

# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 25, Number 1

January 2009



## 2009 Meeting locations

We will continue to meet at Kaiser Santa Clara located at Lawrence Expressway and Homestead Road in 2009. Be advised of the following room changes for some of our meetings:

For January 12 and February 9, we will meet in Room 125 in the Hospital Building, first floor. This is the building to the right of the one we have been meeting in. *{That's to the West. -Ed}* Park in the same place you always have.

For June 8, we will meet in Room A3/A4 in the Medical Offices Building.

All other months we will be meeting in Room A2/A5 in the Medical Office Building.

Thanks to Lou Steirer for negotiating these arrangements for us.

Don Steinbach, AE6PM

## President's Prose

SCCARA, like any other all-volunteer organization, wouldn't function very effectively without the contributions of some key members. Those are the folks who are seldom in the spotlight, but just keep things going along. I'd like to take this opportunity to start the new year by recognizing them here in print, in no particular order. Thanks to each of you for doing what you do!

Don Village, K6PBQ - Net Control for the Monday night 2-meter net. Makes the Mount Madonna field day reservation as soon as the park office opens after Christmas. Station trustee. Makes all of the arrangements for the Holiday/Christmas lunch. Always present at the Red Cross station the last Saturday of the month.

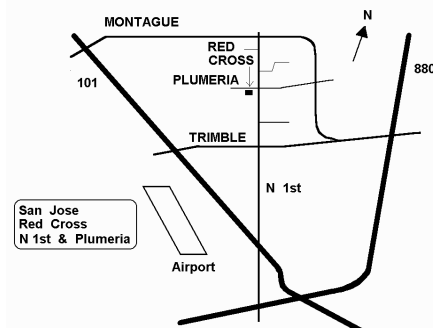
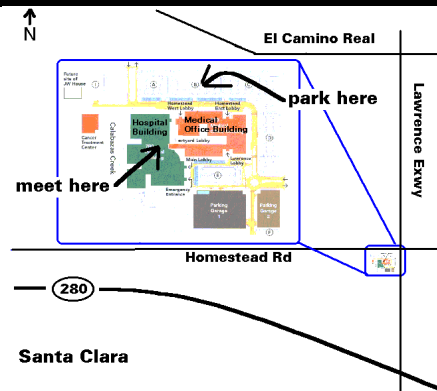
Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU - Editor and Publisher of the SCCARA-GRAM. Gets the newsletter out on time every month in spite of your elected officers who can't seem to get their articles to him on time (maybe we can help that in 2009). The SCCARA-GRAM always has a great selection of ARRL and FCC ham radio news compiled by Gary. Gary also takes care of the BBS and recently packed up the whole station and moved it to a

## Calendar

- 1/12 SCCARA General Meeting  
1/19 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

## General Meeting

- Day: Monday, Jan. 12, 2009  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Hospital building Room 125  
Featuring: Fred AE6QL: Modern Power Supplies: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly



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	Don Steinbach, AE6PM	867-3912
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:ae6pm@arrl.net">ae6pm@arrl.net</a>	
Vice President	Fred Townsend, AE6QL	263-8768
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:fred@dctolight.net">fred@dctolight.net</a>	
Past President	---	
Secretary	David Dippon, AE6YE	
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:dippon@atstar.com">dippon@atstar.com</a>	
Treasurer	Ned Tufekcic, AC6YY	690-7250
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:ac6yy@arrl.net">ac6yy@arrl.net</a>	
Station Trustee	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:donvillage7@yahoo.com">donvillage7@yahoo.com</a>	
Director	John Glass	
Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	241-7999
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:wa6qys@aol.com">wa6qys@aol.com</a>	
Director	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:ka6ymd@arrl.net">ka6ymd@arrl.net</a>	
Director	John Parks, W6JPP	309-8709
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:w6jpp@arrl.net">w6jpp@arrl.net</a>	
Director	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	269-2924
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:wb6yru@ix.netcom.com">wb6yru@ix.netcom.com</a>	

**COMMITTEES**

Activities	John Parks, W6JPP	309-8709
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:w6jpp@arrl.net">w6jpp@arrl.net</a>	
Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	269-2924
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:wb6yru@ix.netcom.com">wb6yru@ix.netcom.com</a>	
Repeater	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:ka6ymd@arrl.net">ka6ymd@arrl.net</a>	
NØARY 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 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.

**NØARY PACKET BBS**

SCCARA hosts the packet BBS NØARY (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/nepa](http://www.n0ary.org/nepa))

**TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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

new mountain-top location.

Lou Steirer, WA6QYS - If we have a place to meet, thank Lou. If we have an organized Flea Market, thank Lou. If you need a repeater moved, ask Lou. Need an SVECS breakfast, ask Lou. Lou is also the chairman of SVECS. Lou is one of those people that is anywhere there is something to be done, but isn't in your face about it. Lou is also usually at the Red Cross station with Don Village when Gwen (KF6OTD) lets him out of the house.

Wally Britten, KA6YMD - Wally is our webmaster and gets our stuff uploaded to the website in spite of us. Wally is also our repeater committee chairperson. He makes sure we can get into the Red Cross building on board meeting nights. Wally is net control for the Thursday night 10-meter net (new hams take notice!).

Barbara Britten, KD6QEI - Barbara is one of those people that you just like to have around. She doesn't make a lot of noise or attract a lot of attention, but she is just "there," like at the Holiday Lunch with the favors.

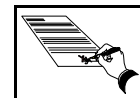
Jeannie Felix, KG6YOR and John Felix KI6ANW - Great backups for Wally on the 10-meter net on Thursday nights. Two very professional net controllers that present a positive image on W6UU.

Clark Murphy, KE6KXO - The PR guy. Clark has probably done more to publicize and promote SCCARA than anyone.

John Parks, W6JPP - As activities chairman, John organizes and coordinates our picnics and operating events.

Again, thanks to each of you.

Don, AE6PM



**Treasurer's Treatise**

Our financial status as of December 30, 2008, is:

Checking account	\$2,708.06
Savings account	\$6,843.18
Cash on hand	\$210.46
Total	\$9,761.70.

Don Village has reserved Mt. Madonna for Field Day 2009 for us so we owe him approximately \$438. Other planned expenditures include liability insurance (\$320), ASVARO flea market fee (\$1,550), PO box rent (\$54) and BBS electricity (\$69). Cost for the SCCARA-GRAM will probably be about \$1000 for the next 12 months.

Don Steinbach, AE6PM Treasurer

**ARRL News**

From *The ARRL Letter*, December 12, 2008

**CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS RELEASE REPORT LAMBASTING FCC CHAIRMAN KEVIN MARTIN**

On Tuesday, December 9, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce -- the congressional committee that oversees the Federal Communications Commission -- released its majority staff report "on the bipartisan investigation of the FCC's regulatory

processes and management practices.” The report -- “Deception and Distrust: The Federal Communications Commission under Chairman Kevin J. Martin” -- stated that the investigation was prompted “by allegations to the effect that [FCC] Chairman Kevin J. Martin has abused FCC procedures by manipulating or suppressing reports, data and information” <[http://www.arrl.org/news/files/FCC\\_Report120908.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/news/files/FCC_Report120908.pdf)>.

“Our investigation confirmed a number of troubling allegations raised by individuals in and outside the FCC,” said Representative Bart Stupak (D-MI), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. “The Committee staff report details some of the most egregious abuses of power, suppression of information and manipulation of data under Chairman Martin’s leadership. It is my hope that this report will serve as a roadmap for a fair, open and efficient FCC under new leadership in the next administration.”

Representative John D. Dingell (D-MI), Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce echoed Stupak’s concerns: “Any of these findings, individually, are cause for concern. Together, the findings suggest that, in recent years, the FCC has operated in a dysfunctional manner and Commission business has suffered as a result. It is my hope that the new FCC Chairman will find this report instructive and that it will prove useful in helping the Commission avoid making the same mistakes.”

The report said that “in an investigation of this nature,” the Committee would usually hold hearings “to receive testimony from witnesses and to further examine the issues.” But due to what the Committee called “the climate of fear that currently pervades the FCC,” the report said the Committee found that key witnesses “were unwilling to testify or even have their names become known.” For that reason, they issued a report in place of a hearing “to protect the many honest people who came forward under a promise of protection or anonymity.” Chairman Martin was invited to meet with the Committee to discuss matters addressed by the investigation, but the report said he “ignored [the Committee’s] invitation,” as did his Chief of Staff Daniel Gonzalez and Chief of Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Derek Poarch.

In its 110-page report, the Committee described 12 allegations, ranging from retaliation against FCC employees who differed with the Chairman’s policies to enhanced 911 wireless services to broadband over power lines (BPL). To go along with the 12 allegations, 22 exhibits were attached to the report, such as internal e-mails, e-mails from FCC commissioners to their staff, statements made by FCC commissioners and letters to and from commissioners (including Chairman Martin). Not all 12 allegations were substantiated by the Committee.

#### \* Broadband over Power Lines

Concerning BPL, the report alleges that FCC officials “ignored complaints of radio frequency interference caused by BPL high-speed Internet technology, delayed an enforcement investigation for two years and improperly withheld engineering data regarding BPL from the public.”

The report found that in October 2004, as then-Chairman Michael Powell issued his final rule “defining BPL access and setting technical and administrative requirements to protect licensed radio operators from harmful interference,” the FCC “withheld from the public certain engineering reports on which it relied in promulgating the rule” from the final rule and order.

Even though the BPL rules were adopted during Powell’s tenure, the report found that “it was under Chairman Martin that the Enforcement Bureau and the General Counsel continued to withhold the redacted engineering reports and insisted on doing so

in the course of the ensuing litigation [with the ARRL]” <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/25/10064/>>.

The report goes on to say that on April 25, 2008, the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit found that the FCC, in the case filed by the ARRL, “violated the Administrative Procedure Act when it played ‘hide and seek’ with engineering data used in its support of the order and ‘cherry-picked’ a study on which it had relied” <<http://pacer.cadc.uscourts.gov/common/opinions/200804/06-1343-1112979.pdf>>.

“The fact that the FCC withheld the required engineering reports in this matter,” the report concluded, “indicates poor judgment and an attempt to hide critical weaknesses in its decision. Ironically, the FCC’s attempts to hide this information only served to provoke suspicion and its handmaiden, litigation. This case [filed by the ARRL] illustrates the extent to which a culture of secrecy has developed at the FCC that is as counterproductive as it is unnecessary.” The report states that this “particular situation” has been corrected by the courts and technological issues arising from BPL have been “rendered largely moot over time due to improvements” in BPL technology.

“It is distressing, but unfortunately not surprising,” said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, “to read that the FCC’s mishandling of the BPL issue was simply a part of a broad pattern of dysfunction at the Commission. This is a relatively recent development and is unprecedented in the ARRL’s long experience with the FCC -- an association that dates back to the very creation of the agency, 20 years after the founding of the ARRL. While the marketplace failure of BPL and the steps taken voluntarily by the few companies that have deployed BPL systems have combined to minimize interference, the regulatory issue is by no means moot. The rules remain inadequate.”

Sumner continued: “More than seven months after the Court remand, the FCC has done nothing to correct its errors, nor has it complied with the very specific instructions from the United States Court of Appeals. These instructions included the disclosure of the studies that it intentionally withheld from the public, but upon which it relied in adopting its rules. Indeed, the only step the Commission has taken since the Court’s remand order is to mount an unsuccessful effort to oppose our claim for reimbursement of the printing costs for the briefs in the case -- a small fraction of the expenses incurred by the ARRL in our appeal -- expenses that would not have been necessary had the Commission followed the law in the first place” <<http://www.arrl.org/?rtid=8338>>.

#### \* Other Findings by the Committee

The report also showed instances of where Chairman Martin “manipulated, withheld or suppressed data, reports and information,” and said Martin’s “manipulation [of another report] may have damaged the credibility of the Commission, and certainly undermined the integrity of the staff. Moreover, it was done with the purpose of affecting the congressional decision-making, in that it was issued as a report to Congress.”

Saying that FCC matters have not been handled in an “open or transparent manner,” the report said the FCC “rais[ed] suspicions both inside and outside the Commission that some parties and issues are not being treated fairly.” The report stated that the Committee’s impressions were “confirmed” when it discovered that Chairman Martin made a “preemptory reversal” of [a report’s] conclusions and that Martin did not seek “further public comment or conduct further studies” thus giving the impression “that the issue was not handled fairly or openly.”

The report also found that Chairman Martin’s “heavy-handed, opaque and non-collegial management style has created distrust,

suspicion and turmoil among the five current Commissioners.” The report states that Martin does not afford his fellow Commissioners “direct and unfettered access to the Commission staff and their expert advice, thereby hindering the ability of other Commissioners to carry out the duties of their offices and the work of the Commission.”

The report also found that Commission staff have not been “effectively managed.” When Martin first became Chairman, he “imposed a major reshuffling of FCC staff throughout the agency.” While the report said that a “certain amount of reorganization is not unprecedented” when a new Chairman begins his term, the reorganization “was highly unusual in both its breadth (nearly every senior position at the agency changed hands) and its depth (even a number on non-management line staffers found themselves inexplicably reassigned).” Calling it a “waste of resources, the report pointed out that senior employees with “extensive experience and expertise” were reassigned to junior-level positions; as a result, “it appears that some important Commission proceedings were delayed.”

#### \* Committee Methodology

Over the course of its investigation, the Committee staff reviewed “several hundred thousand documents, including 95 boxes of paper documents; conducted 73 interviews of current and former FCC employees and individuals associated with the telecommunications industry; solicited and received e-mails from FCC employees and contractors at a secure e-mail address established for this purpose, and reviewed dozens of allegations.” The report pointed out that since the investigation, Chairman Martin has taken “some small steps” to address some of the problems outlined in the report.

The Committee also emphasized that not everything they found is included in its report: “A few allegations were received so recently that they have not been investigated and are not included [in the report]. We have also excluded matters that seemed trivial per se. Still, other allegations have not been adequately investigated because the FCC has not yet produced all of the records requested by the Committee.”

#### “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:

Dave Wright, KB9MNM, of Montgomery, Illinois, asks: I would like to try CW using my PC. I have an all mode 2 meter radio with VOX (voice operated transmit switching) How would I wire this up to the sound card of a computer? Can I use the same configuration for low power radio projects, such as the Tuna-Tin 2 transmitter or the SoftRock receiver, or will I need a special interface device?

The Doctor Answers -- The radio-to-sound card interconnect requires two audio connections: A pair out of the radio (speaker or line out) to the sound card mic (or line in), and a pair from the sound card speaker or line out to the radio mic in, (or line in if it has one).

In both cases, the line level connections are preferred (if they are available) because they don't change in level every time you adjust your volume control. If you get tired of listening to the data tones, you can turn down your speaker volume and still have enough signal from your line out to drive the sound card.

In addition, you need to have a way of switching the radio from receive to transmit. That can be using the VOX (but be careful of strange computer voices (You've Got Mail! that can also go out

over the air. In the absence of VOX, you could even use a manual switch on your push to talk (PTT) line, but that would get cumbersome.

A sound card interface provides transformer isolation on the mic line, to help avoid hum pickup. Most importantly, it picks up the transmit command from the PC serial port and switches the radio PTT line for you, so you don't need to use the radio VOX function. Some allow you to switch between mic and sound card, and also provide a separate gain control, so you don't have to change everything every time you go back to voice mode.

So you can start out with the simple connections, but if you use it a lot, you will likely want an interface eventually. All of the above applies to your 2 meter set, as well as most HF radios.

The tuna tin I'm thinking of is just a CW transmitter and thus doesn't do sounds at all, so you're kind of stuck. The soft rock is a receiver, so you can use a single cable from the receiver audio output to your sound card input and monitor what's going on while you have a chance to get used to the software choices. I recommend starting there, in any case.

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.

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## Meeting Minutes

### General Meeting, Nov. 10, 2008



SCCARA General Meeting November 10, 2008, Kaiser Santa Clara, (Homestead Rd and Lawrence Exp).

The meeting was called to order at 7:29 pm by Fred Townsend

The individuals present introduced themselves.

Fred Townsend announced that Club elections will be the first order of business. Ballots will be counted during the guest speaker's presentation. Joe Castellano and Gregg Lane served as the Nominations Committee. Joe announced that the following members are running for the following positions:

- Don Steinbach and Fred Townsend are candidates for President. By prior agreement, the loser of the President's election will serve as Vice President.
- David Dippon and Jeannie Felix for Secretary.
- Ned Tufekcic for Treasurer
- John Parks and John Glass are candidates for two Director positions.

Dick Delp and Joan Hastings served as Elections Committee, whose task it was to count the election ballots.

Fred Townsend suggested that since John Parks, John Glass, and Ned Tufekcic are running unopposed that someone offer a motion to elect the unopposed candidates by acclamation. John Glass was not present due to illness. Don Steinbach spoke a few words on his behalf.

John Parks offered a motion that John Parks, John Glass, and Ned Tufekcic be elected by acclamation. The motion was seconded Jerry Thompson. The motion was approved unanimously.

David Dippon and Jeannie Felix spoke on their own behalf for election to the Secretary's position.

Alan Burroughs, guest speaker, gave a presentation on his Wave Node SWR meters.

The annual Christmas dinner will be held on December 20 at the Creekside Inn in lieu of a general meeting.

Bill Dale announced the ARRL section net is held on Thursday at 7:30 pm on K6BEN, 441.275+123.0 pl.

The Club station at the Red Cross was open this past Saturday for ARRL phone sweepstakes contest. This is the last event at the Club station, this year.

Dick Delp announced that following members were elected to the following positions.  
Don Steinbach, President  
Fred Townsend, Vice President  
David Dippon, Secretary

Gary Mitchell reported the transmitter power of the BBS has been increased from 10 watts to 40 watts.

Don Steinbach asked how the current 440 repeater compares to the old 440 repeater. He also reported he and Lou checked the 440 antenna and reports 18 watts output. Wally mentioned some inter-modulation may be present. There was some discussion about codes to control the 440 repeater. Red mentioned that Andy can link repeaters to Echolink. He volunteered his time to assist linking the club repeaters. Bill Dale mentioned a 7 pm Thurs Nevada VOIP net via ECHOLINK/IRLP connected to NV-GATE, IRLP NODE #9258 (Channel 8 of the Western Reflector) Echolink via NV-GATE #152566. This conference connects various repeaters throughout the NV Section. He is interested in setting up something similar for the Bay Area.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

David Dippon, Secretary

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## Board Meeting, Oct. 20, 2008



Red Cross, 2731 1st Street, San Jose, CA

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm. by Jim Tyranski

### Attendance

Board Members: Jim Tyranski, KG6UDW, President  
Fred Townsend, AE6QL, Vice President  
Don Steinbach, AE6PM, Treasurer  
David Dippon, AE6YE, Secretary  
Don Village, K6PBQ, Trustee  
Ned Tufekcic, AC6YY  
Wally Britten, KA6YMD  
Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU  
John Parks, W6JPP  
Lou Steirer, WA6QYS.  
Guests: Gregg Lane, KF6FNA  
Excused Absences: none

### Treasurer's Report

\$5376.87 checking \$4343.18 savings \$200.46 cash  
Don Steinbach suggested some funds be earmarked for repeater items.  
John Parks offered a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Lou Steirer. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim Tyranski passed his SCCARA records to a few of the board members.

### Secretary's Report

The minutes from the September 15th board meeting were reviewed. A number of minor corrections were request, and accepted by the Secretary.

Don Steinbach offered a motion to accept the September 15th minutes with the corrections. The motion was seconded by Fred Townsend. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Fred Townsend announced that he will remain in the area.

Joe Castellano still heads the nominating committee.

### Repeater Project

The final total for repeater project was \$207.56. Don Steinbach passed around an invoice.

John Parks offered a motion to pay Don Steinbach the \$207.56. The motion was seconded by Lou Steirer. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim Tyranski was owed \$400.00 for repeater components and \$30.00 for auxiliary power amplifier.

John Parks offered a motion to pay Jim the \$430.00. The motion was seconded by Ned Tufekcic. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Don Steinbach asked Fred Townsend for the controller manual for the 440 repeater.

### Old 2 Meter Repeater Discussion

Don Steinbach has an old 2 meter repeater with duplexers that he would like to get it out of his garage. Ned asked if it is useful. There was a discussion about its usefulness.

Ned Tufekcic proposed we sell the old repeater. Lou Steirer mentioned that we should keep the cavities. Jim Tyranski mentioned that the old repeater would be some value for training purposes. Gary Mitchell is interested in using parts from it for the BBS. Jim Tyranski and Gregg Lane suggested we scrap it. Gregg also suggested selling it. Jim Tyranski mentioned we should hold the cavities for reserve, Lou Steirer agreed. Jim Tyranski mentioned cavities (Timewave) may cost \$1200.00. Gary Mitchell noted that a repeater is listed on the property list. It is not clear if that is repeater in operation or the one stored in Don Steinbach's garage. Fred read the terms of the proposed MOU with the City of San Jose. The operational 2 meter repeater is property of the City of San Jose. Jim Tyranski suggested a committee be formed to review this issue, and report their findings to the Board.

Lou Steirer was asked to head up a committee, which was discussed.

Don Steinbach suggested that the cavities be stored at the Regional Medical Center, where they were once hung on the wall.

Fred Townsend offered to evaluate the cavities.

Jim Tyranski suggested giving Gary Mitchell the parts that can be used for the BBS and scraping the remaining parts.

Ned Tufekcic suggested setting a deadline to resolve the issue.

Jim Tyranski appointed a committee of Fred Townsend and Lou Steirer to evaluate the repeater hardware in Don Steinbach's garage and report their findings at next board meeting

Don Steinbach passed note to David Dippon from Duane Harp and asked that Duane be added to the newsletter mailing list.

### Old Business

#### General Meeting Speakers

Alan Burroughs will be presenting at the next general meeting

about SWR meters.

Fred Townsend mentioned that other clubs do things for their speakers. He asked if the Club should the club recognize speakers with a complementary membership certificate. Gary Mitchell mentioned another club that gives speakers \$25.00 and complementary membership.

Fred Townsend moved that the speaker chair be authorized to offer a one year's complementary membership to speakers at Club meetings. Don Village seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously with John Parks abstaining. This is a standing rule to be documented separately.

Memorandum of Understanding with the City of San Jose  
Fred Townsend mentioned the SCCARA MOU with the City of San Jose was discussed at the last board meeting. The MOU was presented to Kimberly Shunk, OES Director for the City of San Jose. Her feedback was the MOU has no term, and city attorneys will want changes. Jim Tyranski mentioned that the MOU can be terminated, at-will by either party. He questioned the reasoning for entering such an agreement. The MOU mentions that SCCARA owns the frequency coordination. Lou Steirer read some terms of the MOU. Gary Mitchell mentioned that the phone line to the 440 repeater is being paid by RACES. Fred Townsend added a term of 25 years to MOU. A meeting would be called with the city attorneys to review. Fred Townsend urged board members to review the emailed MOU. Jim Tyranski asked if the MOU allows for us to replace the current 2 meter repeater with updated technology. Fred Townsend asked if we had an MOU with Regional Medical Center.

Ned Tufekcic asked if the MOU includes that the City make future upgrades to the repeater system.

Fred Townsend mentioned that George Williams says that our antennas will be bagged over the Thanksgiving holiday. He also requested an MOU with SCCARA. Red Cross seems in favor of mounting a camera at the door, but doesn't want to pay for it.

The Red Cross wants our club station license posted more visible location.

#### New Business Activities

John Parks mentioned a opportunity to set up a commemorative station next year on the anniversary of the USCG. The station would be setup on Coast Guard Island. John Parks is also working with Kara M. Satra, Commander, USCG to setup a tour of the facilities at Coast Guard Island.

Fred Townsend offered a motion to authorize the activities chair, John Parks, to make arrangements with Commander Satra for a tour and the commemorative station. The motion was seconded by Lou Steirer. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Club Patches

The new SCCARA patch was discussed. Ned Tufekcic mentioned that Gene Thomas has a stitching machine. Ned Tufekcic was directed to discuss pricing and other issues related to producing the patch with Mr. Thomas.

Don Village reported that the club station will be open on November 1st and 15th .

Jim Tyranski asked about the club's tax liability.

#### Repeater Trustee

Wally Britten reported a few glitches on the repeater and suggested

that it might be a faulty isolator.

Gary Mitchell mentioned 440 that the repeater cabinet is bolted at the bottom and needs to also be bolted at the top. He also mentioned that the antenna's plastic inserts need to be sealed before rainy season. A work party has been organized. Gregg Lane volunteered to locate some of the needed hardware.

#### Web Master

Wally Britten mentioned that the SCCARA-GRAM has been getting uploaded to the web site.

#### Other Items

Lou Steirer announced that the Club meeting dates for 2009 have been reserved at Kaiser Santa Clara, however we may be moved around to different conference rooms.

There was a discussion about allowing absentee ballots. It was decided that more lead time is required to determine a fair system. Thus the discussion was tabled for the 2009 elections.

The meeting was adjourned 9:42 pm.

David Dippon, Secretary

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## Board Meeting, Nov. 17, 2008



Red Cross, 2731 1st Street, San Jose, CA

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm. by Fred Townsend.

#### Attendance

##### Board Members

Fred Townsend, AE6QL; David Dippon, AE6YE; Don Steinbach, AE6PM; Don Village, K6PBQ; Ned Tufekcic, AC6YY; Lou Steirer, WA6QYS; Wally Britten, KA6YMD; John Parks, W6JPP

Guests Gregg Lane, KF6FNA

Excused Absences Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU

#### Treasurer's Report

The current balances are:

2366.58 checking, 6843.18 savings, 680.46 cash, for a total of \$9890.22.

#### Secretary's Report

The October board meeting minutes were approved with two minor corrections. An updated membership roster will be sent to board members, this week. Wally Britten asked if the margin of victory in either contested election was within five votes. The margin of victory was greater than five votes in both elections.

#### Trustee's Report

The club station was open last Saturday for the ARRL Sweepstakes phone contest. Contacts were difficult to make, but 23 contacts were logged. There is some suspicion that the Yaesu rig may have low transmitter output power. Don Village suggested we should make arrange to increase antennas height of antennas at the Red Cross. Club station will be open again on last Saturday in January 2009.

It was announced that Del Harbold's wife, Betty, passed the Technician license test.

#### Field Day Discussion

Fred asked about Field Day reservation at Mt Madonna. The reservation needs to be made by December 26. John Parks and Fred Townsend mentioned that we could invite the West Valley Club to join us at Mt. Madonna. There was a discussion about

joint Field Day. It is our intent to conduct Field Day 2009 at Mt. Madonna.

Vice President's Report

Fred Townsend asked for suggestions for a speaker for the January meeting. He mentioned a rig programming session. Don Steinbach mentioned some members had expressed an interest in IRLP and microwave topics. Lou Steirer mentioned moonbounce or a session on Andersen Power Poles. John Parks moved to purchase a bag of Power Poles connectors 50 sets 30 amp for members a future working session at a club meeting. Fred Townsend mentioned fixing the battery connectors on the Field Day batteries. John Parks will purchase a package of 40---30 and 15 amp connectors. Don Village seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Fred Townsend has attempted to find a speaker to discuss a topic related to Hurricane Katrina. John Parks mentioned the possibility of getting a speaker from Dekka Batteries. Don Steinbach asked if the speaker from Dekka is technical or sales oriented. Fred Townsend asked the Secretary to purchase certificate stationary for meeting speakers.

President

Wally Britten announced that Fran, KB6JBQ, recently passed away.

Repeater Wally reported that the repeaters are running well.

Web Master Same as the repeater report.

Activities

John Parks mentioned a spring picnic. He is also proceeding with a January tour of a USCG cutter. A special events station is planned for the anniversary of the USCG, and will be operated on the weekend closest to Aug 4, 2009. We will get a special event call. Fred Townsend mentioned the need to apply early for the special events call sign. John Parks and USCG would apply for the special events call. Don Village mentioned special call needs to be listed with ARRL. USCG Auxiliary operated on Coast Guard Island last year. John Parks believes they want us to setup our tower trailer. Fred Townsend asked if we could use the special events call from Field Day until Aug 4. Christmas Banquet

Don Village mentioned some members got a ticket for the gift exchange without bringing a gift at last year's Christmas Banquet. John Parks suggested that one member be in charge of passing out a ticket in exchange for a gift. Don Village needs a member to run the gift table. Don Village appointed John Parks to pass out gift tickets.

Repeater Cavities

The cavities are on a half sheet of plywood in Don Steinbach's garage. The cavities are sealed. Fred Townsend estimated them to worth between \$600 and \$1000. Fred Townsend believes they would be easy to sell. They are big, heavy, and new repeaters don't use them. Only old repeaters need old cavities.

Gregg Lane mentioned, Hawk, K6HWK is considering a repeater project in Oregon and is looking for hardware. He is looking for a frequency. Fred Townsend has been looking at the repeater list servers, one for each man. Old repeaters are being offered of sale at low prices. Controllers are also available cheap. Lou Steirer mentioned it would be nice to have backup hardware. Don Steinbach countered that backup hardware should be modern. John Parks asked if we were willing to give Hawk the old repeat and its cabinet. Fred Townsend advocated that we sell the old repeater hardware. Don Steinbach suggested we should give the old repeater away.

John Parks offered a motion to give Hawk the old repeater and cavities. Don Steinbach seconded the motion. Fred Townsend suggested we defeat the motion. The motion was withdrawn. Don

Steinbach suggested we offer the repeater and cavities for \$600.00. John Parks offered a motion to offering all the old repeater hardware, controller and cavities for \$400.00 to Hawk. Don Village seconded the motion. Lou Steirer asked if the \$400.00 would be earmarked for repeater expenses. Ned Tufekcic suggested that a deadline for Hawk's response be set. It was agreed that we would expect answer from Hawk by January board meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.

Old Business

MOU with the City of San Jose. A recent ballot proposition cut utility tax passed, so the City is cutting budgets. The RACES budget may be cut. Fred Townsend is still pushing to get MOU through City.

SCCARA Patches

Ned Tufekcic talked to Gene, and he is going to make a new patch. Ned will continue to follow up.

New Business

Fred Townsend announced that excused absences must be requested from the President or Secretary. John Parks mentioned that Bylaws do not mention when officers terms begin. A Rules and Procedure document should mention term of office for board members and officers. A Rules and Procedures document should be mentioned in the Bylaws.

SCCARA will host the March 2009 next flea market. Fee has not been published Lou suggested we consider a different venue. It was suggested that Lou check with Mission Valley College.

Lou Steirer announced that Jim Tyranski donated a VX-150 that was won at that last SVECS breakfast. He suggested selling raffle tickets. A number of raffle tickets schemes were discussed. Lou Steirer mentioned selling tickets at December luncheon for a raffle at the February general meeting. Lou Steirer offered a motion to sell raffle tickets for the VX-150--1 ticket for \$1 and 6 tickets for \$ 5. The raffle will be held at the February general meeting. The winner need not be present. John Parks seconded the motion. The motioned passed unanimously.

Don Steinbach asked Wally Britten about an inquiry about a donation of a tower to the club. Donor asked if such donation is tax deduction. Don Steinbach will send a reply.

John Parks mentioned there is a person who offered to donate equipment to the Club.

The meeting was adjourned 9:15 pm

David Dippon, Secretary

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## Packet Pieces

**Downloaded from the BBS packet network:**

=====  
Date: 16 Nov 2008 01:38  
From: W1GMF@W1GMF  
To: HUMOR@USA  
Subject: MORE FUNNY ONE LINERS  
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"99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name"

"A day without sunshine is like, night."



"Honk if you love Peace and Quiet"

"Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine."

"As long as there are tests, there will be prayer in public schools"

"Sometimes I wake up grumpy; Other times I let her sleep"

"The gene pool could use a little chlorine."

"I didn't fight my way to the top of the food chain to be a vegetarian."

"When there's a will, I want to be in it!"

"Warning: Dates in Calendar are closer than they appear."

"Lottery: A tax on people who are bad at math."

"Very funny, Scotty. Now beam down my clothes."

"Why is 'abbreviation' such a long word?"

=====

Date: 18 Nov 2008 06:35  
 From: NOKFQ@NOKFQ  
 To: TODAY@WW  
 Subject: Today in History - Nov 18

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November 18, 1883  
Railroads create the first time zones

At exactly noon on this day, American and Canadian railroads begin using four continental time zones to end the confusion of dealing with thousands of local times. The bold move was emblematic of the power shared by the railroad companies.

The need for continental time zones stemmed directly from the problems of moving passengers and freight over the thousands of miles of rail line that covered North America by the 1880s. Since human beings had first begun keeping track of time, they set their clocks to the local movement of the sun. Even as late as the 1880s, most towns in the U.S. had their own local time, generally based on "high noon," or the time when the sun was at its highest point in the sky. As railroads began to shrink the travel time between cities from days or months to mere hours, however, these local times became a scheduling nightmare. Railroad timetables in major cities listed dozens of different arrival and departure times for the same train, each linked to a different local time zone.

Efficient rail transportation demanded a more uniform time-keeping system. Rather than turning to the federal governments of the United States and Canada to create a North American system of time zones, the powerful railroad companies took it upon themselves to create a new time code system. The companies agreed to divide the continent into four time zones; the dividing lines adopted were very close to the ones we still use today.

Most Americans and Canadians quickly embraced their new time zones, since railroads were often their lifeblood and main link with the rest of the world. However, it was not until 1918 that Congress officially adopted the railroad

time zones and put them under the supervision of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

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Date: 28 Nov 2008 01:35  
 From: W1GMF@W1GMF  
 To: HUMOR@USA  
 Subject: SAVVY BUSINESSMAN

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A businessman walked into a New York City bank and asked for the loan officer. He said he was going to Europe on business for two weeks and needed to borrow \$5,000. The loan officer said the bank would need some security for such a loan. The business man then handed over the keys to a Rolls Royce that was parked on the street in front of the bank. Everything checked out and the loan officer accepted the car as collateral for the loan. An employee then drove the Rolls into the bank's underground garage and parked it there.

Two weeks later the businessman returned, repaid the \$5,000 and the interest which came out to be \$15.41. The loan officer said, We do appreciate your business and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a bit puzzled. While you were away we checked and found that you are a multimillionaire. Why you would bother to borrow \$5,000? The business man replied: Where else in New York City can I park my car for 2 weeks for 15 bucks?

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Date: 22 Nov 2005 12:21  
 From: W1GMF@W1GMF  
 To: HUMOR@USA  
 Subject: HUMOR FOR TODAY 1031

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The University of California at Berkley has recently announced the discovery of the heaviest element yet known to science. This new element has been tentatively named "Administratium". Administratium has 1 neutron, 12 assistant neutrons, 75 deputy neutrons, and 111 assistant deputy neutrons, giving it an atomic mass of 312. These 312 particles are held together by a force called morons, which are surrounded by vast quantities of lepton-like particles called peons.

Since Administratium has no electrons, it is inert. However, it can be detected because it impedes every reaction with which it comes into contact. A minute amount of Administratium causes one reaction to take over 4 days to complete when it would normally take less than a second.

Administratium has a normal half-life of 3 years; it does not decay, but instead undergoes a reorganization in which a portion of the assistant neutrons and deputy neutrons and assistant deputy neutrons exchange places.

In fact, Administratium's mass will actually increase over time, since each reorganization causes some morons to become neutrons forming isodopes. This characteristic of moron-promotion leads some scientists to speculate that Administratium is formed whenever morons reach a certain quantity in concentration. This hypothetical quantity is referred to as "Critical Morass." You'll know it when you see it.



## Last Laugh

Upon entering a little country store, Randy noticed a sign reading, "Danger! Beware of Dog" posted on the glass door. Inside, he noticed a harmless old hound dog asleep on the floor besides the cash register.

He asked the store manager, "Is that the dog folks are supposed to beware of?"

"Yep, that's him," he replied.

Randy couldn't help but be amused. "That certainly doesn't look like a dangerous dog to me. Why in the world would you post that sign?"

"Because," the owner replied, "before I posted that sign, people kept tripping over him."

=====  
Date: 25 Nov 2005 08:24  
From: ZL3AI@ZL2BAU  
To: HUMOUR@WW  
Subject: Turkey/Stress  
=====

One year at Thanksgiving, my mom went to my sister's house for the traditional feast. Knowing how gullible my sister is, my mom decided to play a trick. She told my sister that she needed something from the store.

When my sister left, my mom took the turkey out of the oven, removed the stuffing, stuffed a Cornish hen and inserted it into the turkey, and re-stuffed the turkey. She then placed the bird(s) back in the oven.

When it was time for dinner, my sister pulled the turkey out of the oven and proceeded to remove the stuffing. When her serving spoon hit something, she reached in and pulled out the little bird.

With a look of total shock on her face, my mother exclaimed, "Patricia, you've cooked a pregnant bird!" At the reality of this horrifying news, my sister started to cry.

It took the family two hours to convince her that turkeys lay eggs!

73, David ZL3AI.

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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, 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

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## Newsletter Notes

Here we are, starting a new year with some new people in office and some of the regulars. Our immediate past president, Jim Tyranski, KG6UDW is moving out of the area, we wish him well and thanks for taking the SCCARA helm for the past year.

I'd like to remind everyone that submissions to the *SCCARA-GRAM* needs to be in my hands by the last Monday of the month. Also, articles should be submitted in plain text. Any formatting just has to be removed first anyway. However, if you want something to appear in any special way, just let me know. We should be able to work out almost anything.

One more thing: Photos are always good—they'll even be in color in the on-line version of the newsletter. However, photos by themselves aren't so great. Photos should enhance a story, not be the story. At the very least, PLEASE include captions. Captions should include the names and calls of those in the photo. This means a little planning ahead. If you're at a club function and snap a couple of pictures, jot down the names and calls of those in the shot at the time. I'm sure no one will mind being asked for a name or call.

73 & happy new year, Gary WB6YRU, editor

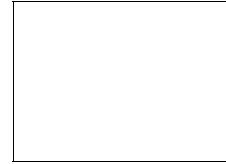
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**SCCARA**

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 2009**

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.