The 500 KC Experimental Group for Amateur Radio" <<http://www.500kc.com/>>

"I'm kind of excited to see how we can apply modern technology to a 'classic part' of the radio spectrum," Raab told ARRL this week. He pointed out that 500 kHz - the traditional maritime emergency frequency - is roughly geometrically halfway between

the 136 kHz experimental band and the 160 meter amateur allocation.

"In contrast to 160 meters, 500 kHz is low enough to offer good groundwave propagation, but in contrast to 137 kHz it is high enough to allow us to engage in real communication with realistic equipment." Raab eventually would like to see at least a secondary 600-meter amateur allocation from 495 to 510 kHz.

"Besides the opportunities for experimenting at low frequencies, that frequency is well suited to regional groundwave communication," Raab said. He envisions eventual use of the spectrum to provide Amateur Radio emergency communication via groundwave, without having to deal with the vagaries of the ionosphere or causing interference to other services.

For about a century, the 500 kHz region was an important band for maritime communication, emergency and otherwise. The band is occasionally used by "heritage" commercial maritime stations, such as the Maritime Radio Historical Society's KPH on the West Coast, on special occasions. 500 kHz remains designated as an official maritime emergency CW frequency, although the vast majority of maritime users have shifted to satellite-based systems.

In addition to experimentation and regional emergency work, Raab says he believes that the 505-510 kHz spectrum could serve as "an historic band" that could support various commemorative special event-type operations. Proposals are under consideration in the UK and Ireland to establish an experimental Amateur Radio allocation in the vicinity of 500 kHz.

The WD2XSH project calls for operation from 21 discrete fixed sites spread throughout the US. Participants all are electrical professionals, many with maritime radio backgrounds, Raab said, adding that operation already has begun. The group eventually will be seeking reports from non-participants, he said.

Raab says the gear participants will use represents "every kind of antenna and equipment you can imagine," including surplus vacuum-tube maritime units. At his Colchester, Vermont, location he's using a 42-foot vertical, but others are employing inverted Ls, loops and Marconis, among others.

Raab was a co-author of the article "A 100-W Class-D Power Amplifier for LF and MF," which appeared in the March-April edition of QEX <<http://www.arrl.org/qex/2006/03/toc.pdf>>. He's using an amplifier of that design for his WD2XSH operations.

The FCC turned down a 1998 petition from the ARRL to create an Amateur Radio "sliver band" in the vicinity of 136 kHz, but some US amateur licensees have obtained FCC Part 5 Experimental licenses to research the possibilities of LF, including transatlantic and transpacific propagation. Amateur Radio licensees in Europe and elsewhere already have access to 135.7 to 137.8 kHz, and several hams in Canada have authorization to operate there using Amateur Radio call signs.

LONG-DISTANCE CW QSO MARKS MILESTONE IN LF EXPERIMENTATION

Steve McDonald, VE7SL, and J Allen, VY1JA, are claiming the first long-distance, low-frequency aural CW contact between two Canadian amateurs. The QSO in the vicinity of 136 kHz (2200 meters) between VY1JA in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory (CP20) and VE7SL on Mayne Island, British Columbia (CN88) took place Friday, September 9, at 0705 UTC. The distance between the two stations is approximately 1000 miles. "It was nice not having to rely on computers or QRSS [very slow-speed CW] mode to be able to work each other," McDonald said. "Copy was 100 percent at

both ends with little fading." VY1JA was running 200 W to a 100-foot top-loaded tower, resonated at 137 KHz, while VE7SL was running 450 W to a 65-foot wire vertical and three wire top-hat. While Canada has not yet allocated an Amateur Radio LF band, Industry Canada has authorized several Canadian hams to experiment in the vicinity of 136 kHz. "LF experimental work by Canadian amateurs continues to demonstrate the suitability of 2200 meters for reliable two-way communications with simple homemade equipment and without causing interference to primary users of the band," McDonald concluded. For more information on 2200 meter activity in Canada, visit The VE7SL Radio Notebook <<http://imagenisp.com/jsm/136.html>>.

From *The ARRL Letter*, September 29, 2006

ARRL 500 kHz EXPERIMENT IN ORGANIZATIONAL PHASE

The project manager for the ARRL 500-kHz experiment, Fritz Raab, W1FR, says The 500 KC Experimental Group for Amateur Radio is still in the organizational stages but has already recorded its first two-way contact. The FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology on September 13 granted Part 5 experimental license WD2XSH to the ARRL on behalf of a group of radio amateurs interested in investigating the LF spectrum. The two-year authorization permits experimentation and research between 505 and 510 kHz (600 meters) using narrowband modes at power levels of up to 20 W effective radiated power (ERP).

"It will probably be a free for all through October as guys get their stations on the air," Raab told ARRL Headquarters. "The Midwest stations will be limited to 505 to 508 kHz for the time being, and the rest can use 505 to 510 kHz." He said a couple of the WD2XSH participants got on the air the day after the license was issued, and several others activated the first week, generating a number of reception reports.

"Many are for distances of about 300 miles, of course, but some are much longer," Raab told ARRL Headquarters. He reports that W0RPK in Iowa copied the WD2XSH/20 station in Oregon early on September 26 - a distance of 1500 miles.

The first QSO took place September 21 between the stations in Tennessee and North Carolina - a distance of some 300 miles.

Raab eventually would like to see at least a secondary 600-meter Amateur Radio allocation from 495 to 510 kHz. He envisions eventual use of the spectrum to provide Amateur Radio emergency communication via groundwave.

Announcement of the license grant earlier this month brought a few requests from radio amateurs interested in joining the experimental group. Raab says there are no plans to expand the group's membership, however. He does invite reception reports of transmissions made by group members <<http://w5jgv.com/500kcreportform.htm>>.

For the time being, the WD2XSH group is only using CW. The ARRL Part 5 application had requested permission to use both CW and PSK31, but the license grant omitted the latter mode. Raab says he's working to secure permission to add PSK31 to the grant.

During October, the 21-station experimental group will develop a band plan that assigns frequencies for QRSS—very slow speed CW—as well as for CW beacons and for two-way communication, Raab said. WD2XSH participant Conrad Murray, WS4S (WD2XSH/11) reports he's transmitting a QRSS beacon on an irregular basis on 505.505 kHz from his Tennessee QTH.

News of the WD2XSH license grant opened another line of communication for Raab. "The announcement brought me a bunch of e-mails, and contact with someone I knew from college and hadn't seen since the 1970s," he said.

More information is on the 500 kc Experimental Group for Amateur Radio Web site <<http://www.500kc.com/>>.

Picnic 2006

The annual SCCARA picnic was at Mary Gomez Park in Santa Clara on September 23. Gwen and Lou Steirer and Clark Murphy arrived early (~0500) to reserve the space, and the majority of the gang arrived around 1000. The last of the group departed around 1900.

The picnic area soon started to look like a field day site. We had 5 stations on the air at various times, all on emergency power. Band conditions were marginal, but contacts were made with Wisconsin, Texas, New Hampshire, Japan, Argentina, Finland, Russia, the Galapagos Islands, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Hawaii, other USA states, and last but not least, south San Jose!

The antenna farm consisted of a tri-band Spider Beam, a 4-band vertical, a 7-element 2-meter beam, a 6-meter to 70 cm discone, a 10/15/20 meter fan dipole, a 40-meter conventional dipole, and a visiting Buddipole.

The hit of the day was the home built Spider Beam antenna that Ned (AC6YY) brought. It's a full size antenna for 20/15/10 meters assembled from 4 telescoping fiberglass poles which hold interlaced wire Yagi antennas with 3 elements on 20 meters and 15 meters and 4 elements on 10 meters. Its claim to fame is portability - it's about 33 feet across (square) when fully deployed but breaks down to something that would fit in a golf bag and weighs just 12 pounds.

We had several visitors and two inquiries about joining SCCARA. Two of the players on the adjacent tennis court also turned out to be hams.

Don Steinbach





December meeting

Our annual Christmas meeting will be a luncheon on Saturday December 16 at 12:00 noon. This year our luncheon will be at the BOLD KNIGHT RESTAURANT, 1600 S. Monterey Hwy San Jose, just south of Alma ave (Southern Lumber Co.).

This Year we will be having a gift exchange. The way it works is that everyone brings a wrapped gift suitable for a man or woman costing about \$10.00. This type of gift exchange is always a lot of fun to participate in.

Reservations need to be in by Friday Dec. 8 (see sign-up sheet). Talk-in will be on our repeater, W6UU, 146.985 - (simplex if you can't hit the repeater). Why not renew your membership at the same time?

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there!

73, Don K6PBQ

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Sept. 11, 2006



Meeting began at 7:30 PM. Fred Townsend was officiating as Clark Murphy was on vacation.

Members present: 20; Visitors present: Raj Palani; Anihuddha Rajesh

SECRETARY: I didn't get the minutes of the August meeting into Gary in time to get it printed into the SCCARA-GRAM. W6IO, Leonard Scarpelli is a silent key. He died about a week ago. He was instrumental in RACES. He was also known as "mr. Color TV".

SPEAKER: Fred Townsend. Subject: "Lightning and antenna grounding", a 45 minute presentation.

BREAK: 8:25PM for 10 minutes

The topic continued with a talk on lightning arresters. Antenna grounding. VHF and UHF antennas are almost always grounded. Use #12 wire for grounding antennas.
WEBSITE: www.lightningsafety.com.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:20 PM.

Board Meeting, Sept. 18, 2006



Meeting Began: 7:45 PM, after the net.

Members present: Clark Murphy, President, KE6KXO; Gwen Stierer, KF6OTD; Barbara K. Britten, Secretary, KD6QEI; John Parks, W6JPP; Don Steinbach, Treasurer/Director, AE6PM; Jim Tyranski, KD6UDW; Wally Britten, Director, KA6YMD; Ned Tuffecki, KC6YY; Lou Stierer, Director, KA6QYS; Gary Mitchell, Newsletter, WB6YRU; Don Village, Director, K6PBQ; Andy Stoddard, KI6DSN; Don Apte, Director, KK6MX.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Secretary:

Minutes of August and September, plus the Board minutes of September will be sent to Gary Mitchell in time for printing in the October SCCARAGRAM.

Treasurer:

He passed out an accounting report (1/1/03 to 9/18/06) of where our Money is being spent. The Union Bank charges \$1.00 to count any cash and change we give them. Don Steinbach wanted to acknowledge the efforts of Robert Forester, for the hours he spent a few years ago, updating our accounts.

Repeater:

The person, who was going to give us Internet access, has left town.

Club Station:

The Club Station will be open on Saturday 9/30/06 from 10AM to 4PM. Amtech Day is Saturday, October 7, from? to ?. Hope many of our club members can attend these activities.

BBS:

There has been no report from the wireless people. Gary will send them an e-mail and offer an IP. The BBS has been working just fine.

Newsletter:

Don Village, K6PBQ, sent an article to Gary to be printed in the next SCCARA-GRAM. Don will have more articles in the future, ie, JOTA.

OLD BUSINESS

Temporary:

John Parks brought up the subject of a year round park permit, with the county. The cost would be \$100.00. We would still have to pay any camping fees. This would give us access to any county park. He recommended we get the permit. A discussion ensued questioning the need for this permit in relation to our yearly trip to Mt. Madonna. Clark asked John to get more details before any decisions are made. Voting on the subject was tabled until next month.

Picnic:

The picnic will be held at Mary Gomez Park at the corner of San Tomas and Forbes. It will go from 10:00 AM to sometime in the afternoon. Ned will bring a Spider beam, and radio that will compete with a 6 other different antenna designs. There will be food, snacks, bingo, conversation and fun. Bring a dish to share, and your entr e to cook on the BBQ. SCCARA will provide plates, utensils, napkins, sodas and charcoal. It promises to be a great picnic.

2-Meter Radio:

The mobile 2-meter radio will go to a youth organization, like as high school radio club, or a scout troop. A man from India donated the radio to SCCARA because it would take too much red tape and money to get it back into India.

Operation of Club Radio Station:

We need to go on the roof of the Red Cross building to check the antenna. Lou asked Wally to check his schedule to find out when he is available. Wally is the only one who has permission to go on the roof. The vertical antenna works good. We may need to replace cable/coax. Raising the antenna would give us less noise from Red Cross equipment. The antenna is on a push-up mast.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Saratoga Radio Club:

The Saratoga Radio Club wants to use our repeater to cover their

parade on Sunday, September 24. Don Village motioned to give the Saratoga Club the use of the repeater, and seconded by Lou Steirer. Motion carried, unanimously.

November Elections:

October is the month for nominations of candidates for the November elections. The current secretary, Barbara Britten, has asked to be replaced. Clark added, that we need new blood.

The Collins Radio:

The Collins radio is going to be sold. The amplifier has already been sold and the money is in the bank. It was suggested that we sell the radio several ways: on E-BAY or at a booth at the upcoming Pacificon. The starting bid will be \$2900.00. If sold on E-Bay the time limit will be two weeks in cash, U.S. currency, with local area pick-up. Pacificon has a Club table that allows clubs to display an item for sale for free. Don Apte to spearhead the project,

SVECS Breakfast:

The next breakfast is scheduled for October 28 at the VFW hall in Santa Clara. The speaker will be Tom Crawford. His topic will be the emergency plans of PG and E.

Pacificon:

The dates for this years Pacificon are Friday, 10/13 through Sunday, 10/15. It will be held in San Ramon.

Motion to adjourn made by Wally Britten, seconded by Don Stienbach. Meeting closed at 9:20 PM

Submitted by Barbara K. Britten, Secretary

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

Annual December Meeting

Our annual December meeting will be a luncheon on Saturday December 16, at the Bold Knight restaurant - 1600 S. Monterey Hwy. San Jose. We will have a choice of three entrees, \$20.00 each. Reservations need to be in by Friday, December 8.

Talk-in on our W6UU, 146.985-(simplex if you can't hit the repeater). I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there. Why not renew your membership (back cover) at the same time? See December Meeting article for information on the gift exchange.

-Don K6PBQ

For the annual meeting in December, sign me up for the following lunch(es):

_____ Bold Knight Steak _____ Lemon Chicken Piccata _____ Filet of Salmon

Name: _____ Call: _____

Give this form (or copy) with payment to the Treasurer or Mail to:
SCCARA PO Box 6 San Jose CA 95103-0006



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.