

# SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County  
Amateur Radio Association

Volume 23, Number 10

October 2007



## President's Prose

Presidents Prose:

Oct. 8 Election Committee: A panel of willing experienced and well-seasoned members will be appointed to be the Election Committee. The Group will review candidates and proposed a slate of candidates to the General Membership. Positions up for election include Club President and three Club Directors. Elections are held at the Nov. Club Meeting and installed at the December Club Dinner Meeting.

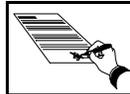
New 70cm Repeater Coming Soon: Currently on order from Kenwood subject to availability.

The Digital Frontier: DRMDV explains experimental software used by Hams with the release of WinDMR. A search on Google for DRMDV yielded a paper on Audio and Fast Data over HF SSB now available at: <http://n1su.com/drmdv/docs/1.0/> The free software caught my attention in a QST advertisement by West Mountain Radio in support of the Rig Blaster computer to radio interface to sound card interface. The website provides a wealth of good reading.

Your thoughts are welcome: Have you found a new Ham Radio web site or have you a project you have been working diligently on, antennas, radio restoration and have pictures. Let's talk, your club can always use project subjects that may interest others.

73 Jim T,

Your comments are welcomed: [kg6udw@arrl.net](mailto:kg6udw@arrl.net)



## CA QSO party

SCCARA will operate the California QSO party from our club station at the Red Cross on Saturday Oct. 6. The California QSO party is the largest of the state QSO parties. It's a fun contest to operate with everyone wanting to contact California. The QSO party is on both phone and cw. So lets make this a fun club activity.

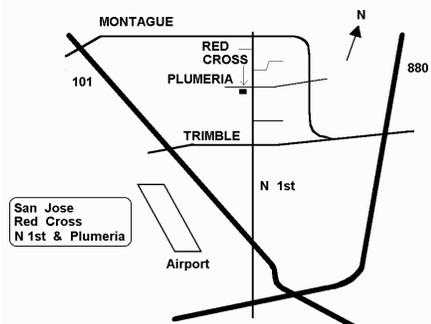
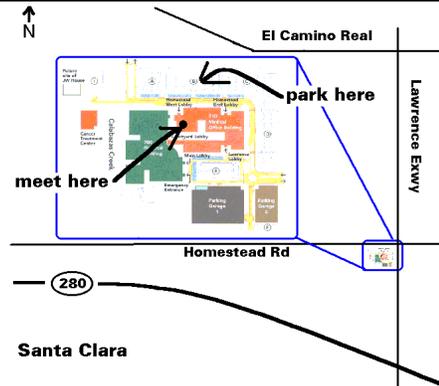
73, Don K6PBQ

## Calendar

- 10/6 CA QSO party—club station, Red Cross
- 10/8 **SCCARA General Meeting**
- 10/13 **Electronic Flea Market (DeAnza)**
- 10/15 **SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)**

## General Meeting

Day: Monday, Oct. 8, 2007  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Rm 196 3A,B  
Featuring: Doug Smith, electrostatic discharge.



# October Meeting

Speaker: Doug Smith

Title: "Locating ESD Events Using the Speed of Light"

What's ESD you ask? That's ElectroStatic Discharge to the uninitiated. What's it have to do with Ham Radio you ask? For one thing an ESD event can damage your transmitter or receiver at any time or your transmitter might just start arcing and popping on it's own. The best part of this demonstration is you will be able to use your knowledge of radio to assist in the finding of ESD events. Doug will bring his own spark gap but you may need to bring a cup of java to assist. That's OK we'll provide the coffee if you don't want to bring your own. Tools of the trade. No kidding!

At Doug's talk you will be able to see, first hand waveforms projected on the screen, of events you have only read about. Come one, come all for an evening to remember. Don't forget to check the website at <http://www.qsl.net/sccara/> for directions to our NEW MEETING LOCATION.

de AE6QL

## Biography

Mr. Smith held an FCC First Class Radiotelephone license by age 16 and a General Class amateur radio license at age 12. He received a B.E.E.E. degree from Vanderbilt University in 1969 and an M.S.E.E. degree from the California Institute of Technology in 1970. In 1970, he joined AT&T Bell Laboratories as a Member of Technical Staff. He retired in 1996 as a Distinguished Member of Technical Staff. From February 1996 to April 2000 he was Manager of EMC Development and Test at Auspex Systems in Santa Clara, CA. Mr. Smith currently is an independent consultant specializing in high frequency measurements, circuit/system design and verification, switching power supply noise and specifications, EMC, and immunity to transient noise. He is a Senior Member of the IEEE and a former member of the IEEE EMC Society Board of Directors.



His technical interests include high frequency effects in electronic circuits, including topics such as Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC), Electrostatic Discharge (ESD), Electrical Fast Transients (EFT), and other forms of pulsed electromagnetic interference. He also has been involved with FCC Part 68 testing and design, telephone system analog and digital design, IC design, and computer simulation of circuits. He has been granted over 15 patents, several on measurement apparatus.

Mr. Smith has lectured at Oxford University, Vanderbilt University, AT&T Bell Labs, and at many public and private seminars on high frequency measurements, circuit design, ESD, and EMC. He is author of the book High Frequency Measurements and Noise in Electronic Circuits.

His very popular website, <http://emcesd.com> ([www.dsmith.org](http://www.dsmith.org)), draws many thousands of visitors each month to see over 60 technical articles as well as other features.

AE6QL

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

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

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

## OFFICERS - DIRECTORS - STAFF

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	e-mail: <a href="mailto:donvillage7@yahoo.com">donvillage7@yahoo.com</a>	
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	e-mail: <a href="mailto:donvillage7@yahoo.com">donvillage7@yahoo.com</a>	
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	e-mail: <a href="mailto:wa6qys@aol.com">wa6qys@aol.com</a>	
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	e-mail: <a href="mailto:wb6yru@ix.netcom.com">wb6yru@ix.netcom.com</a>	

## COMMITTEES

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	e-mail: <a href="mailto:ka6ymd@arrl.net">ka6ymd@arrl.net</a>	
N0ARY BBS	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	269-2924
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:wb6yru@ix.netcom.com">wb6yru@ix.netcom.com</a>	

## 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 (packet info: [www.n0ary.org/ncpa](http://www.n0ary.org/ncpa))

## TELEPHONE NUMBERS

SCCARA contact Clark KE6KXO: 408 262-9334  
ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group,  
Morris Jones, AD6ZH: 408 507-4698

# SCCARA 2007 Picnic

Photos by Don AE6PM





# ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, August 31, 2007

## FCC ISSUES TWO CITATIONS IN LONGSTANDING POWER LINE NOISE CASE

The Federal Communications Commission's Dallas Field Office issued Citations on July 25 to two utilities in a longstanding power line noise case in Lubbock, Texas. Bryan Edwards, W5KFT, of Lubbock, first reported the interference concerning the two involved utilities, Lubbock Power & Light (LP&L) and Xcel Energy, as early as 1994. The record shows that the FCC Dallas Field Office clarified the FCC rules with regard to power line noise for LP&L as early as 1998, and issued three letters to LP&L in 2003 and 2004. Xcel Energy was first issued an FCC letter in 2004.

The Citations to the Lubbock utilities said that due to an investigation conducted by the FCC's Dallas office May 22-25, 2007, they found that both LP&L and Xcel "caused harmful interference to the reception of amateur communications to amateur licensee W5KFT in Lubbock, Texas," and that "Section 15.209 sets the general radiated emission limits for intentional radiators. The limit for the band 30 to 88 MHz is 100 micro-volts per meter measured at 3 meters. The attached list of strong electrical arcing points appears to exceed the value allowed even for intentional radiators." The list, attached to each Citation, included 44 separate "strong electrical arcing points" that were found near Edwards' home.

The FCC directed both LP&L and Xcel, pursuant to the Commission's Rules, to provide documents and information within 10 days of their respective Citations. "Because the source of harmful interference is emanating from more than one power company and past attempts have not resolved the problem, you must submit a written plan describing the planned resolution of this case," including LP&L's coordination with Xcel Energy and Xcel's coordination with LP&L, according to the Citations. Also, each company is "directed to provide a report every sixty (60) days, of work completed to resolve the interference until your distribution system is in compliance."

Each Lubbock utility was warned that "[v]iolations of the Act or the Commission's Rules may subject the violator to substantial monetary forfeitures, seizure of equipment through in rem forfeiture action, and criminal sanctions, including imprisonment." In rem is a civil forfeiture proceeding as opposed to a criminal forfeiture proceeding.

In its undated Response to the FCC's Citation, LP&L stated that it "does not admit to and specifically denies any violation of the [Communications] Act [of 1934] or any rule pertaining thereto," but "in order to comply with the...Citation, the City of Lubbock files this response." As a result of the Citations issued by the FCC, LP&L's Response stated that representatives from "Lubbock Power & Light met with Paul Leonard, P.E., Area Engineer with Xcel Energy to discuss the alleged findings regarding harmful interference to the reception of amateur communications by amateur licensee W5KFT in Lubbock, Texas."

Xcel's Response pointed out that the Citation acknowledges "that the source of harmful interference to amateur licensee W5KFT is emanating from more than one power company." Xcel also alleges that it "has been working with amateur W5KFT for a number of years in an effort to identify the source of, and a possible resolution for, the harmful interference he is experiencing. Xcel Energy has a good working relationship with the licensee and has coordinated with him on numerous occasions in attempting to resolve his

interference problems."

Xcel goes on to assure the FCC that it will "retain an outside technical consultant to provide an unbiased assessment of whether the harmful interference to W5KFT is attributable to Xcel Energy's power system and if so, what corrective measures would be required." Edwards reported that on Thursday, August 30, he received a phone call from Paul Leonard, head of Xcel Energy in West Texas. Edwards said he was told that Xcel has contracted with Mike Martin, K3RFI, to come out to Lubbock in October to work on the line noise. "Leonard said they tried to get LP&L to participate with them and Mike, but they refused to do so," Edwards said. Martin owns and operates RFI Services, a firm dedicated exclusively to RFI locating and training. He has been locating interference sources for more than 25 years, solving an average of 500 complaints a year, according to the ARRL Lab. Martin has also given power line interference workshops at ARRL Headquarters.

ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, said, "I am pleased to see the FCC taking a strong enforcement step in this case. It has gone on for a long time, and this Citation should serve to finally get things resolved. It is unfortunate that some of the power line cases the ARRL is handling can't be resolved without the FCC taking formal action, but I expect that electric utilities across the country will now take notice of this case."

Most power line noise sources in fact can be located quickly and economically, Gruber said; many utilities in fact handle power line noise complaints as a matter of routine maintenance. "All it takes is a properly trained RFI investigator with modern noise locating equipment. By using noise signature techniques, the utilities would have had only to address those sources actually contributing to the problem. The message to utilities here is clear. Don't ignore power line noise complaints! Don't make the FCC get involved!"

For more information on this story, as well as links to the ARRL report, the FCC's Citations and the utilities' Responses, please see the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/08/30/100/?c=1>>.

## ARRL CONTINUES EFFORTS ON INTERFERENCE TO PAVE PAWS RADAR SITES

On August 13, the ARRL began sending "specific mitigation reduction numbers" to 122 repeater owners, recommending that they reduce their signal anywhere from 7 dB to 56 dB, according to ARRL Regulatory Information Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. These reductions, requested by the US Air Force and the Department of Defense, only concern those repeaters identified by the DoD as affecting the PAVE PAWS radar system.

"Some reductions are going to be attainable," Henderson said. "You can do 7 dB, but 56?" He said such a reduction would "not be realistic to achieve. While many of the affected repeater owners may not be able to achieve the required reductions, but that doesn't mean they shouldn't try to meet the goal. Everyone involved needs to continue trying to meet the DoD's requirements. This gives us the best chance to keep as many of these machines as possible on the air."

Henderson stressed that any order to shut down a repeater will come from the Federal Communications Commission, at the request of the DoD. "This situation only affects those repeaters on the DoD's list in Massachusetts and California. It does not affect the everyday, casual user of 70 cm. This is not a wide-spread threat to the 70 cm band."

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 ARRL has been working with the DoD to develop a plan to mitigate alleged interference from 70 cm ham radio repeaters to this military radar system on both coasts. According to the DoD, the in-band interference from Amateur Radio fixed FM voice repeaters has increased to an unacceptable level. PAVE PAWS radars are used for national security functions, including early detection of sea-launched missiles. They are critical to our national defense and are in use 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

The Amateur Radio Service is a secondary user in the 420-450 MHz (70 cm) band, both by the Table of Frequency Allocations and the FCC Part 97 regulations. As such, Amateur Radio licensees, jointly and individually, bear the responsibility of mitigating or eliminating any harmful interference to the primary user, which in this case is the Government Radiolocation Service that includes the DoD PAVE PAWS systems.

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From *The ARRL Letter*, September 7, 2007

### **NATO GROUP RELEASES REPORT ON BPL**

The Information Systems Technology group, part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Research and Technology Organization (RTO), released their report, "HF Interference, Procedures and Tools" (RTO-TR-IST-050), in June. This report "address[es] the concerns raised by the potential for unintentional radio interference to be caused by the widespread operation of broadband wire-line telecommunications systems."

BPL, also called Power Line Telecommunications (PLT) in Europe, uses existing power lines for telecommunications with data rates higher than 1 MBit per second. NATO said that since existing power lines were not designed for such transmissions, "they will cause unintentional RF emissions which may adversely affect the established radio noise floor directly, or by cumulative propagation from many such sources. The existing HF background noise possibly may be increased via ground wave and/or sky wave propagation."

Not only could this be a problem for Amateur Radio operators, but NATO said that military users would be affected as well: "Increase of the existing HF noise floor by widespread use of PLT...will bring up problems for Military Radio Users as well as for HF Communication Intelligence (COMINT) in all NATO countries. The signal-to-noise ratio thus may be reduced for tactical and strategic HF radio as well as for fixed sensitive COMINT sites."

Saying that "PLT will produce the most problems regarding HF interference," the report makes the assertion that ambient noise levels in Europe have not increased in the last 30 years. This was proved using measurements made by the ITU in the 1970s compared with noise levels today, with the report saying that the "ITU Recommendations for natural and man-made noise in the HF-range are still valid in Europe."

The NATO report said "[r]ecent measurements carried out in Germany and Great Britain indicated that there is no remarkable difference between these measurements, specifically no increase of the ambient noise in quiet rural zones within the last 30 years. Based on these measurement results, the cumulative interference field strengths far away from telecommunication networks should not be higher than -15 dBuV/m (9 kHz bandwidth) across the entire HF range, if no measurable increase in minimum noise levels are to be tolerated."

Conversely, some European PLT proponents "in presentations and

discussions have argued (without being able to prove it) that ITU recommendations based on measurements carried out in the 1970s are no longer valid, as the man-made and the ambient noise levels have increased since that time to considerable higher values (by up to 30 dB)."

The NATO report also indicated the following: A high probability that PLT would cause increased noise levels at sensitive receiver sites given the projected market penetration; and the percentages are highly influenced by assumptions on transmitter EIRP (equivalent, or effective, isotropic radiated power), PLT market penetration and duty cycle.

ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, was pleased to see the report. "The findings described in this paper are based on good science. NATO has concluded that protection levels well below 0 dBuV/m are needed to prevent interference to sensitive HF operation. They studied distance extrapolation and concluded that 40 dB/decade is not the correct factor to use to make measurements at one distance, and related the measured values to other distances. They also have advanced the state of the art and determined that the aggregate noise from large scale deployment of BPL will increase worldwide noise levels by skywave propagation."

Hare points out that NATO's report "pretty much echoes the ARRL's pleadings during the BPL rulemaking." The ARRL has constantly argued against the 40 dB/decade extrapolation factor that, while recommended by the FCC, the report found, "was not confirmed by measurements carried out by other organizations."

The report acknowledges that there are no commonly accepted regulatory emission limits from PLT and recommends that countries work together to limit these emissions. "While it is highly desirable that the regulatory limits on PLT emissions be harmonized throughout the NATO countries, the RTG recognizes that NATO, by itself, has no regulatory authority over the emission limits. Therefore, it is recommended that NATO seek the implementation of this goal by working together with the national and international regulatory authorities."

The full report, "HF Interference, Procedures and Tools," can be downloaded in pdf format <[http://ftp.rta.nato.int/public/PublicFullText/RTO/TR/RTO-TR-IST-050/\\$STR-IST-050-ALL.pdf](http://ftp.rta.nato.int/public/PublicFullText/RTO/TR/RTO-TR-IST-050/$STR-IST-050-ALL.pdf)>.

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From *The ARRL Letter*, September 21, 2007

### **ARRL CONTINUES TO DEAL WITH DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OVER PAVE PAWS SITES**

The ARRL participated in a teleconference call on Wednesday, September 19, with the Department of Defense (DoD) regarding Amateur Radio repeaters interfering with the Air Force's PAVE Paws radar system.

According to ARRL Regulatory Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, "The DoD acknowledges that it has seen changes at some repeater sites, but not all of them." He said the DoD has revisited the Massachusetts repeaters, located near Otis Air Force Base on Cape Cod, to "remeasure the numbers. Some Massachusetts repeater owners have volunteered to completely turn off their systems and some others have made changes, but more is needed at both PAVE Paws radar sites."

The DoD, Henderson continued, has identified additional sources of interference in Massachusetts. "This was not really unexpected and is part of what has become an ongoing project. The ARRL

will begin working with these repeater owners as soon as the DoD provides us with specific information," he said.

In California, where more than 100 repeaters are being scrutinized by the DoD, Henderson said the majority of repeaters have not been mitigated: "The Air Force has not had a chance to revisit Beale Air Force Base for new measurements, but it will be happening soon."

Reports have circulated that a number of California repeater owners have decided to take no further action about mitigating the interference unless they receive official notice from the Federal Communications Commission. "If these reports are true," Henderson said, "it is unfortunate. The FCC has stayed abreast of the discussions between the League and the DoD, and they are prepared to act appropriately if they are contacted by the DoD."

He continued: "The DoD has indicated they are willing to allow the ARRL to continue its attempts to mitigate the interference; however, they have expressed a sense of urgency that this must come to a conclusion. Those waiting for FCC action may find it coming sooner rather than later."

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## Meeting Minutes

### General Meeting, Sept. 10, 2007



--The meeting was called to order by the President at 7:32 PM, at the new meeting location at Kaiser Santa Clara on Homestead Road. There were 22 members and 4 guests signed in (however, a chair count indicated there were 38 people present!).

General reports and announcements:

--Bill Dale, N2RHV, reported that SEC Larry Carr is stepping down and a replacement is being sought. (There are also other Section vacancies to be filled.) At the moment there is no overall Section Emergency Plan. Bill requested help from the local nets covering the three bay area sections in setting up a plan. D-Star and HF are being considered, and 7.225 MHz has been suggested.

--Jim Tyranski, KG6UDW, welcomed everyone to the new meeting facility, and reminded everyone about the SCCARA picnic on September 15th.

--We have three new members this month:

Kirk Bollinger, KI6LIQ, a new General licensee this year,  
Dan Sturges, KI6HFT, a new Technician licensee this year, and  
Allan Futterman, K6ZKP, a General and first licensed in 1957!  
Welcome guys!

--V.P. Fred Townsend, AE6QL, presented three mystery objects for the group to identify, and reviewed the FCC news (mostly BPL issues). He also announced that there will be an SK estate sale on 10/6 and 10/7 at 5702 Goldfield in San Jose, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Evening Program:

The featured speaker was Tim Barrett, K6BIV, and trustee of the K6MDD D-Star repeater on Mt. Diablo. D-Star (Digital Smart Technology for Amateur Radio) originated with the Japan Amateur Radio League, to improve spectral efficiency and allow simultaneous digital voice and data transmission. It is being used on amateur bands from 2 meters and up. D-Star can use a 6.25 KHz bandwidth with only 10 KHz channel spacing. Each transmission automatically includes station identification, and can

include internet linking, location, routing, and destination information depending on the mode used. There is a strong potential use for emergency communications, and it has already been adopted for emcomm in Alabama. Local use of the Mt. Diablo repeater (see k6mdd.org) on 2m, 70 cm and 23 cm is open and increasing. Equipment is currently only available from Icom, but other sources are pending. Sources of real-time information on current systems and applications can be found at dstarusers.org and k5tit.org.

Closing Remarks and Announcements:

--Treasurer Don Steinbach, AE6PM, reported the results of the Swap Meet. There were 137 spaces sold for \$2740, \$492.85 from the sale of donated equipment, and \$318 profit from food sales. Less the \$1575 fee to DeAnza, the net to SCCARA was \$1975.

--Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, reminded everyone that the next SVECS breakfast will be on November 11 due to some schedule conflicts.

The meeting was adjourned formally at 9:20 PM.

Mike Aronoff, Secretary

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### Board Meeting, Sept. 17, 2007



The meeting was called to order at 1940 hours.

The following members were in attendance:

Jim Tyranski, KG6UDW, President  
Fred Townsend, AE6QL, Vice President  
Don Steinbach, AE6 PM, Director & Treasurer  
Wally Britten, KA6YMD, Director  
Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, Director  
Don Village, Director  
Mike Aronoff, WB0TOW, Secretary  
Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, Editor  
Clark Murphy, KE6KXO, (immediate past president)  
Gwen Steirer, KF6OTD, visitor  
Dan Sturges, KI6HFT, visitor  
Chris DeMille, KI6FAN, visitor

Secretary's Report

The minutes were as published in the last SCCARA-GRAM, and accepted without amendment.

Treasurer's Report

- The flea market net to SCARRA was \$1,975.  
- Current account balances were \$3,654.87 in checking, \$4,281.20 in savings, and \$421.65 cash-on-hand for a total of \$8,357.42. Only the phone bills are outstanding.  
- Gary Mitchell commented that equipment donations used to be solicited throughout the year for sale to benefit the repeater fund. There is no storage currently to do that.  
- Lou Steirer moved and Don Village seconded that the report be accepted; the motion passed without objection.

Vice President's Report

- Speakers for the October and November meetings are still as reported previously. December is the Holiday Lunch. In January (or March), Doug Smith will present "Locating ESD Events Using the Speed of Light". In March Elecraft will demonstrate their new K3 transceiver kit.

Club Station Report

- Don Village indicated that W6UW would be open for operating the California QSO Party on October 6th, The ARRL CW Sweepstakes on November 3rd, and the Phone Sweepstakes on

November 17th. The station will NOT be open the last Saturdays of November or December due to the holidays.  
- The QSL collection has been organized, and we are working toward WAS completion.

#### Newsletter Editor's report

Gary suggested that the newsletter could be "pre-published" on the web site by Wally so that it could be reviewed before printing. The schedule between article deadlines and mailing dates is tight. Volunteer proof-readers are hereby solicited.

#### BBS report

There is a possibility of moving the BBS to Crystal Peak, with Ethernet connection and a static IP address provided. It would be able to cover from San Francisco to Hollister. The cost of electricity would be mostly offset by eliminating one phone line. Fred moved and Don Steinbach seconded that the board request Gary to prepare a detailed formal proposal to move the BBS. The motion passed without objection.

#### Old Business

- Don Steinbach reports that the new 442 repeater is on order but back-ordered to Kenwood in Japan.  
- It was moved by Wally Britten, and seconded by Don Steinbach, and amended by Fred Townsend that the board of directors formally review the club by-laws. The motion passed without objection. The President appointed Gary Mitchell to chair the review, assisted by Don Steinbach, Fred Townsend, and Lou Steirer. The starting point for the review will be the draft provided by Gary at the beginning of the year. The committee is to report suggestions for changes to the board at the October meeting.  
- Club elections are held at the November meeting, with nominations presented and open to members at the October meeting. There was a discussion of which directors' seats are up for election this year. The Secretary will locate records from the last election, assisted by Wally Britten. The issue of maintenance of minutes prompted a suggestion by Gary Mitchell that the board resolve that publication of all minutes in the SCCARA-Gram be required. After a brief but warm discussion, no such motion was offered by members of the board.

#### New Business

- No new business was placed before the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 2107 hours.

Mike Aronoff, Secretary

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## December Meeting

Our annual Christmas meeting will be a luncheon on Saturday December 15 at 12:00 noon. This year our luncheon will be at the Creekside Inn 544 W. Alma ave. San Jose (one block west of Hwy 87).

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 7 (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

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## Packet Pieces

### Downloaded from the packet network:

=====  
Date: 5 Jan 2005 05:56  
From: ZL3AI@ZL3VML  
To: HUMOUR@WW  
Subject: The South  
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We are sick and tired of hearing about how dumb people in the South of the USA are. We challenge any so-called smart Yankee to take this exam administered by the Auburn University School of Industrial Engineering:

1. Calculate the smallest limb diameter on a persimmon tree that will support a 10-pound possum.
  2. Which of these cars will rust out the quickest when placed on blocks in your front yard? A '65 Ford Fairlane, a '69 Chevrolet, a '67 Chevelle, or a '64 Pontiac GTO.
  3. If your uncle builds a still that operates at a capacity of 20 gallons of shine produced per hour, how many car radiators are required to condense the product?
  4. A woodcutter has a chainsaw that operates at 7200 RPM. The density of the pine trees in the plot to be harvested is 470 per acre. The plot is 2.3 acres in size. The average tree diameter is 14 inches. How many Budweisers will be drunk before the trees are cut down?
  5. If every old refrigerator in the state vented a charge of R-12 simultaneously, what would be the percentage decrease in the ozone layer?
  6. A front porch is constructed of 2x8 pine on 24-inch centers with a field rock foundation. The span is 8 feet and the porch length is 16 feet. The porch floor is 1-inch rough sawn pine. When the porch collapses, how many hound dogs will be killed?
  7. A man owns a Tennessee house and 3.7 acres of land in a hollow with an average slope of 15%. The man has five children. Can each of his grown children put a mobile home on the man's land and still have enough property for their electric appliances to sit out front?
  8. A 2-ton truck is overloaded and proceeding 900 yards down a steep slope on a secondary road at 45 MPH. The brakes fail. Given average traffic conditions on secondary roads, what is the probability that it will strike a vehicle with a muffler?
  9. A coal mine operates in a NFPA Class 1, Division 2 Hazardous Area. The mine employs 120 miners per shift. A gas warning is issued at the beginning of the 3rd shift. How many cartons of unfiltered Camels will be smoked during the shift?
  10. At a reduction in the gene pool variability rate of 7.5% per generation, how long will it take a town that has been bypassed by the Interstate to breed a country-western singer?
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# 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  
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

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## Newsletter Notes

At the most recent board meeting, it became clear that we have a problem keeping records. The question came up as to which directors' terms are expiring. (We have our annual elections in October.) The minutes for the October 2006 meeting of course would answer that, but evidently we don't have the minutes for last October's meeting.

People tend to look to the editor at times like that because the minutes are normally published in the *SCCARA-GRAM* and the editor has one of each back issue. However, the last couple of years have been spotty. Last October's minutes were among those never submitted.

In addition, some of you who have trouble attending meetings like to read the minutes in the *SCCARA-GRAM*.

So, I urged the board to establish a policy that the minutes should always be published in the newsletter as a backup. But to my surprise, the board had no interest in changing this "habit" into a policy. They focused on the question of enforcement. It's not clear to me why, I don't recall ever hearing them talk about enforcement with anything else.

So, it appears there will be no particular official effort made to have the minutes published. If they get submitted, great. If they don't, tough.

Well, at least I tried. You elected the board, if you would like them to reconsider, by all means let your directors know.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

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## ANNUAL DECEMBER MEETING

Our annual December meeting will be a luncheon on Saturday December 15, at the Creekside Inn 544 W. Alma Ave. San Jose. We will have a choice of three entrees, **\$21.00 each**. Reservations need to be in by Friday, December 7.

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):

\_\_\_ Coulette Steak      \_\_\_ Chicken Marsala      \_\_\_ Salmon      Total, (at \$21 each) \$ \_\_\_

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 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.