

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 22, Number 12

December 2006



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

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter* November 3, 2006

LEAGUE SEEKS FCC'S WRC-07 SUPPORT FOR 150-KHZ 60-METER AMATEUR ALLOCATION

The ARRL wants the FCC to throw its support behind a Draft Proposal seeking to have World Radiocommunication Conference 2007 (WRC-07) delegates consider a worldwide, secondary Amateur Radio allocation from 5260 kHz to 5410 kHz. The ARRL included the request in comments <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/WRC07/WRC-07-Comments-10-27-06.pdf>> it filed October 27 in IB Docket 04-286, "Recommendations approved by the Advisory Committee for the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference." WRC-07 Agenda Item 1.13 will review allocations to all services between 4 and 10 MHz. The League told the FCC that a contiguous band of frequencies in the range of 5 MHz is an important goal of the amateur community -- domestically and internationally.

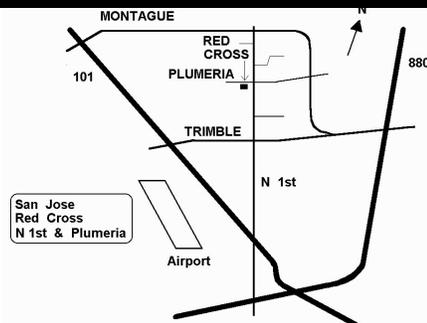
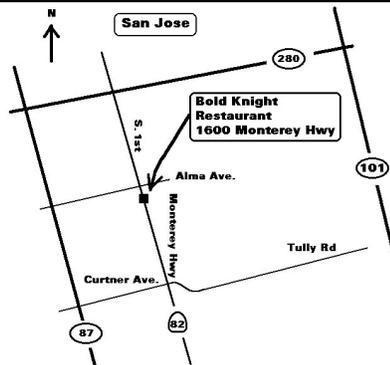
"There are times when the propagation at 5 MHz bridges a significant gap between the Maximum Usable Frequency (MUF) when the MUF is below 7 MHz, but the Lowest Usable Frequency (LUF) is above the next lower Amateur Radio allocation at around 3.8 MHz," the League said, citing the Draft Proposal. "For reliable communications, an Amateur allocation in the vicinity of 5 MHz is the solution."

Calendar

- 12/16 SCCARA General Meeting--luncheon
- 12/18 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 1/8 SCCARA General Meeting
- 1/15 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting:

Day: Saturday, Dec. 16, 2006
Time: 12 noon
Place: Bold Knight 1600 Monterey Hwy
Featuring: Luncheon



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

President	Clark Murphy, KE6KXO	262-9334
	e-mail: clarkmurph@yahoo.com	
Vice President	Fred Townsend, AE6QL	263-8768
	e-mail: fred@dcctolight.net	
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	e-mail: dlsteinbach@comcast.net	
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	e-mail: donvillage7@yahoo.com	
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	e-mail: ae6pm@arrl.net	
Director	Don Apte, KK6MX	629-0725
	e-mail: aptekk@aol.com	
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	e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net	
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	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	

COMMITTEES

Repeater	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
	e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.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

Originating with ARRL, the Draft Proposal from Informal Working Group 4 (IWG-4) follows up on disaster relief-related changes to Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations made at WRC-03.

"The amateur services provide emergency communications on a local, national and international basis as an adjunct to normal communications, and in many cases provide the first information about disasters and serve as the only communications link when communications infrastructures are destroyed," the IWG-4 Draft Proposal background information notes.

Several countries -- including the US, Canada, Finland, Iceland, Norway and the UK -- already have permitted Amateur Radio operation on spectrum between 5250 and 5450 kHz, the ARRL said, citing the Draft Proposal. "It notes that there is a successful history of amateur secondary use of bands in which incumbent primary users are present," the ARRL said, mentioning 30 meters as one example. The ARRL said the five 60-meter channels have been in regular use by US radio amateurs since 2003 "without any instances of interference reported by primary users."

The League took issue with remarks contained in the ITU Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) draft report with respect to Agenda Item 1.13 that suggest otherwise. Among "disadvantages," the Draft CPM Report asserts, an allocation such as the League suggests "would increase congestion and potential interference to fixed and mobile services at 5 MHz." It argues that compatibility between amateur and fixed service systems in the vicinity of 5 MHz "has not been shown" and a decision to create an Amateur Service allocation there "could seriously affect reliable 24 hours [sic] communication capabilities of the fixed and mobile services." The Draft CPM Report also takes note of the advantages to the Amateur Service of such an allocation.

The proposed allocation is "well within the scope of existing resolutions from WRC-03," the League said. It reiterated that amateur use of the five current 60-meter channels "has not resulted in any apparent compromise in the use of the band" on the part of primary Fixed and Mobile services. "To the contrary, that use has demonstrated compatibility with primary users over a reasonable period of time," the ARRL said.

The ARRL's request in its IB Docket 04-286 comments is unrelated to the League's October 10 Petition for Rule Making (PRM) <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/5MHz/5-MHz-Improvement-Petition-09-2006.pdf>>, in which the ARRL asked the FCC to expand operating privileges on 60 meters and to swap one existing channel for a new one.

While the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has indicated it's okay with the ARRL's October 10 petition request, it also said it could not support a request for a 50 kHz-wide domestic secondary allocation. The NTIA oversees spectrum allocated to federal government users, which includes the present 60 meter allocation.

Both the FCC and the NTIA provide input toward positions the US delegation ultimately will take on various WRC-07 issues. Should WRC-07 delegates eventually consider and agree to the international allocation at 5 MHz that ARRL proposes, it still would be up to the FCC -- in conjunction with the NTIA -- whether to authorize such a band for US radio amateurs.

FCC INVITES COMMENTS ON TWO AMATEUR RADIO RULE MAKING PETITIONS

The FCC has invited comments on two Amateur Radio-related

petitions for rule making. Both petitioners seek changes in the FCC's Part 97 Amateur Service station identification rules, specifically §97.119(a). That rule now requires stations to identify "at the end of each communication, and at least every ten minutes during a communication . . ."

RM-11346, filed December 9, 2005, by Murray Green, K3BEQ, would raise the required ID interval to 30 minutes as well as at the end of each communication. Green argues in his petition that while he has no problem with the Commission's requirement that Amateur Radio stations identify, "less frequent identification should not hinder the Commission's enforcement of Amateur Radio regulations, as demonstrated by the station identification requirements for other radio services." He suggests the current 10-minute requirement is a result of "an abundance of caution" on the FCC's part.

A second petition, RM-11347, filed May 19, 2006, by Glen Zook, K9STH, would revise §97.119(a) to more closely resemble the old FCC §12.82(a) Transmission of call signs rule. The FCC's Amateur Radio Service rules were under Part 12 prior to a revision that put them under Part 97.

In what he calls "a minor but important change," Zook proposes requiring radio amateurs to transmit the call sign(s) of stations with which they are in communication plus their own call sign at the start and end of each single transmission or of a series of transmissions between stations in communication "each transmission of which is of less than three minutes' duration" (operators could omit the ID at the end when the entire series is less than three minutes), at least every 10 minutes during a series of transmissions between stations in communication, and at least every 10 minutes during any single transmission more than 10 minutes long.

"Unfortunately, too many Amateur Radio operators, especially when using FM repeaters, do not identify during their first transmission," Zook asserts in his petitions. "In fact, a considerable number of these operators never seem to get around to identifying even after 10 minutes of operation and a 'fair' number never seem to get around to giving their call sign at all."

Zook believes his suggested changes will "clarify the existing regulations and to help eliminate problems with station identification in the Amateur Radio Service" and actually legalize some commonplace on-air station identification behavior.

Comments on these petitions are due by November 29. Interested parties may file using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). In the "Proceeding" field, commenter should enter the full petition identifier with "RM" in capital letters followed by the hyphen and the five digit number.

From *The ARRL Letter* November 17, 2006

AMATEUR RADIO "OMNIBUS" RULES CHANGES TO GO INTO EFFECT DECEMBER 15

A little over a month after the Federal Communications Commission released the Report and Order (R&O) in the so-called "Omnibus" Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140 (FCC 06-149) to the public, a revised version appeared November 15 in the Federal Register <<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/pdf/E6-19189.pdf>>. The changes in the R&O will take effect Friday, December 15, at 12:01 AM EST, 30 days after its publication.

As expected, the Report & Order clarified two items that had

raised some concerns when it was first released last month: That the 80/75 meter band split applies to all three IARU Regions, and that FCC licensees in Region 2, which includes North America, can continue to use RTTY/data emissions in the 7.075-7.100 MHz band.

Still to be resolved are three controversial aspects of the Proceeding:

- * Expansion of the 75 meter phone band all the way down to 3600 kHz (thus reducing the privileges of General, Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees, who had RTTY/data privileges in the 80 meter band, and CW privileges of General and Advanced class licensees)

- * The elimination of J2D emissions, data sent by modulating an SSB transmitter, of more than 500 Hz bandwidth. This will make PACTOR III at full capability illegal. Other digital modes effectively rendered illegal below 30 MHz include Olivia and MT63 (when operated at bandwidths greater than 500 Hz), 1200-baud packet, Q15X25 and Clover 2000.

- * The elimination of access to the automatic control RTTY/data subband at 3620-3635 kHz.

The ARRL Board is discussing the possibility of a petition to reconsider several items in the R&O.

ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, commented: "The release of the R&O in the Federal Register has started the countdown clock. We are all looking forward to being able to use the refarmed frequencies starting on December 15. We are still anxiously awaiting the release of the Report and Order for 05-235, the Morse Code Proceeding. We are hopeful that the Commission will be able to move on that petition and address the outstanding issues in the Omnibus R&O soon."

For more information, see the band chart <http://www2.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt04-140/Hambands_3_color.pdf> and the Frequently Asked Questions on WT Docket No. 04-140 <<http://www2.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt04-140/faq.html>>. Both have been updated to reflect the R&O as it was published in the Federal Register.

BROADCASTERS INTERVENE TO SUPPORT ARRL IN BPL COURT APPEAL

The Association for Maximum Service Television (MSTV) and the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) have filed a joint motion for leave to intervene in support of the ARRL in its court appeal of the Federal Communications Commission's Broadband over Power Line (BPL) rules.

The motion to the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit is dated November 9 and states: "MSTV and NAB believe that the regulations under review are arbitrary, capricious, and contrary to law, and will adversely impact their members by, among other things, permitting unlicensed users of radio spectrum to interfere with licensed uses of the spectrum."

MSTV and NAB are entitled to intervene as a matter of right, so the Court is expected to grant the motion. As expected, some BPL proponents are seeking to intervene on the side of the FCC.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, welcomed the support of MSTV and NAB. "It is gratifying that these two prestigious broadcasting organizations recognize the danger posed to all FCC licensees by the FCC's flawed BPL rules. It's good to have them on our side."

FCC CORRECTS J2D ERROR IN "OMNIBUS" REPORT AND ORDER

The FCC this week released an Erratum that corrects one error in the recent Report and Order (R&O) in WT Docket 04-140 -- the so-called "omnibus" Amateur Radio proceeding. As originally worded, §97.3(c)(2) inadvertently limited J2D emissions to an occupied bandwidth of 500 Hz. J2D emissions are data sent by modulating an SSB transmitter.

Had it been left to stand, the error would have rendered illegal below 30 MHz PACTOR III at full capability as well as Olivia and MT63 when operated at bandwidths greater than 500 Hz bandwidth, 1200 baud packet, Q15X25 and Clover 2000.

The FCC Erratum <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-268642A1.pdf> revises §97.3(c)(2) of the Amateur Service rules going into effect December 15 to read:

"Data, Telemetry, telecommand and computer communications emissions having (i) designators with A, C, D, F, G, H, J or R as the first symbol, I as the second symbol, and D as the third symbol; (ii) emission J2D; and (iii) emissions A1C, F1C, F2C, J2C, and J3C having an occupied bandwidth of 500 Hz or less when transmitted on an amateur service frequency below 30 MHz. Only a digital code of a type specifically authorized in this part may be transmitted."

In its comments on the proceeding, the ARRL argued that a 500-Hz bandwidth limitation in the definition of data emissions would have unintended consequences because the limitation would also apply to Amateur Radio bands where a higher bandwidth is allowed. In its R&O, the FCC said relaxing the bandwidth limitation "would de facto eliminate the separation of narrow bandwidth and wide bandwidth emissions," which it called an "reasonable means to minimize interference on shared frequencies and bands."

The Commission said in the running text of the R&O that it would address the League's concern by revising the Part 97 rules "to clarify that the 500 Hz limitation applies only to the emission types we are adding to the definition of data when transmitted on Amateur Service frequencies below 30 MHz." Unfortunately, the language of the intended revision that appeared in the original version of the R&O inadvertently included J2D emissions among those to which the 500-Hz bandwidth limitation would apply.

The FCC incorporated some unrelated editorial revisions in the version of the R&O that appeared November 15 in the Federal Register <<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/pdf/E6-19189.pdf>>. The "omnibus" rule changes -- including those accounted for in the Federal Register and the Erratum -- take effect Friday, December 15, at 12:01 AM EST (0501 UTC).

For Sale

Electronic goodies for hobbyist: resistors, diodes, transistors, transformers, wire, pc boards, etc. etc. etc.

contact John w6jpp@arrl.net

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Nov. 13, 2006



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

Board Meeting, Nov. 20, 2006



Meeting called to order 7:35 PM President Clark Murphy presiding.

Members present:

Clark Murphy KE6KXO; Fred Townsend AE6QL; Don Steinbeck AE6PM; Don Apte KK6MX; Don Village K6PBQ; Lou Steirer WA6QYS; Wally Britten KA6YMD. Visiting members: Gary Mitchell WB6YRU; Gwen Steirer KF6OTD ; Jim Tyranski KD6UDW; John Parks W6JPP; Michael Aronoff WB6TOW.

++ Treasurer Don S reports: the KWM-380 has been posted on EBAY reserve minimum set & buy now amount set. All Bank accounts reconcile, Storage paid thru 12/06, P.O.Box paid to June, \$5.00 renewal for Tower Trailer license paid, Insurance paid thru 2007 due date.

++ Motion made seconded & passed to contribute \$100 to QSL.Net for hosting our website \$50 each for 2006 & 2007.

++ Gary M reports on BBS that 1 east bay node we serve is becoming unreliable.

++ The MOU for SJ RACES relative to our repeater use & support needs review & proposed review for modifications.

++ The 440 replacement repeater is progressing and the S-Meter board is being developed.

++ We urgently need to find a new storage site for the Tower Trailer, as the current site has been sold.

++ Storage / Shelter boxes for SCCARA equipment & records are being constructed at Clark's. \$126 materials allowance approved.

++ It is planned to vacate the storage locker ASAP due to excessive costs.

++ SCCARA has received a "new" salvage laptop through the efforts of Bob N6PCQ.

++ Motion made, seconded & passed to pay for Meal of the SCCARA holiday party guest of honor.

++ Holiday Party 12/16/2006 Noon will be at Bold Knight South first St San Jose.

++ Don V given approval to register for Field Day site Mt Madonna for 6/22 noon, thru 6/ 24 noon.

++ SCCARA Board Meeting 12/18/2006 at Red Cross.

Lou S & Clark M are clearing meeting site at Kaiser for 2007. Kaiser has changed policy and use must be requested quarterly instead of annually.

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,
(408) 225-6769, e-mail: kd6fji@arrl.net

KK6MX, Don Apte, (408) 629-0725
e-mail: kk6mx@aol.com
K6PBQ, Don Village, (408) 263-2789
KB6NP, Jon Dutra, day & msg (408) 428-2058

evening (408) 867-8654
packet: home BBS N0ARY
e-mail: jad@aol.com

WA6QYS, Lou Steirer, (408) 241-7999
packet: home BBS N0ARY

WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, msg (408) 265-2336
also (408) 269-2924
packet: home BBS N0ARY
e-mail: wb6yru@aenet.net

Newsletter Notes

👉 Correction 👈

In the last issue, (Nov. 2006), the article about elections by Don Steinbach AE6PM contained the following statement:

The Officers are elected for a period of one year, except the STATION TRUSTEE, who serves for an indefinite period.

That is not correct, the Station Trustee serves the same one-year term as all other officers. As Editor, I should have caught that. At least I did catch one other error, but missed this one.

The problem evidently was that the author was using a copy of my suggested revised bylaws that I had worked on some 12 years ago, not our actual bylaws. (Nothing became of my revision at that time because, after a long and heated "discussion," the board voted to cease all activity related to by-laws.)

Those who were at the November meeting may recall some confusion during the election. That was due to the same problem—some were using those suggested revised bylaws, not our actual bylaws. Why *my* work was in the files, but not our current bylaws is anyone's guess.

Sorry about the confusion. I took the liberty of printing out our actual bylaws and handed them out at the last board meeting. So hopefully this won't happen again. If anyone else would like a copy, just let me know.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor, publisher

Annual December Meeting

Our annual December meeting will be a luncheon on Saturday December 16, at the Bold Knight restaurant - 1600 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.