

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

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ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 25, 2008

COURT FINDS FCC VIOLATED ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT IN BPL DECISION

The US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit today released its decision <http://pacer.cadc.uscourts.gov/common/opinions/200804/06-1343-1112979.pdf> on the ARRL's Petition for Review of the FCC's Orders adopting rules governing broadband over power line (BPL) systems. The Court agreed with the ARRL on two major points and remanded the rules to the Commission. Writing for the three-judge panel of Circuit Judges Rogers, Tatel and Kavanaugh, Judge Rogers summarized: "The Commission failed to satisfy the notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act ('APA') by redacting studies on which it relied in promulgating the rule and failed to provide a reasoned explanation for its choice of the extrapolation factor for measuring Access BPL emissions."

The Court agreed with the ARRL that the FCC had failed to comply with the APA by not fully disclosing for public comment the staff studies on which it relied. The Court also agreed with the ARRL that the Commission erred in not providing a reasoned justification for its choice of an extrapolation factor of 40 dB per decade for Access BPL systems and in offering "no reasoned explanation for its dismissal of empirical data that was submitted at its invitation." The Court was not persuaded by the ARRL's arguments on two other points, on which it found that the Commission had acted within its discretion.

The conclusion that the FCC violated the APA hinges on case law. "It would appear to be a fairly obvious proposition that studies upon which an agency relies in promulgating a rule must be made available during the rulemaking in order to afford interested persons meaningful notice and an opportunity for comment," the Court said, adding that "there is no APA precedent allowing an agency to cherry-pick a study on which it has chosen to rely in part."

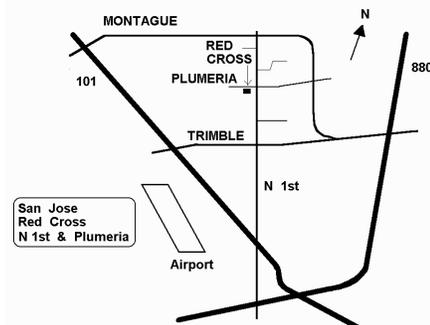
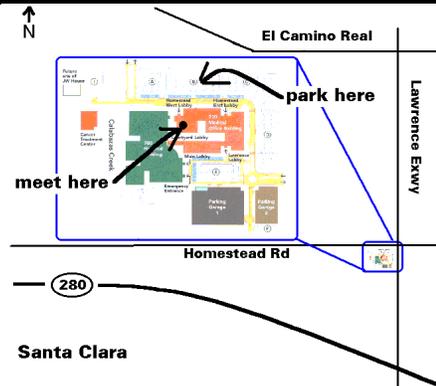
The Court continued, "The League has met its burden to demonstrate prejudice by showing that it 'ha[s] something useful to say' regarding the unredacted studies [citation omitted] that may allow it to 'mount a credible challenge' if given the opportunity to comment." Information withheld by the Commission included material under the headings "New Information Arguing for Caution on HF BPL" and "BPL Spectrum Tradeoffs." The Court concluded that "no precedent sanctions such a 'hide and seek'

Calendar

- 5/10 Electronic Flea Market (DeAnza)
- 5/12 SCCARA General Meeting
- 5/19 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 6/9 SCCARA General Meeting

General Meeting

- Day: Monday, May 12, 2008
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Rm 196, 1
Featuring: {to be announced}



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

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

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

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

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

(all officers are also directors)

President	Jim Tyranski, KG6UDW	453-0745
	e-mail: kg6udw@arrl.net	
Vice President	Fred Townsend, AE6QL	263-8768
	e-mail: fred@dctolight.net	
Past President	- - -	
Secretary	Mike Aronoff, WB0TOW	781-5704
	e-mail: aronoff@att.net	
Treasurer	Don Steinbach, AE6PM	867-3912
	e-mail: ae6pm@arrl.net	
Station Trustee	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
	e-mail: donvillage7@yahoo.com	
Director	Ned Tufekcic, AC6YY	690-7250
	e-mail: ac6yy@arrl.net	
Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	241-7999
	e-mail: wa6qys@aol.com	
Director	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
	e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net	
Director	John Parks, W6JPP	309-8709
	e-mail: w6jpp@arrl.net	
Director	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	269-2924
	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	

COMMITTEES

Activities	John Parks, W6JPP	309-8709
	e-mail: w6jpp@arrl.net	
Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	269-2924
	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	
Repeater	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
	e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net	
N0ARY 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 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. User ports: 144.93 (1200 baud), 433.37 (9600 baud), telnet sun.n0ary.org (login "bbs"). Sysop: Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU (packet info: 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

application of the APA's notice and comment requirements."

With regard to the extrapolation factor, the Court ordered: "On remand, the Commission shall either provide a reasoned justification for retaining an extrapolation factor of 40 dB per decade for Access BPL systems sufficient to indicate that it has grappled with the 2005 studies, or adopt another factor and provide a reasoned explanation for it." The studies in question were conducted by the Office of Communications, the FCC's counterpart in the United Kingdom, and were submitted by the ARRL, along with the League's own analysis showing that an extrapolation factor closer to 20 dB per decade was more appropriate, as part of the record in its petition for reconsideration of the FCC's BPL Order. The Court said that the FCC "summarily dismissed" this data in a manner that "cannot substitute for a reasoned explanation." The Court also noted that the record in the FCC proceeding included a study by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration that "itself casts doubt on the Commission's decision."

The briefs for the ARRL were prepared by a team of attorneys at WilmerHale, a firm with extensive appellate experience, with assistance from ARRL General Counsel Christopher D. Imlay, W3KD. Oral argument for the ARRL was conducted by Jonathan J. Frankel of WilmerHale. Oral argument was heard on October 23, 2007; the Court's decision was released more than six months later.

After reading the decision, General Counsel Imlay observed, "The decision of the Court of Appeals, though long in coming, was well worth the wait. It is obvious that the FCC was overzealous in its advocacy of BPL, and that resulted in a rather blatant cover-up of the technical facts surrounding its interference potential. Both BPL and Amateur Radio would be better off had the FCC dealt with the interference potential in an honest and forthright manner at the outset. Now there is an opportunity to finally establish some rules that will allow BPL to proceed, if it can in configurations that don't expose licensed radio services to preclusive interference in the HF bands."

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, added: "We are gratified that the Court decided to hold the FCC's feet to the fire on such a technical issue as the 40 dB per decade extrapolation factor. It is also gratifying to read the Court's strong support for the principles underlying the Administrative Procedure Act. Now that the Commission has been ordered to do what it should have done in the first place, we look forward to participating in the proceedings on remand, and to helping to craft rules that will provide licensed radio services with the interference protection they are entitled to under law."

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, concluded: "I am very pleased that the Court saw through the FCC's smoke screen and its withholding of valid engineering data that may contradict their position that the interference potential of BPL to Amateur Radio and public safety communications is minimal. The remand back to the FCC regarding their use of an inappropriate extrapolation factor validates the technical competence of Amateur Radio operators and especially of the ARRL Lab under the direction of Ed Hare, W1RFL. We are grateful for the work of our legal team and especially for the unflagging support of the ARRL membership as we fought the odds in pursuing this appeal."

From *The ARRL Letter*, May 2, 2008

SPRING 2008 WIAW FREQUENCY MEASURING TEST SCHEDULED THIS MONTH

Capitalizing on the popular and effective automated online results reporting system developed by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, for the **F r e q u e n c y M e a s u r i n g T e s t (F M T)** <<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/>> in November 2007, W1AW will conduct a spring FMT. This FMT will begin on Wednesday, May 21 at 9:45 PM (EDT) (that's the same as 0145 UTC on May 22), replacing W1AW's normally scheduled phone bulletin. W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, recommends that those planning to participate should listen to W1AW's transmissions prior to the event to determine which band -- or bands -- will be best for measurement purposes.

In this edition of the FMT, listeners will be asked to measure the frequency of an audio tone, given an exact frequency for the carrier signal. The tone will be between 1000-2500 Hz. The carrier frequencies will be 3990 kHz (LSB), 7290 kHz (LSB), 14290 kHz (USB) and 18160 kHz (USB).

Measuring audio frequencies of a modulated signal is a useful skill for those interested in digital modes. Proper tuning of these signals is important to obtain the highest quality performance. For non-digital users, it is also important to understand the relationship between the frequencies of the modulated signal's sidebands and its carrier. The techniques for measuring a modulating tone are described in the November 2004 QST in an article <<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/2004/04fmsilver.pdf>> on the Frequency Measuring Test by H. Ward Silver, N0AX. The FMT Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/>> also has several interesting articles about measuring on-the-air signal frequencies.

The FMT will start with a general QST call from W1AW at exactly 0145 UTC, transmitted simultaneously on the frequencies listed above. The test will consist of three 60-second key down transmissions for each band, followed by a station identification. The test will last for approximately 15 minutes and will end with station identification. W1AW will identify before, during and after the transmissions. There are no plans at this time for a West Coast station.

As in the November 2007 FMT, your report should be submitted via the FMT Report form on the W1AW FMT Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/>>. Along with your call sign and e-mail address, enter your most accurate measurement on each band. There will be a window to list your equipment, describe the method you used to make the measurements and enter any Soapbox comments. Participants have 14 days to input their data. Participants may input their data more than once, although the final entry will be the one used for the results. W1AW will post the transmitted frequencies on the FMT Web site following the test. This will allow participants to quickly determine the accuracy of their equipment and methods. A complete package of results will be available via the FMT Web site after the 14-day reporting period is concluded. The results from the November 2007 FMT are available on the 2007 FMT Results Web site <<http://www.b4h.net/fmt/fmresults.php>>.

TEN NEW SATELLITES IN ORBIT

Ten satellites reached orbit April 28 aboard an Indian PSLV-C9 rocket launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Center. The primary payloads were India's CARTOSAT-2A and IMS-1 satellites. In addition to the NLS-5 and RUBIN-8 satellites, the rocket carried six CubeSat <<http://www.cubesat.org/>> research satellites, all of which communicate using Amateur Radio frequencies. All spacecraft deployed normally and appear to be functional at this time.

The SEEDS satellite was designed and built by students at Japan's Nihon University. When fully operational, SEEDS will download

telemetry in Morse code and 1200-baud FM AFSK packet radio at 437.485 MHz. The satellite also has Slow-Scan TV (SSTV) capability. Several stations have reported receiving SEEDS CW telemetry and the team would appreciate receiving more reports from amateurs at their ground station Web page <http://sat.aero.cst.nihon-u.ac.jp/gs/english/cardform_e.html>.

AAUSAT-II <<http://aausatii.space.aau.dk/eng/>> is the creation of a student team at Aalborg University in Denmark. It will downlink scientific telemetry at 437.425 MHz using 1200 or 9600-baud packet.

Can-X2 <<http://www.utias-sfl.net/nanosatellites/CanX2/>> is a product of students at the University of Toronto Institute for Aerospace Studies, Space Flight Laboratory (UTIAS/SFL). Can-X2 will downlink telemetry at 437.478 MHz using 4 kbps GFSK, but the downlink will be active only when the satellite is within range of the Toronto ground station.

Compass-One <<http://www.cubesat.de/>> was designed and built by students at Aachen University of Applied Sciences in Germany. The satellite features a Morse code telemetry beacon at 437.275 MHz. Compass-1 will also provide a packet radio data downlink, which will include image data, at 437.405 MHz.

Cute 1.7 + APDII <http://lss.mes.titech.ac.jp/ssp/cute1.7/index_e.html> is a satellite created by students at the Tokyo Institute of Technology. This satellite will not only provide telemetry, it will also offer a 9600-baud packet store-and-forward message relay with an uplink at 1267.6 MHz and a downlink at 437.475 MHz.

Delfi-C3 <<http://www.delfic3.nl/>> was designed and built by students at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands. It includes an SSB/CW linear transponder. The satellite will be in telemetry-only mode for the first three months of the mission, after which it will be switched to transponder mode. Delfi-C3 downlinks 1200-baud packet telemetry at 145.870 MHz. The linear transponder, when activated, will have an uplink passband from 435.530 to 435.570 MHz and a corresponding downlink passband from 145.880 to 145.920 MHz.

JAPANESE AMATEURS RECEIVE MORE PRIVILEGES ON 75/80 METERS

Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) announced that Japan's Table of Frequency Allocations and the Japanese Amateur Bandplan <http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/6_Band_Plan/JAbandplan.pdf> have been amended, giving amateurs in that country more privileges on certain frequency blocks in the 75/80 meter band. Japanese amateurs are now allowed to operate the following additional frequencies on the 75/80 meters: 3.599-3.612 MHz, 3.680 to 3.687 MHz, 3.702-3.716 MHz, 3.745-3.747 MHz and 3.754-3.770 MHz. As of April 28, 2008, Japanese amateurs will have privileges on the following frequencies in the 75/80 meter band: 3.500-3.520 MHz (CW only), 3.520-3.525 MHz (Digital Mode and CW), 3.525-3.575 MHz (CW and Phone), 3.599-3.612 MHz (CW and Phone), 3.680-3.687 MHz (CW and Phone), 3.702-3.716 MHz (CW and Phone), 3.745-3.770 MHz (CW and Phone) and 3.791-3.805 MHz (CW and Phone). "This makes it a bit easier for US amateurs to make contacts with Japanese amateurs, especially in contests, since Japan does not have phone privileges on the 160 meter band," said ARRL Membership Services Manager Dave Patton, NN1N. "These new privileges will also make it easier for DXpeditions to work Japan." -- Information provided by JARL <<http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/>>

SCCARA Picnic

by Robert Schwimmer, N3FAW

Agnew Park in Santa Clara was the site of a picnic which was intended to be small and easily accomplished. About 15-20 Hams and guests attended and enjoyed playing radio and the companionship. The park is small and easily accessed on Agnew road near Lafayette.



John W6JPP is trying to teach his laptop to do digital modes. In the foreground is John's mighty compressed air cannon. It's almost child's play to place a tennis ball with fishing line over the top of the trees at the park.



David AE6YE, is hoisting Ned's (AC6YY) 5 band field antenna. It was assembled by the volunteer crew in less than an hour. Note the line between the two trees from which is suspended the light weight antenna. Clark KE6KXO describes the activity to a visitor.



Lou WA6QYS and John W6JPP are assembling John's mil surplus mast while Ned watches: it consists of about ten 3 foot self locking tubes. Later it's use was discontinued for suspending the antenna from the line between the trees as shown.



Gathered around the sumptuous repast are Ned AE6YY, Christina WO1NDR, Vera (an XYL), Red W6ALC and John W6JPP. The food was "partly bring your own" and partly bring dish to share. John was the organizer for the day with help by Clark and Ned.



Greg NF6FNA in the blue T shirt brought much food, tables, cooler with drinks. Also Red W6ALC and companion brought much food. Red's companion is Lil W6LIL. Others also contributed dishes or brought their own food

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, April 10, 2008



The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM with introductions. There were 26 members and 4 guests signed in.

Announcements:

Bill Dale, N2RHV announced that the interpretation of the new cell phone law may or may not yet apply to PPT radios (amateur or commercial). It appears to be in the hands of the same people who sometimes but someone else's picture on your driver's license when they misplace yours.

Bylaws Revisions:

Jim Tyransky introduced the bylaws team: Fred Townsend, John Parks, Don Steinbach, Lou Steirer, and until recently, Gary Mitchell (who has kept the effort alive for at least nine years). Fred noted the major changes: provision for virtual board meetings, making the club public, giving elected officers votes on the board, and having the trustee appointed for an indefinite term. The form follows ARRL guidelines.

John Parks moved the question, seconded by Dick Crouch. The vote was 21 to adopt, 4 against, and 1 abstention. The new bylaws become effective immediately

Evening Program:

Jim Wilson, K6WRJ, and Ned Tufekcic, AC6YY presented "PSK31, The Simplest Digital Mode". They reported how PSK31 uses a variable length code (varicode) somewhat like Morse to achieve almost 50 wpm in a narrow bandwidth. The advantages in communication efficiency and minimum SNR are almost as good as CW and much better than RTTY and voice modes. The simplicity of connecting to almost any radio was described, and identified the range and features of shareware and commercial software packages such as Digipan, Hamsoft, Ham Radio Deluxe DM780, MMTTY, and MMSSTV that are available. They also discussed various interfaces such as Tigertronics and West Mountain. They then discussed transmitter setup, and operating tips and traps, and shared their fun and experiences. Throughout the presentation, their enthusiasm for the new mode was apparent.

The meeting was adjourned formally at 9:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Mike Aronoff

Board Meeting, April 21, 2008



The meeting was called to order at 1939 hours.

The following members were in attendance:

Jim Tyranski, KG6UDW, President
Fred Townsend, AE6QL, Vice President
Don Steinbach, AE6PM, Director & Treasurer
Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, Director
Ned Tufekcic, AC6YY, Director
Don Village, Director & Trustee
Mike Aronoff, WB0TOW, Secretary
Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, Editor
John Parks, W6JPP, Activities Chairman
Gwen Steirer, KF6OTD, guest and calming presence
Del Harbold, K6JPX, senior member
Gregg Lane, KF6FNA, assistant activities chairman

The President presided.

Secretary's Report

In the secretary's absence at the March board meeting, nobody remembers who took the minutes. The Secretary noted that, having passed at the general meeting, the new bylaws were in effect for the board meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Current account balances were \$1518.11 in checking, \$6,289.32 in savings, and \$195.95 cash-on-hand for a total of \$8003.38. Pending expenses are insurance (\$328), flea market (\$1550), repeater (\$1500), insurance (\$320), NARC (\$20), and BBS move (\$350). Don Village seconded Lou's motion to accept the report, which then passed without objection.

Don Village reported that the Children's Discovery Museum is not going to reactivate their amateur radio station, and wishes to donate their Kenwood HF and VHF equipment to SCCARA. Gathering the sense of the board, don will also collect the equipment in time for possible use at Field Day.

Fred Townsend led a discussion of the impact of the bylaw changes. There are potentially ten voting members, although the Treasurer and Trustee also hold current board seats. To get wider participation, Don Steinbach offered to resign his board seat, retaining his voting seat as Treasurer. The board accepted his offer and the President then appointed John Parks to fill the remainder of his term (John had tied twice with Wally Britten for that seat in the last election). By a motion from Fred and seconded by Don Steinbach, the board ratified the appointment without objection. Don Village then offered to resign his board seat to open the last remaining spot. This too was accepted. Don remains a voting member of the board as station trustee. The President then appointed Gary Mitchell to fill the vacancy, in recognition of his years of service to SCARRA in capacities of newsletter editor, BBS chairman, and chairman of many activities. In his first official act, John Parks

moved and Don Village seconded that the board ratify the nomination. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

We are still looking for a manual for the 440 Motorola repeater (C64RCB-3105AT). We have a receive channel element, and a transmit channel and crystals for both are available from International Crystal. Jim will advance the money needed, and Don Steinbach will place the orders.

There was a brief discussion of the bylaw vote the previous week. There were concerns voiced that some people did not get to ask questions. Jim did announce that copies of the bylaws were available at the meeting, but there were no takers. An official copy will be posted on the web site.

John Parks moved and Don Village seconded that the board allocate \$220 (after a quick web search) for a new tarp for the trailer. The motion passed without objection.

Field Day. Fred has a table of organization with some slots for volunteers still open(?). The listing of who would be pulling the trailer led to a discussion of the necessity and possible way to rebalance the trailer. The tongue weight is even higher than the center of gravity and dangerous to trailer and truck. Gary moved (his first) and Don Steinbach seconded that John Parks be authorized to modify the trailer by shifting the axle forward. The motion passed without objection. The discussion then turned to using UHF and VHF beams on one of the towers, and PSK31. The discussion was tabled until the next board meeting.

Club Station. W6UW was open for the CQ-WW phone contest,

and got one new country. It was noted that the outer door was found open the following Monday morning. Anyone using the station must make sure both rooms are locked afterwards.

Repeater. The 2m phone line was down briefly, but restored. It was also keying continuously for a period. If anyone hears this happening again or the repeater being misused, please call Wally KA6YMD or any board member immediately to have the repeater deactivated.

Webmaster. The speed for downloading the newsletter is controlled by our web host, and is not within our control at the moment.

BBS. The forwarding node was down for a week due to a power supply shorted by a defective gel cell. It is now running without battery backup until the right size replacement can be found.

Spring picnic. A total of 35 people attended. An improved AC6YY spider beam was up for as long as the wind permitted.

The meeting was adjourned at more usual time of 2118 hours.

Minutes submitted by Mike Aronoff, Secretary

Board Meeting, March 17, 2008



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, AE6PM, Director & Treasurer
Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, Director
Ned Tufekcic, AC6YY, Director
Don Village, K6PBQ, Director & Trustee
Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, Editor
John Parks, W6JPP, Activities Chairman
Gwen Steirer, KF6OTD, guest
Clark Murphy, KE6KXO, guest

Secretary's Report

None. Mike Aronoff was absent.

Treasurer's Report

Current account balances were \$1518.11 in checking, \$6289.32 in savings, and \$159.95 cash-on-hand for a total of \$7967.38. Both of the BBS telephone lines have been cancelled. The final AT&T statements show a zero balance for one and a refund of \$6.20 for the other.

Form 990-N "Electronic Notice for Tax-Exempt Organizations not Required to File Form 990 or 990-EZ" was filed with the IRS on February 29 for the 2007 calendar year.

Repeater Report

Kenwood is now shipping the TKR-850 440 repeaters which we ordered last September but were not available from the manufacturer.

The Board decided to defer the Kenwood repeater purchase and continue to pursue the Motorola Micor repeater avenue, using the two repeaters purchased by Jim Tyranski. The search is on for one pair of UHF channel elements, part numbers KXN1024A and KXN1052A.

Don Steinbach requested the power supply and controller from the old repeater to include as part of the new system. Fred Townsend believes he has the controller. Location of the power supply is TBD.

Bylaws Report

The revised bylaws have been posted on the SCCARA website.

Club Station Report

The club station at the Red Cross was open on February 23 with Lou Steirer and Don Steinbach available as Control Operators. No one showed up to use the station.

It was proposed that the Station be open on May 31 for Field Day preparations.

News Editor Report

Gary Mitchell suggested reducing picture sizes to reduce download time.

BBS Report

The mast for the new antenna collapsed, apparently due to high winds. Gary Mitchell has modified the antenna installation. Additional expenses of \$120.40 were approved.

Gary Mitchell handed off the old antenna to Clark Murphy to put into storage.

Fred Townsend purchased the old TNC for \$5.00.

Field Day

Fred Townsend will run a test to determine if the existing laptop computers will support external flat-screen monitors. The issue of what logging software to use was discussed with no resolution.

The use of a members' personal equipment (transceivers, computers, etc.) during field day was discussed. Fred Townsend proposed that the club reimburse the owner for any damage incurred at the field day site. The Board took the position that members are free to bring their own equipment, but at their own risk.

Old Business

There has been no action on the part of San Jose Races/City of San Jose relative to signing the MOU presented to them earlier.

The Elks Club was investigated as a possible site for the annual Holiday Dinner. The cost would be \$250 for the use of the facility plus about \$25 per meal.

The Creekside Inn was reevaluated as a possible site. The cost would be about \$23 per meal with no facility charge. Creekside would guarantee SCCARA a 3-1/2 hour dedicated time slot. They understand that we were not happy with their performance last year. The board elected to go with Creekside and a \$100 deposit was authorized which Don Village will deliver. The date will be December 20.

The meeting was adjourned at 2138.

Minutes submitted by John Parks & Don Steinbach

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====
Date: 9 Jan 2005 06:21
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: HUMOR FOR TODAY 0109
=====

A lawyer dies in a car accident on his 40th birthday and finds himself at the Pearly Gates. A brass band is playing,

the Angels are singing a beautiful hymn, there is a huge crowd cheering and shouting his name and absolutely everyone wants to shake his hand. Just when he thinks things can't possibly get any better, Saint Peter himself runs over, apologizes for not greeting him personally at the pearly gates, shakes his hand and says, "Congratulations, son, we've been waiting a long time for you!"

Totally confused and a little embarrassed, the attorney sheepishly looks at Saint Peter and says, "Saint Peter, I tried to lead a God fearing life. I loved my family, I tried to obey the 10 Commandments, but congratulations for what? I honestly don't remember doing anything really special when I was alive."

"Congratulations for what?" says Saint Peter, totally amazed at the man's modesty. "We're celebrating the fact that you lived to be 160 years old! God himself wants to see you!"

The lawyer is awestruck and can only look at Saint Peter with his mouth agape. When he regains his power of speech, he looks up at Saint Peter and says, "Saint Peter, I lived my life in the eternal hope that when I died I would be judged by God and be found to be worthy, but I only lived to be forty."

"That's simply impossible son," says Saint Peter. "We've added up your time sheets."

Daily Thoughts

"What a pity human beings can't exchange problems. Everyone knows exactly how to solve the other fellow's."

Last Laugh

A doctor said to his car mechanic, "Do you realize that your hourly rate is over twice what we get paid for medical care?"

"Yeah, but think of it this way, doc: You only have two models that haven't changed since Adam & Eve, but every month we need to learn the latest systems!"

Bonus Laugh

Little Johnny's kindergarten class was on a field trip to their local police station where they saw pictures tacked to a bulletin board of the ten most wanted men.

One of the youngsters pointed to a picture and asked if it really was the photo of a wanted person.

"Yes," said the policeman. "The detectives want him very badly."

So, little Johnny asked, "Why didn't you keep him when you took his picture?"

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, W6JPP, 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
HF operating techniques (SSB, CW): WB6EMR, K6PBQ
Classes/license upgrading: W6ACW
Legal/FCC rules: WB6YRU
SCCARA (club inner workings): K6PBQ, WB6YRU, WA6QYS
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

It's nice to have photos in the *SCCARA-GRAM*, but the electronic version tends to be rather large as a result. The electronic version is a PDF file, which allows you to zoom in on the photos. So one advantage is that you can get a better look at something.

On the down side, each image is between ½ and 1 megabyte. That adds up fast when there are several images. It can take a while to download the newsletter.

So, I'm trying to keep that under control by reducing the resolution of the images. This current issue is about half the size it would have been without this adjustment. Hopefully we can reach a happy compromise.

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 2008

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: _____

Memberships begin January 1 and expire December 31.

If renewing: annual membership dues (base rate) are: \$20 Individual, \$25 Family, \$10 Student (under 18)

For new members:

If joining in January: base rate

If joining in February through October: base rate x (11 - month) x 10% (e.g. for June, that would be: base rate x 50%)

If joining in November or December: free for November and December if paying the base rate for the following year

\$ _____ **Dues payment for:** individual family student

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.