

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 24, Number 8

August 2008



Picnic

The SCCARA picnic this year will be on Saturday August 16th at 10 AM until 4 PM or so, at Mary Gomez Park in Santa Clara. It's located at the north-west corner of San Tomas Expressway and Forbes. Enter from the west side: go west on Forbes, north on Bucher, then right into the small parking lot. We will have a HF radio set up again for a miniature Field Day operation. Gwen and Lou will be running our bingo game, so please bring a gift or two for prizes. The club will provide sodas, plates, utensils, condiments and charcoal. Please bring your own meat and a dish to share.

Don Village K6PBQ

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, July 11, 2008

“THE DOCTOR IS IN” THE ARRL LETTER

This week, ARRL Letter readers are in luck! The ARRL's very own Doctor, author of the popular QST column “The Doctor Is IN,” answers a question from his mailbag:

Question -- Don Christensen, W8WOJ, of Midland, Michigan, asks: I am not a frequent user of 2 meters yet; however, I do want to be available for emergency activity. I have a 2 meter handheld transceiver at the ready, but wonder what the preferred procedure is to ensure that my transceiver's nickel-cadmium (NiCd) batteries are charged and ready for service.

The Doctor answers -- Unfortunately, NiCds might not be the best choice for such an application with intermittent use.

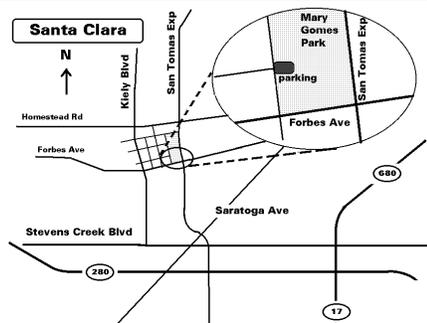
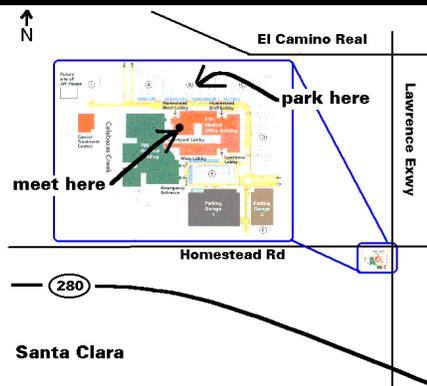
If you run down a NiCd battery pack too low, any strong cells may reverse charge the weaker cells, damaging the weak cells. On the other hand they also don't like being constantly topped off without actual hard use -- this promotes crystal formation, which can short out the cells. They are most happy in applications in which they are used until they discharge significantly, but not all the way and then are just charged until fully recharged. Thus, the idea of having a spare pack that is just kept charged up, but never actually used, is not a good plan.

Calendar

- 8/9 Electronic Flea Market (DeAnza)
- 8/11 SCCARA General Meeting
- 8/16 SCCARA Picnic (Mary Gomez Park, S.C.)
- 8/18 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 9/8 SCCARA General Meeting

General Meeting

Day: Monday, Aug. 11, 2008
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Rm 196, 1
Featuring: {to be announced}



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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

(all officers are also directors)

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Director	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	269-2924
	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	

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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 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 (Mt Umunhum). 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

If you have two packs, they will both last longer if one is used until it runs down and then you switch to the other and promptly recharge the depleted one. Perhaps you can have the radio turned on a few days a week monitoring the local repeater.

Many handheld radios offer battery cases for non-rechargeable Alkaline cells that can be used in place of the rechargeable battery. These are a good choice since they have long shelf life, generally have a longer operating life than a charge with similar sized NiCds, and are usable in field situations in which charging sources are not available.

Another choice, if you must have a rechargeable battery, is to use sealed lead acid or gel cell batteries -- they love to be kept on a float charge until needed, but are bulky and require a separate cable to the handheld.

From *The ARRL Letter*, July 18, 2008

**COURT OF APPEALS: FCC MUST REIMBURSE FEES
STEMMING FROM BPL CHALLENGE**

The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has ordered that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) reimburse ARRL for the docketing fee and the cost of reproducing copies of briefs and appendices in the ARRL's successful challenge of the FCC's broadband over power line (BPL) rules <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/25/10064/>>.

The Order, issued on July 9 following review of an opposition from the FCC and a reply from the ARRL, awarded the ARRL's full claim of \$6,096.18 <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/appealCostAwardOrder2008jul09.pdf>>

Commenting on the Order, ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, observed: "While this is just a small fraction of the cost of our judicial appeal, the Order is significant because the Court did not buy the FCC's arguments that the ARRL had only achieved 'partial success' in its appeal and that our claim of costs was excessive."

Sumner continued: "In addition, the FCC falsely claimed that the ARRL 'was unsuccessful in persuading the Court to vacate the rules it challenged.' In fact, the ARRL never sought to do so since the BPL rules adopted by the FCC, inadequate as they are, were still better than nothing. The award of these fees affirms that, contrary to the 'spin' the FCC has tried to put on the Court's remand, the ARRL substantially prevailed in its appeal."

One of the most important activities that ARRL engages on behalf of its members is representation in Washington. Generous member contributions to The ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund support a full menu of activities that help protect our Amateur Radio spectrum, including important meetings in Washington. Your contribution by mail, phone or on the Web is vital <<http://www.arrl.org/defense>>.

**ARRL, FCC MEET IN WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS BPL
REMAND**

On July 9, ARRL officials -- President Joel Harrison, W5ZN; Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, and General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD -- met with members of the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology to discuss the recent US Court of Appeals decision regarding broadband over power lines

(BPL) <http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?ative_or_pdf=pdf&id_documento=6520033586>. In that case, the Court agreed with the ARRL on two major points and remanded the rules to the Commission.

According to Imlay, the meeting was convened to discuss “a possible regulatory approach” to BPL with the FCC. Suggestions put forth by ARRL “would address the needs and concerns of Amateur Radio operators in avoiding harmful interference from [BPL systems] while imposing the minimum necessary regulatory obligations on BPL deployments.”

The ARRL understands, Imlay said, that “there are at this point rules that could be adopted which would, at once, (1) protect Amateur Radio communications from predictable harmful interference from BPL; and (2) permit broadband over power line systems to operate in the 3 to 80 MHz range without significant constraint and without substantial redesign or retroactive build outs.”



Fortunately, there's a fair amount of space available at the site. In the rack bay on the right, the bottom device is the computer, sitting on top of that is a Portmaster (where the internet link comes from). The power source and radios are in the middle bay.



Here's a better look at the middle bay. The rig on the left is for local forwarding on 1.25 M, 10 watts output. The middle rig is the 70 cm 9600 baud user port, 4 watts output. And the one on the right is the 2 M 1200 baud user port, 10 watts output.

Below the radios is the power source. It's a large Gel-cell type battery and a small switching power supply. This is my secret for keeping the power footprint of the BBS low. Previously the BBS had a large (50 amp) Astron power supply. With no load at all, the Astron supply was drawing half of the BBS's total power demand. The small (10 A) switching supply draws almost nothing without a load. The battery supplies power on demand to the radios and TNCs. The switching power supply only needs to keep the battery charged. This arrangement cut the BBS's power demand by roughly 50%. It now draws 493 KWH per year (\$69), down from 1050 KWH per year (\$147). At the old location, the phone lines alone were costing us \$420 per year.

73, Gary WB6YRU

Review

K1EL WK2/WKUSB Keyer

I new that our club did not have any keyer or paddle; so I bought a WK2/WKUSB kit a week before Field Day. The WKUSB is a complete CW keyer kit, including a new K1EL Winkeyer2 IC and a USB computer interface. If you like to operate CW contests or DX expeditions then this keyer is a must. First of all it is a small battery powered stand alone electronic keyer with memories. But the WinKeyer USB really comes alive when you plug it into a computer. Pretty much every contest logging program talks to it. When you work a station and log the QSO the program downloads the call sign & contest exchange into the Winkeyer, you hit a function key and it sends the exchange. Hit another function key and you send CQ, or QRZ, or the exchange again and so on.

It took me three afternoons after my regular work to solder, assemble and test all the parts. First day I did parts inventory, and the following two days I completed the work. Only one capacitor was damaged, there was a big crack on it, so I had to go to Anchor Electronics and get the replacement. (10 pieces for 1 dollar) After the assembly the keyer worked without any problem. I have tested it with N1MM and Ham Radio Deluxe software and it worked fine.

I used it as a stand alone keyer during the field day and it worked flawlessly. It helped me to work more than 200 QSO's without being tired. The kit price is \$64 plus \$6 for shipping and handling.

73, Ned AC6YY

NOARY BBS

In my previous article about the N0ARY BBS, I talked mainly about the antenna. Just for fun, here's a look at the BBS itself.

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, July 14, 2008



{no minutes were received. – Ed.}

Board Meeting, July 21, 2008



Present: President Jim Tyranski, KG6UDW; Vice President Fred Townsend, AE6QL; Station Trustee Don Village, K6PBQ; Director Ned Tufekcic, AC6YY; Director Lou Steirer, WA6QYS; Director Wally Britten, KA6YMD; Clark Murphy, KE6KXO; Gwen Steirer, KF6OTD; Joe Castellano, W6SNV

No Treasurer's report; AE6PM is on a road trip to Montana

Past Field Day Review:

Need to have a Field Day Antenna strategy to minimize station interference.

Yaesu FT757 (Gota Station) should be replaced, new operators find it difficult to use. The FT757 design was released in 1984.

KG6UDW will send a thank you note to Red Cross for use of their facilities.

KG6UDW to have an eyeball with Red Cross to provide list of SCCARA contacts for emergency communications.

General discussion about Laptops and new logging program.

Food expenses; \$169; motion passed to pay Gwen.

70 cm Repeater: Manuals and crystal channel elements are available for 70 cm repeater

The club Secretary has become very busy with his full-time job and thus has limited time to perform his duties as SCCARA Secretary. The Board agreed to search for a club member that would complete the Secretary's term. Duties require taking minutes and maintaining SCCARA's roster.

Joe Castellano, W6SNV, recording

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====
Date: 30 Nov 2005 13:51
From: ZL3AI@ZL2BAU
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: Panexa/Humvees

Panexa

PANEXA: Ask Your Doctor For A Reason To Take It
<http://www.panexa.com/>

No matter what you do or where you go, you're always going to be yourself. And Panexa knows this. Your lifestyle is one of the biggest factors in choosing how to live. Why trust it to anything less? Panexa is proven to provide more medication to those who take it than any other comparable solution. Panexa is the right choice, the safe choice. The only choice.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

PLEASE READ THIS SUMMARY CAREFULLY, THEN ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT PANEXA AND HOW TO PROVIDE YOU WITH LARGE QUANTITIES. THIS ADVERTISEMENT DOES NOT TAKE THE PLACE OF ADVICE FROM YOUR DOCTOR; RATHER, IT PROVIDES YOU WITH NEW INFORMATION ABOUT NEW DRUGS YOU COULD BE USING.

PANEXA is a prescription drug that should only be taken by patients experiencing one of the following disorders: metabolism, binocular vision, digestion (solid and liquid), circulation, menstruation, cognition, osculation, extremes of emotion. For patients with coronary heart condition (CHC) or two separate feet (2SF), the dosage of PANEXA should be doubled to ensure that twice the number of pills are being consumed. PANEXA can also be utilized to decrease the risk of death caused by not taking PANEXA, being beaten to death by ocelots, or death relating from complications arising from seeing too much of the colour lavender. Epileptic patients should take care to ensure tight, careful grips on containers of PANEXA, in order to secure their contents in the event of a seizure, caused by PANEXA or otherwise.

WARNINGS

Muscle: In a small number of tested cases (84%) PANEXA was found to cause abdominal wall muscle breakdown coupled with spasmodic activity in lower back/spinal muscles, resulting in most patients violently bending forward like a book slamming shut. While some other drugs promote similar responses (gemifbrozil, fresh cherries, nicotinic acid, cyclosporine, mustard gas, and acetomenaphin) PANEXA's reactions are over 48X as powerful and take place with a great deal more panache and flash. Also, PANEXA can contribute to developing inhumanly powerful tongue muscles, capable of licking through steel.

Lymphatic System: If, after taking PANEXA for a period of four to six weeks, you still have any functioning lymph nodes remaining, double the dosage every two (3) weeks until they are all gone.

SIDE EFFECTS

Most patients (2%) tolerate treatment with PANEXA well, especially when compared with prisoners of war of comparable size and weight. However, like all drugs, PANEXA can produce some notable side effects, all of which are probably really, really terrific and nothing that anyone should be concerned about, let alone notify any medical regulatory commission about. Most side effects of PANEXA, or their sufferers, are usually short-lived, and are rarely so fatal that the remains can no longer be identified, provided good dental records are available. Some known side effects are:

Respiratory system: Shortness of breath, longness of breath, kinetic balloon-like lung expansion, really geeky laughs

Digestive system: explosive diarrhoea, upset stomach; bitter, withdrawn stomach, prehensile colon, achy butt; shiny, valuable feces composed of aluminum and studded with diamonds and sapphire

Other: Loss of sexual desire and/or desirability; rising of the lights, the vapors, the willies; susceptibility to wedgies, no rhythm, and can't hold a job to save your life; blue sweats; symptoms that look like scurvy, but louder; and the compulsion to address everyone nearby as "Cap'n."

PANEXA is a registered trademark of MERD Pharmaceutical Group.

Humvees

Bumper Stickers Seen On Humvees

FE - FI - FO - FUM Smell the Oil of a Hybrid Scum

Proud Sponsor of OPEC

Honk if you're high and mighty

My Kid Can Outspend Your Honor Student

=====

Date: 26 Nov 2005 18:51
From: ZL3AI@ZL2BAU
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: Cars

A few years ago the battery in my beat-up VW Beetle had died because I left the lights on overnight. I was in a hurry to get to work on time so I ran into the house to get my wife to give me a hand to start the car. I told her to get into our second car, a prehistoric oversized gas guzzler, and use it to push my car fast enough to start it. I pointed out to her that because the VW had an automatic transmission, it needed to be pushed at least 40 kph for it to start.

She said fine, hopped into her car and drove off.

I sat there fuming wondering what she could be doing.

A minute passed by and when I saw her in the rear-view mirror coming at me at about 50 kph, I realized that I should have been a bit clearer with my directions.

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.

Subjects:

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
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
EchoLink: KK6MX

Elmers:

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
e-mail: donvillage7@yahoo.com
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

I was hoping to have an article by now on our Field Day at the Red Cross, but nothing was submitted.

At least I was able to see a copy of our report to the ARRL, so here's the total number of contacts made. (It was not broken down by station.)

CW: 276
Digital: 65
Phone: 421

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.