

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 23, Number 5

May 2007



President's Prose

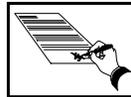
The opportunity to represent SCCARA at a meeting held by NARCC was one I both looked forward to and dreaded. NARCC the organization run by ham radio repeater owners is responsible for repeater coordination for California. Since the club owns two repeaters 2m / 70cm we have a vested interest in pending changes that will impact our 440 repeater operations.

The 440 repeater band within 140 miles of Beal Air Force Base CA is threatened with shut down because of interference with PAVE PAWS phased array radar system. See the ARRL web-site for details. At this point NARCC cannot make any decisions or recommendations until the FCC and ARRL have finished their assessments. What NARCC does know is that what ever happens will be decided on the east coast first with another Air Force radar system before action can be taken here.

As of last report 105 repeaters may be required to stop operations. We hope it will not come to this and some mitigation can be worked out between the Air Force and the Hams since we all depend on the repeater systems for emergency communications.

Thanks to Wally Britten for allowing me this opportunity to join fellow Hams in these vary important NARCC proceedings.

73, Jim Tyranski, KG6UDW



SCCARA supports the MS WALK

On behalf of the MS Society and Joan and I we would like to thank the following SCCARA members for providing vital radio communication for the MS walk on Sat. April 21,2007 at Vasona Park in Los Gatos. Wally KA6YMD, John KI6ANW, and LLoyd KD6FJI for net control. Mike KB6LCJ for rest stop #1. John W6JPP for rest stop #2. Don K6PBQ for rest stop #3. and Tom KF6NEW for our bike mobile. Thanks again for a great job and service for the MS walk.

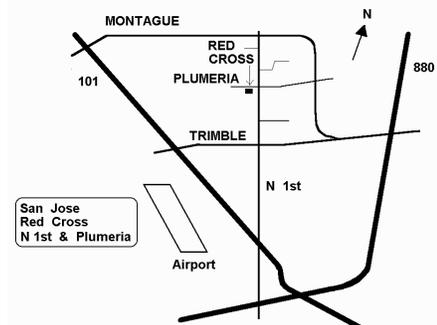
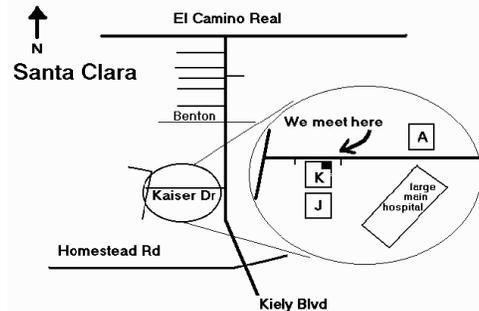
73 Don Village K6PBQ

Calendar

- 5/12 Electronic Flea Market (DeAnza)
- 5/14 SCCARA General Meeting
- 5/21 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 6/11 SCCARA General Meeting--Field Day

General Meeting

Day: Monday, May 14, 2007
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Bld K, Rm 1
Featuring: {to be announced}



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

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

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

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

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	e-mail: 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

New Members

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

Robert Schwimmer, N3FAW
Gregg Lane, KF6FNA
Matthew Root, KI6HKH
Elijah Hawk, K6HWK
Bryan Wyman, N6IZP
Duane Sand, KG6OQZ
Christina Sand, KG6ORH
James Wilson, K6WRJ
Douglas Pietrok, KG6ZKP

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

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 6, 2007

DXING ON 60 METERS HAS DOWNSIDE, ARRL NOTES

The ARRL is expressing concern that negative consequences could result from chasing DX on 60 meters. Some DXpeditions have announced plans to operate on Amateur Radio's only channelized band, where amateur operations hold secondary status to fixed service operations, including some US government stations. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, says that while it's legal for DXpeditions to operate on the 5-MHz band provided the licensing administration extends privileges there, DX pileups on 60 meters pose the potential for real and unique problems.

"US amateurs are limited to five channels on 60 meters, USB only, maximum effective radiated power (ERP) of 50 W, audio bandwidth not exceeding 2.8 kHz, and not all of the channels are useable because of ongoing fixed service operation," Sumner points out. "It is absolutely imperative that any amateur transmitting on a 60 meter channel be prepared to relinquish the channel immediately upon being requested to do so" by a primary service user.

Among other things, Sumner says, this means constantly monitoring the transmitting channel, thus ruling out any split-frequency operation while using a single-channel receiver.

The Swains Island N8S DXpedition, just under way, announced plans on its Web site to operate SSB on the 60-meter frequency of 5.4035 MHz, although that band was not among those on an updated frequency list released this week. While Sumner said he wasn't singling out the N8S operation, working into the South Pacific on 5 MHz running just 50 W ERP on phone would be a challenge under the best of circumstances.

"Amateurs must resist the temptation to exceed the radiated power limit," Sumner stressed.

He also warned amateurs in countries that do not authorize amateur operation on 60 meters to resist the temptation to make contacts on

the band. Radio amateurs transmitting on a 5 MHz frequency without authorization, Sumner asserts, not only are breaking the law but are putting their continued participation in the ARRL DXCC program in jeopardy.

"Anyone who submits a 5 MHz confirmation for DXCC credit may be asked to provide evidence that their operation on that frequency was authorized," he said.

Even countries that authorize operation on 60 meters impose the express condition Amateur Radio stations not cause harmful interference to fixed and mobile service stations.

"Should such interference occur and not be immediately corrected, it will place in jeopardy our existing limited privileges, our chances of increasing those privileges on a domestic basis, and any chance we might have of ever obtaining an international allocation," Sumner emphasized.

Last fall, the ARRL asked the FCC to expand 60 meter operating privileges and substitute a new channel for one that's often occupied by a federal government user. The League filed a Petition for Rule Making (PRM) October 10. The petition said amateurs have proven, through interference-free operation on the five channels, that compatible sharing of the channels is possible.

The League wants the FCC to authorize radio amateurs of General and higher class to run 100 W ERP and to allow Morse code and data communication. It also asks the Commission to replace the 5368.0 kHz center-frequency channel with 5358.5 kHz, so amateurs can avoid federal government digital traffic on the current channel.

If the FCC goes along with the ARRL's suggested changes, operation on 60 meters would remain on a secondary basis, and radio amateurs would still have to avoid interfering with incumbent federal government and other services.

In an unrelated move, the ARRL has supported efforts to have World Radiocommunication Conference 2007 (WRC-07) establish a worldwide secondary amateur allocation of 5.260 to 5.410 MHz. A participating national administration must formally propose the change for it to be considered this fall at WRC-07.

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 13, 2007

FCC INVITES "OPPOSITIONS" ON TWO "MORSE PROCEEDING" RECONSIDERATION PETITIONS

The FCC has invited opposition comments ("oppositions") to two petitions for reconsideration filed in the wake of the Commission's Report & Order (R&O) in WT Docket 05-235. That R&O altogether eliminated any Morse code examination element to obtain an Amateur Radio license. One petition calls on the FCC to reinstate the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for Amateur Extra class applicants. The second cites problems with the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) and seeks to have the Commission reopen the proceeding for an additional round of comments. Oppositions are due April 27 (comments in support of either petition are not welcome). Replies to oppositions - ie, comments on the opposition comments - are due 10 days later. Petitioner Anthony R. Gordon, KG6EQM, of West Covina, California, contends that "significant national security implications" require that the Commission take another look at the issue.

"As a federal government agency during the ongoing War on

Terrorism, it is only prudent that the critical skill of Morse code telegraphy be kept as a hedge against unanticipated national security events and for emergency communication requirements, even if the consensus view or technological trend is in the opposite direction at the present time," Gordon said in his petition, filed February 23. He characterized Morse code proficiency as a "core competency" of the Amateur Radio Service.

In its R&O last December 15, the FCC cast aside arguments that Morse ability was advantageous in emergency communication situations. "The Commission previously addressed the essence of this argument and concluded that most emergency communication today is performed using voice, data, or video techniques," the FCC said. Gordon asked the FCC to restore the Element 1 Morse code examination element for Amateur Extra class applicants.

In a second petition the FCC put on public notice earlier this month, Russell D. Ward, W4NI, of Nashville, Tennessee, argued that the FCC "improperly deleted and suppressed comments received by the e-mail system of the FCC, ECFS." Ward said the FCC was "arbitrarily deleting and suppressing public comments" on the basis of the sender's e-mail address - especially if it contained an Amateur Radio call sign - and charged that the Commission "is discriminating against radio amateurs."

As a result, he contends, the process of commenting on the FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 05-235 "was flawed," in part because the Commission did not have the advantage of all comments members of the public may have attempted in vain to post.

Ward's petition, filed February 12, asks the FCC to do one of four things: Stay WT Docket 05-235, fix the "flawed ECFS," reopen the proceeding for comment or reconsider the "after a valid comment period." The FCC received more than 3500 public comments in the Morse code proceeding.

Neither Gordon nor Ward addressed the issue of how the FCC should deal with licensees who qualified for Amateur Extra under the new "no-code" rules that became effective on February 23.

Both petitions are on the FCC Web site: Gordon's is at <http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6518808553>. Ward's is at <http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6518808784>.

Interested parties may file oppositions and replies on these petitions for reconsideration via the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>> and by serving a hard copy on the petitioner at his current mailing address. Comments supporting one petition or another are not welcome, however.

Instructions for filing electronic comments are on the ECFS page. Under "ECFS Main Links," click on "Submit a Filing" and type "05-235" (without the quotation marks) in the "Proceeding" field, being sure to include the hyphen.

All statements must be specific to one or more arguments in the reconsideration petition with which the person filing disagrees. They should not simply say, "I oppose this petition." Only individuals who have filed oppositions may file replies to oppositions.

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 20, 2007

ARRL AIDING EFFORT TO MITIGATE REPEATER

INTERFERENCE TO MILITARY RADARS

The ARRL has been working with the US Department of Defense to develop a plan to mitigate alleged interference from 70 cm ham radio repeaters to military radar systems on both coasts. Amateur Radio is secondary to government users from 420 to 450 MHz and must not interfere with primary users. Citing an increasing number of interference complaints, the US Air Force has asked the FCC to order dozens of repeater systems to either mitigate interference to the "PAVE PAWS" radars or shut down. The Commission has not yet responded. The situation affects 15 repeaters in the vicinity of Otis Air Force Base on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and more than 100 repeaters within some 140 miles of Beale Air Force Base near Sacramento, California. ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, stresses that the Defense Department acknowledges Amateur Radio's value in disasters and emergencies and is being extremely cooperative and a wholesale shutdown of US 70 cm Amateur Radio activity is not in the offing.

"The ARRL Lab is working up calculations on each repeater system the Air Force has identified to determine where interference-mitigation techniques offer a reasonable chance of keeping the repeater on the air," Henderson says. "In order for the amateur community as a whole to succeed in this venture, it is going to require the cooperation of all affected repeater owners."

A US Air Force contractor identified the problematic repeater systems last summer, but the situation didn't become critical until the Air Force contacted the FCC a month ago. ARRL officials met with Defense Department representatives in late March to discuss alleged interference to the PAVE PAWS radar sites. This week Henderson contacted Amateur Radio frequency coordinating organizations in both affected areas -- the Northern Amateur Relay Council of California (NARCC) and the New England Spectrum Management Council (NESMC).

PAVE PAWS is a missile and satellite detection and tracking system, and its name is a half-acronym. "PAVE" is simply an Air Force program name. "PAWS" stands for "Phased Array Warning System." Although PAVE PAWS has been in existence since the late 1970s, the Cape Cod and Sacramento sites are the only remaining operational facilities in the US.

PAVE PAWS facilities occupy essentially the entire 70 cm band -- one factor that makes mitigation difficult. Feeding upward of 1800 active antenna elements, the broadband radar transmitters emit an average power output of more than 145 kW.

As a "first step" to mitigate the interference, the ARRL is recommending that all affected repeater owners reduce power -- possibly to as little as 5 W effective radiated power (ERP). "We understand the difficulty this may cause to owners and users," Henderson said, "but the alternative to operating with a smaller coverage area may be not operating at all." Amateur Radio stations already must abide by a maximum 50 W PEP power limitation in the areas around both Air Force facilities.

Henderson says the League is still seeking further information on the problem. "Until the Defense Department accepts a mitigation plan, repeater owners should exercise patience," he cautioned. "Once the ARRL Lab has completed its propagation calculations, we will be in a better position to provide advice for specific repeaters on a case-by-case basis."

Contact Dan Henderson, N1ND <n1nd@arrl.org> or 860-594-0236, with specific questions or issues associated with this situation.

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 27, 2007

ARRL WITHDRAWS "REGULATION BY BANDWIDTH"

PETITION, PLANS TO REFILE

The ARRL has withdrawn its controversial November 2005 Petition for Rule Making (RM-11306) <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/rm-11306/RM-11306-asFiled.pdf>> calling on the FCC to establish a regulatory regime to segment bands by necessary bandwidth rather than by emission mode. The League cited "widespread misconceptions" surrounding the petition as a primary reason for deciding to remove it from FCC consideration. The ARRL left open the option of refiling the same or a similar petition in the future, however.

"The withdrawal of the petition will permit a full discussion and consideration of options at the July 2007 meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors," said ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN. "The petition then can be recast with a better explanation of its scope and the reasons for the proposed changes."

The ARRL Executive Committee recommended withdrawing the petition when it met by teleconference April 10. The ARRL Board of Directors subsequently okayed the EC's recommendation by mail vote.

The ARRL Board continues to support the concept of regulation by maximum emission bandwidth as a way to facilitate the eventual transition from analog to digital communication modes. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, emphasized that the League seeks a regulatory framework that's "fully compatible with both narrowband and wideband analog emission modes now in common use" on the ham bands.

Sumner expressed the hope that a refiled regulation-by-bandwidth petition would "address -- and hopefully avoid -- widespread misconceptions" about RM-11306, either in its original form or as amended earlier this year. Irrespective of the present controversy over the petition's proposals, he pointed out, the League repeatedly sought comment on its regulation-by-bandwidth concepts before filing its petition with the FCC.

The ARRL first sounded out the Amateur Radio community regarding regulation-by-bandwidth three years ago. A September 2004 "It Seems to Us . . ." QST editorial "Regulation by Bandwidth" followed, explaining the concept and its rationale. Hundreds of subsequent comments from ARRL members and others "helped to bring the issues on which the amateur community was not in agreement into focus."

That led to a second editorial, "Narrowing the Bandwidth Issues," in April 2005 QST, soliciting additional comments on the plan's most contentious points. That drew hundreds more constructive and critical comments, and the ARRL took all input into account in developing a draft petition for the Board's consideration. The ARRL filed the petition in November 2005, and the FCC put it on public notice in January 2006.

In all, the amateur community has posted upward of 1000 comments on RM-11306. While some comments appropriately reflected concerns about the proposed substantial shift in regulatory philosophy, others tended to reflect a lack of understanding of existing rules, of the ARRL's proposals, or both. Some expressed the view that the League was attempting to promote or legitimize particular data modes, such as Winlink.

"The petition, in fact, had nothing specifically to do with Winlink or any other particular data mode," Sumner maintains. "It was, rather, a means of facilitating data experimentation, which is somewhat stifled under the current rules" that apply almost exclusively to analog modes.

A major distraction in the public debate related to automatically controlled data stations, and assertions that adopting the League's

petition would permit such facilities to run roughshod over CW and other traditional modes. Sumner says automatic control is not even an essential component of the League's regulation-by-bandwidth proposals, which would leave in place restrictions on automatically controlled stations.

Revisions to RM-11306 the ARRL filed earlier this year to accommodate changes in Part 97 that occurred since November 2005 only seemed to generate additional controversy and lead to further confusion, Sumner concedes. Those revisions would have largely confined regulation by bandwidth to the VHF and UHF bands.

One misunderstanding resulting from an unintentional editorial error in the League's revisions gave rise to concerns that the ARRL's proposed 3 kHz bandwidth limitation for data emissions represented an expansion of the currently permitted maximum bandwidth. Quite the contrary, Sumner explains.

"In fact, 3 kHz bandwidth would have been a new limitation, because the present baud rate limit applies to individual carriers," he said. "Therefore, for emissions such as OFDM [orthogonal frequency-division multiplexing], which use multiple carriers, there is no effective bandwidth limit in the HF bands now." Sumner notes that under current rules, a single OFDM signal could conceivably -- and legally -- occupy an entire HF band.

Harrison assured that the League intends to offer a "far better explanation" of the consequences of regulation by bandwidth before filing a new petition proposing that regulatory concept, "so that the misunderstandings that occurred with respect to RM-11306 do not happen again."

APPLICATION SURGE CONTINUES UNDER NEW AMATEUR RULES

It's been just a little more than two months since the FCC dropped the requirement that Amateur Radio applicants pass a Morse code test to earn operating privileges below 30 MHz. While the initial avalanche of applications immediately following February 23, when the no-Morse testing regime went into effect, has abated somewhat, business remains brisk for the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator staff.

"It's slowing down a little bit, but it's still substantially above what we usually see," observed ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. She estimated that new Amateur Radio applications were up by 35 percent, while upgrade applications were up by 150 percent over last year's volume.

In a typical pre-February 23 week, Somma said, ARRL VEC would receive paperwork from approximately 115 test sessions. "It's on the order of 150 to 200 sessions per week now!" she exclaimed. Somma and ARRL VEC staffers concurred that applications were roughly evenly split between newcomers and upgraders. She said she's also seen a spike in the number of applications from General and higher class radio amateurs to serve as volunteer examiners.

To satisfy his own curiosity, ARRL member Tommy Gober, N5DUX, compiled some FCC statistics on the number of new Technician, General and Extra licensees before and after the Morse code requirement was deleted. His numbers show the FCC issued nearly 700 more Amateur Extra, 3625 more General and 454 more Technician licenses in March 2007 than in the same month last year.

Figures from ARRL member and ham radio statistician Joe Speroni, AH0A, indicate the total number of Amateur Extra

licensees is up 1649 from March 2006 to March 2007, while the General population grew by 2668. The total number of Technician licensees dropped by 1632 during the same period, however -- and it continues to drop going into April.

Speroni's figures also show that the grand total of Amateur Radio station licenses has declined by more than 12,800 over the past two years -- to 655,048 at the end of March.

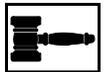
The still-heavy volume has stretched the amount of time it takes for an application to proceed from examination session to license grant. "I think we're looking at eight to ten days from the test date," Somma allowed. By and large, those on the waiting end have been patient and understanding, she added.

A staff of seven full-time and three part-time employees handle the "incoming" from Amateur Radio exam sessions across the US and from other sites where US Amateur Radio examinations are administered through ARRL VEC.

There's no light at the end of the tunnel just yet. Somma and her staff are looking ahead to 450 examination sessions registered for May, another 400 in June and 320 apiece during July and August. And summer is "the slow season," she remarked. Another 900 test sessions already are on the calendar for the rest of 2007.

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, April 9, 2007



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

Board Meeting, April 16, 2007



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

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the packet network:

=====
Date: 22 Jul 2004 06:52
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: HUMOR FOR TODAY 0722

Today's Joke

Barry woke up at home with a huge hangover. He forced himself to open his eyes, and the first thing he saw were a couple of aspirins and a glass of water on the side table.

He sat down and saw his clothing in front of him, all clean and pressed. Barry looked around the room and noticed that it was in a perfect order, spotless, clean. So was the rest of the house.

He took the aspirins and noticed a note on the table: "Honey, breakfast is on the stove, I left early to go shopping. Love you."

So he went to the kitchen and sure enough, a hot breakfast and the morning newspaper waited on the table. His son was also there, already eating.

Barry inquired, "Son, what happened last night?"

His son replied, "Well, you came home after 3 A.M., drunk and delirious. Broke some furniture, threw up in the hallway, and gave yourself a black eye when you stumbled into the door."

Confused, Barry asked, "So, why is everything in order and so clean, and breakfast is on the table waiting for me?"

His son responded, "Oh that! Mom dragged you to the bedroom, and when she tried to take your pants off you said, 'Lady, leave me alone, I'm married!'"

Daily Thoughts

"A stupid man's report of what a clever man says is never accurate because he unconsciously translates what he hears into something he can understand." – Bertrand Russell

If a man is standing in the middle of the forest speaking and there is no woman around to hear him– is he still wrong?

"Those who were seen dancing were thought to be insane by those who could not hear the music." – Friedrich Nietzsche

Last Laugh

"I'm ashamed of the way we live," a young wife said to her lazy husband who refused to find a job.

"My father pays our rent. My mother buys all of our food. My sister buys our clothes. My aunt bought us a car. I'm just so ashamed."

The husband rolled over on the couch. "You should be ashamed," he agreed, "Those two worthless brothers of yours never give us a cent."

=====
Date: 25 Jul 2004 04:51
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: HUMOR FOR TODAY 0725

Today's Joke

The top toothbrush salesman at the company was asked by his boss how he managed to sell so many brushes.

He replied, "It's easy!" and he pulled out his card table, setting his display of brushes on top.

He told his boss, "I lay the brushes out like this, and then I put out some potato chips and dip to draw in the customers." He laid out his chips and dip.

"That's a very innovative approach," his boss said, as he took one of the chips, dipped it, and stuck it in his mouth. "Yuck, this tastes terrible!"

The salesman replied "IT IS? Want to buy a toothbrush?"

Daily Thoughts

Hypochondriac's headstone epitaph: "See?!"

"If you wish to make an apple pie from scratch, you must first invent the universe." – Carl Sagan

"When I was a kid, I said to my father one afternoon, 'Daddy, will you take me to the zoo?' He answered, 'If the zoo wants you, let them come and get you.'" – Jerry Lewis,

Last Laugh

As the airliner was flying over Arizona on a clear day, the co-pilot was providing his passengers with a running commentary about landmarks over the PA system.

"Coming up on the right, you can see the Meteor Crater, which is a major tourist attraction in northern Arizona. It was formed when a lump of nickel and iron, roughly 150 feet in diameter and weighing 300,000 tons, struck the earth at about 40,000 miles an hour, scattering white-hot debris for miles in every direction. The hole measures nearly a mile across and is 570 feet deep."

From the cabin, a passenger was heard to exclaim, "Wow! It just missed the highway!"

=====
Date: 4 Jan 2005 16:23
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: HUMOR FOR TODAY 0104

Today's Joke

A woman goes to the local psychic in hopes of contacting her dearly departed grandmother. The psychic's eyelids begin fluttering, her voice begins warbling, her hands float up above the table, and she begins moaning. Eventually, a coherent voice emanates, saying, "Granddaughter? Are you there?"

The customer, wide-eyed and on the edge of her seat, responds, "Grandmother? Is that you?"

"Yes granddaughter, it's me."

"It's really, really you, grandmother?" the woman repeats.

"Yes, it's really me, granddaughter."

The woman looks puzzled, "You're sure it's you, grandmother?"

"Yes, granddaughter, I'm sure it's me."

The woman pauses a moment, "Grandmother, I have just one question for you."

"Anything, my child."

"Grandmother, when did you learn to speak English?"

Daily Thoughts

"A lawyer is someone willing to spend every cent you own to prove he's right."

"Before marriage, a man yearns for the woman he loves. After marriage, the 'y' becomes silent."

Reader's Story

A plumber was making conversation while awaiting the drainage of a pipe and revealed to me in the presence of my five-year-old grandson, Chad, that he'd been married 4 times, has 10 kids, and so many grand kids that he couldn't count 'em.

Without skipping a beat, Chad exclaimed, "You sure used up a lot of girls!"

Last Laugh

A Charlotte, NC, man, having purchased a case of very rare, very expensive cigars, insured them against fire (among other things). Within a month, having smoked his entire stockpile of cigars and without even having made his first premium payment on the policy, the man filed a claim against the insurance company. In his claim, the man stated the cigars were lost "in a series of small fires."

The insurance company refused to pay, citing the obvious reason that the man had consumed the cigars in the normal fashion. The man sued and won. In delivering the ruling the judge, agreeing that the claim was frivolous, stated nevertheless that the man held a policy from the company in which it had warranted that the cigars were insurable and also guaranteed that it would insure against fire, without defining what it considered to be "unacceptable fire," and was obligated to pay the claim.

Rather than endure a lengthy and costly appeal process the insurance company accepted the ruling and paid the man \$15,000 for the rare cigars he lost in "the fires". After the man cashed the check, however, the company had him arrested on 24 counts of arson. With his own insurance claim and using his testimony against him. The man was convicted of intentionally burning his insured property and sentenced to 24 months in jail and a \$24,000 fine.

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

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@ix.netcom.com

Newsletter Notes

Field Day is coming up in the latter part of June. Rumor has it that we'll go to Mt. Madonna again this year. Rumor also has it that all meals will be pot-luck.

Normally we would have information about our Field Day effort (and possibly a sign-up sheet) by the May issue of the *SCCARA-GRAM*; however, so far nothing has been submitted to the editor. It's possible some of the final details are still being worked out. So, keep your eyes open for all the details in the June issue.

In the mean time, I understand our Field Day Chairman this year will be John Parks, W6JPP <w6jpp@sbcglobal.net>. For any questions or if you'd like to help out, contact John. Also, the rules for Field Day 2007 appear to have some changes, see them at <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2007/fd.html>>.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor





SCCARA

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association
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 call only if renewing and no info has changed)

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

Address: _____ Licensed since (yr): _____

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

Telephone: () _____ New Member Renewal
 I'm also a member of the ARRL

E-mail: _____ Packet: _____

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)
For family memberships (at the same address), please include a separate form for each family member.

I want the newsletter by: U.S. Mail internet (make sure your e-mail address is legible and correct)

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