

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 24, Number 9

September 2008



Electronic Flea Market

SCCARA's hosting of the Electronics Flea Market will be October 11th, 2008 at De Anza College. This is the premier fund raising event for our club. Be a part of the effort to enrich SCCARA's coffers. Our primary concern will be setting up, manning and tearing down the food booth. There will be four shifts Saturday morning: 0500-0700, 0700-0900, 0900-1100, and 1100-1300 hours. Please let me know which shift(s) you would like.

We are also having a sales table to liquidate surplus club inventory. If you have any items you would like to donate to SCCARA let me know and we will make arrangements to offer them for sale at the flea market.

I can be reached at 408-241-7999 or at WA6QYS@ARRL.net

Thanks...73...Lou WA6QYS

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, August 1, 2008

DUTCH AMATEUR RADIO SATELLITE NOW LIVE

The linear transponder aboard the new Dutch OSCAR 64 satellite <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/05/22/10117/?c=1>> (otherwise known as Delfi-C3 <<http://www.delfic3.nl/>>) is now open for CW and SSB operation.

The spacecraft boots into transponder mode whenever it is in full sunlight. Ground controllers will briefly switch the satellite to either "basic" or "science" configuration once every two weeks; otherwise, the linear transponder will be the default mode. The transponder uplink passband is from 435.530-435.570 MHz with a downlink passband from 145.880-145.930 MHz. The transponder CW beacon can be heard at 145.870 MHz.

Delfi C-3 was successfully launched April 28, 2008 from India aboard a Polar launch vehicle <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/28/10067/?c=1>> and was successfully commissioned, currently transmitting telemetry on the 2 meter amateur band. In addition to its 2 meter downlink, Delfi C-3 has an uplink on the 70 cm band.

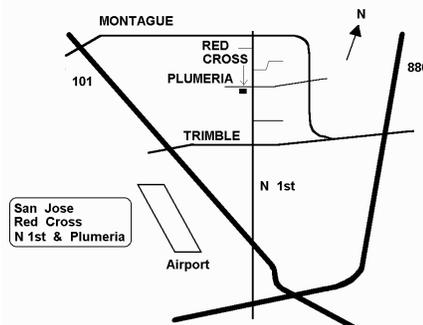
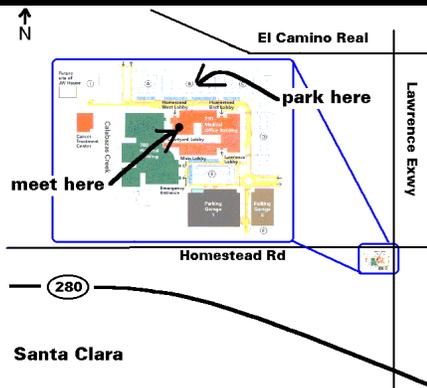
The satellite was developed by a team of some 60 students and

Calendar

- 9/8 SCCARA General Meeting
- 9/13 Electronic Flea Market (DeAnza)
- 9/15 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 10/11 Electronic Flea Market--we host this one!

General Meeting

Day: Monday, Sept. 8, 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)

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	e-mail: fred@dctolight.net	
Past President	- - -	
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	e-mail: aronoff@att.net	
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	e-mail: donvillage7@yahoo.com	
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	e-mail: wa6qys@aol.com	
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Director	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	269-2924
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	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	

SCCARA REPEATERS

SCCARA owns and operates two repeaters under the call W6UU:

2 meter: 146.985 - PL 114.8
70 cm: 442.425 + PL 107.2

Phone auto-dial and auto-patch is available. The two meter repeater is located at Eagle Rock near Alum Rock Park in the foothills of east San Jose. The 70 cm repeater 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

facility members from various polytechnic schools in The Netherlands. Delfi C-3 carries two experiments -- one involving thin film solar cells developed by Dutch Space, and an autonomous wireless Sun sensor from the Dutch Government Research Institute (TNO). E-mail reports are welcome <info@delfic3.nl>.

From *The ARRL Letter*, August 29, 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 mailbox:

Question -- John Hoffman, KJ4GER, of Woodstock, Georgia, asks: I am reading the "ARRL General Class License Manual" <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?tem=9965>>. In a few places, it mentions the 75 meter band. On my ARRL-provided "US Amateur Radio Bands" chart, it shows an 80 meter band and a 60 meter band, but no 75 meter band. What is the 75 meter band, and why does it not show up on the official band chart?

The Doctor Answers -- John, 75 meters is an designation for the 3.6-4.0 MHz phone band, a portion of the 3.5-4.0 MHz 80 meter allocation. If you convert 4.0 MHz to wavelength (300/4) you will find that the top end of the band has a wavelength of 75 meters.

Historically, 75 meters refers to the voice portion of the "official" 80 meter band. The term 80 meters is often used to refer to the entire band. Most HF radios have a band switch position for 80 meters that covers the entire band, not one for 75 meters. Unlike any other band, you will rarely hear anyone refer to "80 meter phone." I cannot offer any logical explanation for the anomaly -- perhaps someone will fill us in on how this came to be.

If you know the answer to this question, send an e-mail to the Doctor <doctor@arrl.org>. Do you have a question or a problem? Send your questions via e-mail <doctor@arrl.org> or to "The Doctor," ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 (no phone calls, please). Look for "The Doctor Is IN" every month in QST, the official journal of the ARRL.

NEW HF DIGITAL PROTOCOL TO DEBUT AT SEPTEMBER CONFERENCE

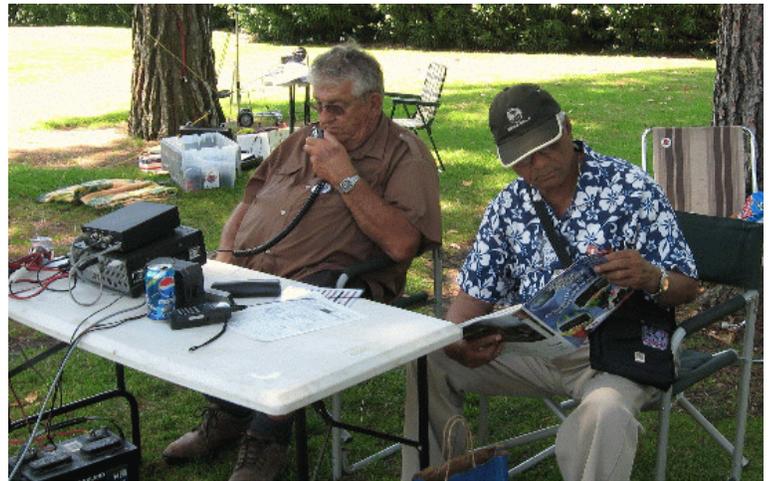
WINMOR, an HF digital protocol designed for use with the Winlink 2000 network, will be unveiled at the upcoming ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference in Chicago September 26-28.

ARRL APPLIES FOR EXPANSION OF 500-KHZ EXPERIMENTAL LICENSE

On August 22, the ARRL applied to the FCC for expansion of the 500-kHz experimental license WD2XSH. If approved, this application will raise the total number of stations from 20 to 40. This will provide greater geographic coverage, including Alaska and Hawaii, and will provide more opportunities for ground-wave testing. Also included are requests for an expanded frequency band (495-510 kHz) and portable operation within 50 km. The current four modulation modes (CW, PSK-31, FSK-31, and MSK-31) are included. -- Fritz Raab, W1FR

SCCARA Picnic

Photos by Doug Pietrok, AF6CI



Treasurer's Treatise

As of August 18, we had \$598.05 in checking, \$4,342.64 in savings, and \$154.60 in cash on hand for a total of \$5,095.29. There is \$660.71 in uncleared checks included in the checking account total. Most of those checks (\$626.71) are over a year old and will be voided and added back into checking in September.

The only unusual expenditures on the horizon will be the cost of replacing the 440 repeater. I predict that will be under \$600. The BoD was advised to reserve \$1500 for repeater replacement at the 1/21/08 meeting. The original plan was to purchase a new Kenwood repeater, but the current course of action is to resurrect a used Motorola MICOR repeater. The MICOR equipment family dates from 1979 so the BoD would be well advised to maintain a \$1500 repeater replacement contingency fund.

We are expecting a refund of our Mt. Madonna reservation money due to the fire just before Field Day. That should be about \$432. Don Village is coordinating this.

Field Day food expense was \$169.73 vs a budgeted \$125.00. Clearly, we're spiraling out of control and will need to mortgage the antenna trailer!

Don Steinbach (AE6PM) - Treasurer

Don Steinbach (AE6PM) reported that the 440 MHz repeater project is on track for completion by September, thanks largely to Lou Steirer (WA6QYS) for locating and providing a set of the Motorola MICOR Base and Repeater Station manuals. The channel elements have been installed and the unit was powered up without incident. The exciter section alignment is complete and the receiver section has been preliminarily aligned. Decisions need to be made regarding which controller to use, which duplexer to use, whether or not to change the PL tone frequency, and the feasibility of adding an S-meter circuit.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Don Steinbach, Treasurer

Board Meeting, Jan. 17, 2008



{no minutes submitted by the deadline}

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====
Date: 29 Nov 2005 02:20
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: HUMOR FOR TODAY 1128
=====

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Aug. 11, 2008



The meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM by Jim Tyranski (KG6UDW), President. Those present introduced themselves. There were 21 members and 4 guests in attendance. Mike Aronoff (WB0TOW), Secretary, was out of town on business travel. Don Steinbach (AE6PM), Treasurer, filled in for Mike.

The President recognized five new members: Robert Eccles (AF6CM), Robert Van Tuyl (K16WYZ), Mallik Seethepall (K16RRY), Michael Pechner (K16QNZ) and Tom Kenville (W6TJK).

Program:

Fred Townsend (AE6QL) made a presentation on battery charging. He addressed the charge/discharge characteristics of Ni-MH, Ni-Cd, Li-ION and lead-acid battery types. Some details of deep-discharge battery construction were also discussed.

Other:

Near term events are the picnic at Mary Gomez park on August 16, the DeAnza Swap Meet on September 13, the ARRL VHF QSO Party on September 13-15, the DeAnza Swap Meet on October 11 (SCCARA is the host club), Pacificon on October 17-18 and the SVECS quarterly breakfast in October.

The club station will be open on Saturday, August 30.

Gary Mitchell (WB6YRU) reported that the BBS utilization has increased significantly since being relocated to Mt. Umunhum earlier this year. The new location has visibility from Monterey to San Francisco and beyond.

Laws of Household Physics

1. A child's desire to assist in any project varies in inverse proportion to the ability to actually do the work involved.
2. Leftovers expand to fill all available containers plus one.
3. A newly washed window gathers dirt at double the speed of an unwashed window.
4. The availability of a ballpoint pen is inversely proportional to how badly it is needed.
5. The same clutter that will fill a one-car garage will fill a two-car garage.
6. Three children plus two cookies equals a fight.
7. Household happiness is directly proportional to the number of TV remote controls divided by the number of viewers.
8. The capacity of any hot water heater is equal to one and one-half sibling showers.
9. What goes up must come down, unless there is a ceiling fan involved.
10. Place two children in a room full of toys and they will both want to play with the same toy.

=====
Date: 25 Nov 2005 14:51

From: ZL3AI@ZL2BAU
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: 911/Captain

911 Call

A frightened man dialed 911 to report an assault.

"I was coming in the back door," said the man to the dispatcher, "when I was struck on the forehead. Luckily, I was able to get into the house and lock the door. Please send help right away!" After advising him to stay calm, the dispatcher sent an officer to investigate.

About a half hour later, the rookie returns to the station and is sporting a large bump on his head.

"What happened to you?," asked the chief. "Did you find the perp?"

"Yes I did, and it was easy, chief," replied the rookie, rubbing his sore head ... "I stepped on the rake, too."

Captain Comeback

I worked in the biology department at Buffalo State College in New York. The Great Lakes Laboratory, also stationed at the college, employed a licensed boat captain to man its research vessel. It was common knowledge that the captain couldn't swim. When newcomers learned of this, they would approach him about it.

"Is it true?" one of them asked incredulously. "You, a boat captain, can't swim?"

"No, I can't," he replied. "Can pilots fly?"

73, David ZL3AI.

=====
Date: 25 Nov 2005 14:51
From: ZL3AI@ZL2BAU
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: Navy

The following is a quote from a director of sports information in the Navy, regarding the theft of some mascots from the Naval Academy by Army rivals:

"We knew Army cadets were involved because they cut through two fences to get to the goats, and 15 feet away there was an unlocked gate."

73, David ZL3AI.

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
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

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

Once again we've got pictures in the *SCCARA-GRAM!* Yea! This has been a pretty good year for pictures. Thanks to all those who have submitted photos.

I'd like to remind our shutter-bugs that the time to gather information about you photos (i.e. names, calls, what's going on) is at the time the picture is taken, not a month or two later. It's all too easy to just snap a few pictures and not worry about writing things down, but you have to keep in mind that if it's for the newsletter, you must plan ahead a little.

Photos normally supplement an article, not the other way around. But photo essays are good too. However, even those at least need captions.

So, folks, please, even if you can't manage a story, at least plan on including captions with your submitted photos.

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.