

# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 25, Number 2

February 2009



## Meeting Location Reminder

February 9: We will meet in Room 125 in the Hospital Building, first floor. This is the building to the right (West) of the one we have been meeting in. Park in the same place you always have.

Don Steinbach, AE6PM

## President's Prose

The year got off to a good start with our meeting in Room 125 at the Kaiser Hospital. My concerns were unfounded – the room turned out to be a fine meeting place – better suited for presentations than our usual location in Conference Area 196 in the Medical Office Building. We'll be in the same room (125) again on February 9. Thanks Lou.

I've often wondered if we would have greater member attendance if we could locate a larger venue. We may not be able to accomplish same, but I'm interested in hearing your thoughts on the matter.

The Board meeting on January 19 was relatively uneventful. Wally, Gary and John agreed to continue in their current positions as Webmaster/Repeater Chairman, Editor and Activities Chairman, respectively. Fred, Ned and John were absent for various reasons but we still had a quorum. Major discussion topics included the Flea Market that we will host on March 21 (especially the need to organize and dispose of any excess Club items), a decision to proceed with procuring a canvas tarp for the antenna trailer, the need to make some minor revisions to the Bylaws and the need to update the "Need Help?" list in the SCCARA-GRAM. It was also noted that while Flea Market items donated for SCCARA to sell are appreciated, if the item doesn't sell the owner needs to reclaim it – SCCARA can't store or dispose of it.

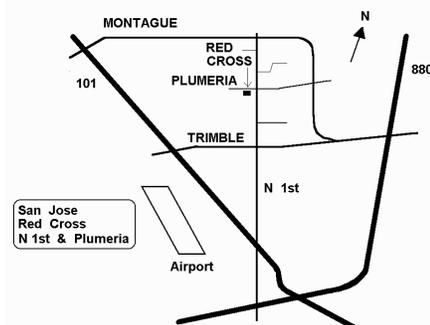
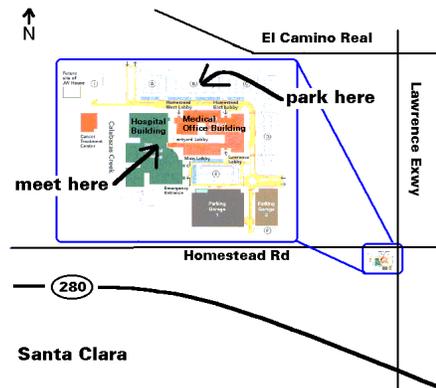
Gary told me that he mailed 62 January SCCARA-GRAMs, so we are well on our way to sustaining our 2008 membership. Be sure to renew by the end of February if you can. It's also worth noting that our treasury gained \$1,138.64 during 2008 for a year-end balance of \$9,852.39. You'll find a year-end financial summary in this issue of the SCCARA-GRAM.

## Calendar

2/9 SCCARA General Meeting  
2/16 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

## General Meeting

Day: Monday, Feb. 9, 2009  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Rm 196, 1  
Featuring: Tom Ryan of Bayland Battery (San Jose) on wet cell (big) batteries



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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Past President	---	
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	e-mail: <a href="mailto:wa6qys@aol.com">wa6qys@aol.com</a>	
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	e-mail: <a href="mailto:ka6ymd@arrl.net">ka6ymd@arrl.net</a>	
Director	John Parks, W6JPP	309-8709
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Director	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	269-2924
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N0ARY BBS	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	269-2924
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:wb6yru@ix.netcom.com">wb6yru@ix.netcom.com</a>	

**SCCARA REPEATERS**

SCCARA owns and operates two repeaters under the call W6UU:

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

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

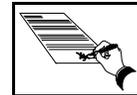
SCCARA hosts the packet BBS N0ARY (Mt Umunhum). User ports: 144.93 (1200 baud), 433.37 (9600 baud), telnet sun.n0ary.org (login "bbs"). Sysop: Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU (packet info: [www.n0ary.org/ncpa](http://www.n0ary.org/ncpa))

**TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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

Lastly, there will be a one-day Technician Class license class and test at the Red Cross on February 21. Contact me in person or at [ae6pm@arrl.net](mailto:ae6pm@arrl.net) if you or someone you know is interested.

73,  
Don – AE6PM



## Silent Key

Jack Russell, WA6IER, passed away Wednesday, January 14, 2009. Jack, a former Santa Clara resident and a long time club member, had moved to Alameda but maintained his SCCARA affiliation. The last club activity he attended was the picnic at Mary Gomez park in 2008. He enjoyed coming back to Santa Clara and visiting with family and his many friends. Gwen and I have known him for over thirty years. He will be sorely missed.

Lou WA6QYS

## HT raffle

Jim, KG6UDW, our past president has donated a new VX-150 handheld two meter radio to SCCARA. The board of directors has decided to conduct a raffle with the radio as the prize to generate funds for our club. Tickets, \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5 were offered at the January meeting and will also be available for purchase at the February meeting. The winning ticket will be drawn at the conclusion of that meeting. No need to go out shopping and fight the crowds at the mall; win a new HT radio for your Valentine!



Lou WA6QYS

## NEScaf filter kit

I built NEScaf filter. The NEScaf is a switched capacitive audio filter based on the MF100 chip. It has two panel-mounted controls -- a single center-detent potentiometer that sets the center frequency of the filter's bandpass (default value settable between ~415Hz and ~1kHz), and a dual-ganged potentiometer that provides a continuously variable bandwidth control (from ~60Hz to ~1500Hz). This ability to smoothly vary the bandwidth is very useful.

The NEScaf is designed to be driven with a phones or speaker level signal. No hacking into your rig -- just connect it to the headphone or speaker output of the radio. This makes it usable with several radios. The board is small enough, at about 2 inches square, to build inside many radios however, if you so choose.

This kit is suitable for all experience levels. It uses all thru-hole components, and the construction and adjustment is very straight-forward. It is reasonably priced and will be a nice addition to the QRPer's arsenal of tools.

A case and audio/power connectors are NOT supplied.

I bought CROWN ROYAL CASE, made by LMB HEEGER, which perfectly fits for this project. With the help of Don AE6PM,

who made labels for me, I put the board in the enclosure, mounted all connectors, put the transparent decals and finally sprayed the enclosure with Krylon Crystal Clear Acrylic Spray for sealing and protecting the labels.

## 2008 Statement

### SCCARA 2008 Financial Summary

ACCOUNT BALANCES	1/1/2008	12/31/2008
Checking Account	\$2,260.18	\$2,708.06
Savings Account	\$6,289.32	\$6,843.87
Cash on Hand	\$ 164.25	\$ 300.46
Total	\$8,713.75	\$9,852.39

#### SUMMARY

Balance on 1/1/2008	\$ 8,713.75
2008 Income	\$ 6,163.91
2008 Expenses	\$ -5,025.27
Balance on 12/31/2008	\$ 9,852.39

#### INCOME DETAILS

ARRL Renewal	\$ 23.00
Club Dues - 2008	\$ 699.00
Club Dues - 2009	\$ 740.00
Flea Market Income	\$4,637.86
Holiday Luncheon - 2007	\$ 42.00
Interest Income	\$ 4.55
Other Income	\$ 17.50

Total Income \$6,163.91

#### EXPENSE DETAILS

Bank Charge	\$ 9.00
BBS Expense	\$ 917.45
Business Cards	\$ 77.10
Equipment Purchase & Maint	
440 Repeater	\$ 637.56
CRT Monitors	\$ 279.50
Canopy	\$ 97.40
Other	\$ 32.92
Field Day Expense	\$ 186.53
Flea Market Expense	\$1,550.00
Holiday Luncheon - 2008	\$ 152.81
Insurance	\$ 51.00
Misc	\$ 123.36
Postage & Delivery	\$ 11.80
QSL*	\$ -10.00
Club Station	\$ 5.00
P.O. Box Rent	\$ 54.00
SCCARA-GRAM	\$ 844.05
Tax, Business*	\$ -20.00
Utilities- Telephone	\$ 25.79

Total Expense \$5,025.27

\* Check never cashed.

Don, AC6PM (outgoing Treasurer)



NEScaf filter can be bought from New England QRP Club (<http://newenglandqrp.org/>). The filter kit is \$31 postpaid to the U.S.

73, Ned AC6YY

## Repeater Report

Etiquette reminders...

1) Please remember to I.D. every transmission. Don't just 'kerchunk' the repeater to see if you can get in. Say your call sign too. This makes it perfectly legal.

2) If you intend to test a function (such as patch or keypad read back) Please make a statement such as "W6UW for tone pad test" Prior to keying commands. This will help keep the control operators calm!

73, Wally KA6YMD Repeater Chairman

## Treasurer's Treatise

Our financial status as of January 26, 2009, is:

Checking account	\$2,898.37
Savings account	\$6,843.87
Cash on hand	\$230.46

Total \$9,972.27

Ned Tufekcic, AC6YY

## ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, January 9, 2009

### ONE MODE DOWN, TWO TO GO!

With the advent of the ARRL's Triple Play Award <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/12/05/10490/>>, on-air participation has reached a level of excitement not seen in recent years. This new, exciting award is available to all amateurs who confirm contacts with each of the 50 states using three modes for

each state: CW, phone and RTTY/digital. All 150 contacts must be made on or after the January 1, 2009 and must be confirmed via Logbook of The World (LoTW) <<http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>>. All bands -- with the exception of 60 meters -- may be used in pursuit of the Triple Play Award.

The ARRL RTTY Round Up, held January 3-4, was one of the first organized events eligible for the award. "If the amount of activity in the 2009 ARRL RTTY Round Up is any indicator, the Triple Play is off to a fantastic start," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. "The RTTY Roundup was the first contest to take place since the award's inception. It ended only a few days ago, and we already have received almost 1100 logs. There's been a lot of chatter on the RTTY e-mail reflectors about getting the Triple Play completed, and I personally have seen numerous stations calling 'CQ Triple Play' on PSK31 since the first of the year. People already have their 'needed list' programmed into their PSK31 macros. There is no question that the new Triple Play award is causing a lot of buzz in the digital community. I'm happy that we have been able to come up with a new award that so many people are interested in right off the bat."

According to Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, Assistant Manager for the Membership and Volunteer Programs Department, hundreds of new LoTW certificates have been processed each day since the first of the year. "We are excited to see such an upswing in LoTW participation," he said. "I know what a thrill it can be to upload my logs to LoTW right after a contest and see the QSOs appear almost instantaneously. That's the magic of Logbook of The World."

Those who participated in the RTTY Round Up were ecstatic over how easy it was to use LoTW. Jose Castillo, N1BAA, of Amherst, Massachusetts, said, "Just amazing! Just under 24 hours since I uploaded my ARRL RTTY Round Up log and now I have Worked All States confirmed via LoTW [from just the RTTY Round Up]. Gotta love LoTW!" Bob Garceau, W1EQ, of Putnam, Connecticut agreed: "I'm impressed with the response to my uploaded log to LoTW. I uploaded 728 QSOs and 50 hours after the contest closed, I have 336 QSLs. That's a 46 percent response. Impressive! I think that someone will get #1 Triple Play by the end of January."

Don't be too upset if you wanted to work one of the digital modes and didn't participate in the RTTY Round Up -- other digital modes, such as PSK31 and Hellschreiber are also eligible for the digital portion of the award. The first ever 24 hour Hellschreiber sprint takes place January 17. According to the Feld Hell Club's Web site, all modes of Hell on any band (with the exception of 17, 30 and 60 meters) are allowed in the sprint <<http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests>>. If you like operating digital modes and you missed the RTTY Round Up, why not give the Feld Hell sprint a try? According to QST Editor and digital guru Steve Ford, WB8IMY, free sound card software for Hellschreiber, such as Fldigi <<http://www.w1hkj.com/Fldigi.html>>, MultiPSK (for PCs) <[http://f6cte.free.fr/index\\_anglais.htm](http://f6cte.free.fr/index_anglais.htm)> and cocoaModem (for Macintosh) <<http://homepage.mac.com/chen/w7ay/cocoaModem/>> can be found online.

For SSB and CW aficionados, the North American QSO Parties (NAQP) start January 10: The CW portion is 1800 UTC January 10-0600 UTC January 11, and the phone portion is 1800 UTC January 17-0600 UTC January 18 (the NAQP RTTY Contest is 1800 UTC February 28-0600 UTC March 1). Of course, you don't have to participate in a contest to chase the Triple Play Award. As long as you submit your logs to Logbook of The World, you're good! LoTW is set up to calculate your Triple Play QSOs separately from your other QSOs.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, warned that

it can be "addictive" once you begin making your contacts for the Triple Play Award, and that "there are many possible variations on the theme. You can try to be the first (or at least the first on your block) or you can set your own pace. Think it's too easy? Limit yourself to QRP while operating your favorite mode (or all three). Maybe you prefer to be the quarry; it will quickly emerge which states are the most difficult to find, offering opportunities to earn the gratitude of your mates by activating the ones you can get to with your portable or mobile rig."

So get on the air, make contacts and submit them via Logbook of The World. Before you know it, you'll have something new to hang up on your shack wall.

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From *The ARRL Letter*, January 16, 2009

## **FCC CHAIRMAN KEVIN MARTIN ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION**

The Aspen Institute, a non-partisan think-tank, announced on Thursday, January 15 that FCC Chairman Kevin Martin will join their group as a Senior Fellow in the Communications and Society Program on Tuesday, January 20, immediately upon his departure from the FCC. According to the Institute, Martin will be the fourth consecutive FCC Chairman to make the move to the group: Democrats Reed Hundt (1993-97) and William Kennard (1997-2001), as well as Republican Michael Powell (2001-05) have accepted fellowships with the Institute upon leaving the FCC. Julius Genachowski is expected to succeed Martin at the FCC <<http://www.aspeninstitute.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?h=ulWJMRKpH&b=4863373&ct=6603329>> (see following story).

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said that Martin's resignation is part of the "usual stuff we see when a new administration comes to office. We look forward to a positive relationship with the new Chairman and his administration."

In his letter of resignation to President Bush, Martin wrote, "I have had the privilege of serving at the Federal Communications Commission for almost eight years, including four years as the agency's Chairman. During this period, we have seen a telecommunications industry undergoing rapid and unprecedented change. As a result of the market-oriented and consumer focused policies we have pursued the American people are now reaping the rewards of convergence and the broadband revolution including new and more innovative technologies and services at ever-declining prices."

Chairman Martin stated that his philosophy during his tenure at the FCC "has been to pursue deregulation while paying close attention to its impact on consumers and the particulars of a given market, to balance deregulation with consumer protection" <[http://www.arrl.org/news/files/FCC\\_MartinResigns.DOC](http://www.arrl.org/news/files/FCC_MartinResigns.DOC)>. He said that he "approached his decisions with a fundamental belief that a robust, competitive marketplace, not regulation, is ultimately the best protector of the public interest and the best method of delivering the benefits of choice, innovation, and affordability to American consumers."

Martin said that during his tenure at the FCC, "the Commission has focused on establishing the appropriate regulatory environment that achieves the right balance between two competing interests: To encourage investment in communications infrastructure, and to make sure consumers and innovation are not unintentionally or intentionally disadvantaged by the owners of that infrastructure."

Martin was a strong advocate of BPL technology, as was his predecessor, Michael Powell, but the limited number of BPL

deployments show that BPL is not the success story it was hoped to be. "The technical problems of trying to get BPL to run reliably on wires that were never intended to carry high-speed digital signals make BPL less reliable than other technologies," said ARRL Laboratory Manager and BPL expert Ed Hare, W1RFI. "When coupled with poor rules that encouraged interference problems, BPL was given a poor start that it has never completely overcome." The ARRL has never been opposed to BPL per se, except when the technology causes harmful interference to the Amateur Radio Service.

Under his chairmanship, Martin said the Commission "acted to level the playing field so that all entrants could fairly compete, facilitating increased investment in the next generation of communications infrastructure, [while at the same time, I] was able to push for more open platforms to spur innovation on the edges of these networks and deliver lower prices, improved services and greater choice to consumers."

Executive Director of the Aspen Institute's Communications and Society Program Charles Firestone said that "Chairman Martin has been a longtime participant in Aspen Institute forums. We look forward to working with him and to the advice he will give us." Martin said he, too, looks forward to his time with the Institute: "I have long enjoyed and respected the Communications and Society Program, and I will relish the opportunity to reflect on the nature of leadership that I exercised in this field for the past several years." According to their Web site, The Aspen Institute is based in Washington, DC, Colorado and Maryland.

## **JULIUS GENACHOWSKI REPORTEDLY PICKED AS NEW FCC CHAIRMAN**

Democratic sources are reporting that President-elect Barack Obama has selected Julius Genachowski, 45, a technology executive and former classmate from Harvard Law School, to lead the Federal Communications Commission. If confirmed by the Senate, Genachowski would replace current Chairman Kevin Martin (see above story).

After graduating from law school, Genachowski clerked for federal judge Abner Mikva; he also clerked for Supreme Court Justice David Souter. Genachowski later served as chief counsel to Reed Hundt, chairman of the FCC from 1993-1997. After leaving the FCC, Genachowski was a senior executive at IAC/InterActiveCorp, Barry Diller's e-commerce and media company. He went on to found an investment and advisory firm for digital media companies and co-founded the country's first commercial "green" bank. According to Obama's Web site, Genachowski raised at least \$500,000 for Obama during the presidential election campaign.

Referring to the management practices of current FCC Chairman Martin, ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said, "We can only hope that under the new chairman, the FCC bureaus and offices that deal with Amateur Radio issues will be empowered to do their jobs without clearing every detail through the Chairman's office."

Early in the Obama presidential campaign, Genachowski urged the candidate to capitalize on the organizing power of the Internet. The New York Times <[http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/g/julius\\_genachowski/index.html?nline=nyt-per](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/g/julius_genachowski/index.html?nline=nyt-per)> called Genachowski "a prolific fund-raiser and chairman of the campaign's group of technology-policy advisers, who produced a report advocating an open Internet, diversity in media ownership and a nationwide wireless system for emergency personnel." The Washington Post, which described Genachowski a "local venture capitalist," credits

him with "spearheading Obama's online campaign strategy, which used social networking and other tools to spread Obama's campaign message and raise record campaign contributions" <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/01/12/AR2009011203417.html>>.

The Post credited sources close to Obama's transition team who said that "Genachowski had been recently meeting with key Democratic lawmakers to see if the role of Chief Technology Officer would have policy-making authority and decided against taking the job when he realized the definition of CTO would not include a strong regulatory role. Instead, Genachowski expressed interest in the FCC [Chairmanship]" <[http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/12/18/speculation\\_is\\_rife\\_in.html](http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/12/18/speculation_is_rife_in.html)>.

Genachowski explained in his Obama campaign blog that he "was fortunate to chair the group that advised Senator Obama and the [presidential] campaign on the tech & innovation plan, a large and hardworking group that generated terrific ideas, rooted in the great work that the Senator and his strong Senate staff have been doing in this area for quite some time" <<http://my.barackobama.com/page/community/blog/juliusgenachowski>>.

According to Bloomberg.com, the FCC may turn to expanding Americans' access to high-speed Internet service once the pressure from the digital television transition eases: "Obama has made universal broadband a cornerstone of his plan to boost US competitiveness. It is 'unacceptable' that the nation ranks 15th worldwide in high-speed Internet adoption rates, he said in a December 6 speech. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a California Democrat, has said broadband funds will be part of the economic stimulus package Congress intends to take up this month."

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From *The ARRL Letter*, January 23, 2009

## **FCC REPORTS DECLINE IN BPL CUSTOMERS**

On January 16, 2009, the Federal Communications Commission released data, as of December 31, 2007, on the services used for high-speed Internet access in the United States. According to the data collected by the FCC, as of that date there were 121.2 million high-speed lines (including wireless), a 20 percent increase in just six months.

In sharp contrast to the rapid growth in mobile wireless, cable modem, ADSL and fiber as delivery mechanisms to subscribers, Broadband over Power Line (BPL) utilization apparently declined during the period. According to the FCC figures, the category "Power Line and Other" dropped from 5420 lines in June 2007 to just 5274 six months later. It is not known how many of these are "Power Line" and how many are "Other."

"Despite the enormous and unwarranted hype given to BPL by the FCC under Chairmen Powell and Martin, the message from the marketplace is clear: BPL is going nowhere as a means of delivering broadband connectivity to consumers," observed ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "Still, the FCC has unfinished business with respect to BPL. It has been nine months since the federal Court of Appeals ordered the Commission to correct the errors it committed in adopting rules that inadequately protect licensed radio services from BPL interference <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/25/10064/>>, yet the FCC has made no effort to comply. With the change at the FCC helm that is about to take place, we hope the foot-dragging will come to an end and the Commission will fulfill its obligations to the Court as well as to its licensees."

The 27-page FCC report may be found at on the FCC's Web site <[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-287962A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-287962A1.pdf)>.

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# Meeting Minutes

## General Meeting, Jan. 12, 2009



*{no minutes received by the deadline. -Ed}*

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## Board Meeting, Dec. 15, 2008



The meeting was called to order at 7:37 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 Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU

Guests: John Glass, NU6P Clark Murphy, KE6KXO

Excused Absences: None

#### Trustee's Report

The club station was open for both the California QSO party and the ARRL Sweepstakes (both CW and phone). There was mention of a work party to hoist the vertical antenna at the Red Cross higher and possibly pull new coax.

Don Village would like to check Tx output power on the Yaesu rig

There were 37 reservations for the Christmas banquet. John Parks will monitor the incoming gifts. John Parks also mentioned that Bob Vallio was interested in attending, and would like advanced notice of next year's banquet. There was discussion about inviting other ARRL officials, in future years.

Don Village is going make Mt Madonna reservations on Dec 26.

#### Secretary's Report

Minutes from the November board meeting were approved with corrections

Fred Townsend mentioned an article about Congress being critical of the FCC. FCC mentioned that hams are not to visit homes with regard to the conversion to digital TV.

#### Treasurer's Report

There were 37 paid membership for 2009. The current balances are \$2861.58 checking \$6843.18 savings \$510.47 cash \$10215.22 total

The treasurer's report accepted as given

Don Steinbach informed the potential tower donor that donations to SCCARA were not a tax deduction. He had not gotten a response.

#### Vice President's Report

Don Village described his experience with a digital converter box.

Fred Townsend mentioned possible interference with digital converter box from ham radio.

A Ham Day event was sponsored last year by Excess Solutions. The owner of Excess Solutions has offered a free spot in his parking lot for a Ham Radio day, this year. Fred Townsend proposed May 23, which is a Saturday. He suggested we setup a station as a demo and sell excess club equipment.

John Parks asked who will do the advertising.

Fred Townsend asked for an informal show hand from board members. The general consensus was in favor of supporting Ham Day.

Fred Townsend asked for additional ideas for future meeting speakers

#### Repeater

No new status---Fred Townsend mentioned that there may be an antenna problem with 2 meter repeater. This is the reason to continue to push the MOU with the City of San Jose.

#### Web Master

Wally Britten posted the dates that the club station will be open in 2009

#### Activities:

Ham Day was already discussed.

The USCG cutter tour is on hold, indefinitely.

Progress is being made on the special events station for USCG anniversary.

There was discussion about a Spring picnic. Fred Townsend suggested having the picnic at a park near the KGO facility and organizing a tour of KGO. Concerns were expressed about the location near KGO not being convenient to recruit new members

Fred Townsend suggested the membership be polled to determine the level of interest.

Lou Steirer asked about setting up a station at the Powwow. John Parks expressed an interest in setting up the tower trailer. Lou Steirer will need to check if tower trailer would be allowed. The general consensus was favorable.

John Parks asked about organizing an activity for the club's 90th anniversary. The board members expressed support for the idea.

#### Newsletter

Gary Mitchell mentioned the possibility of color printing. The board consensus was to continue black and white printing. Gary Mitchell also asked for feedback for specific items to place in the SCCARAGram.

John Glass mentioned ARRL section update and ARRL radio club newsletter. Gary Mitchell is interested in local content.

#### Old Business

MOU with the City of San Jose Kimberly Struck has started to work on MOU after the election. She asked about a standby controller. The City would be interested in buying a backup controller. Clark mentioned that a backup controller may be in the locker

John Glass mentioned that a controller, same make /model as the current one, is available for \$785.95. This is a single port controller. John Glass will confirm shipping cost.

There was a discussion about programming.

RACES wants phone patch capability on the 2 meter repeater.

Fred Townsend said the \$785.95 is more than quoted to the City.

John Parks offered a motion to buy a replacement controller subject to the City of San Jose reimbursement. Don Village seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VX150 raffle

Fred Townsend asked about the status of the February raffle.

General Meeting Room

Fred Townsend asked Lou Steirer about meeting rooms for the coming year. Lou Steirer announced meeting rooms for next year. The January 12th and February 9th meetings will be held in room 125 which is in the Hospital Building. The June 8th meeting will be held in Room A3/A4 in the Medical Offices Building. The remaining meetings will be held in Room A2/A5 in the Medical Office Building.

Old Repeater

Gary Mitchell asked about the status sale of the old repeater

Patches: No new status

No feedback from George Williams on the use of room 4 at the Red Cross for board meetings.

New Business

Clark Murphy mentioned that the storage lockers in his yard need a proper, sloped roof.

Lou Steirer offered a motion to get roofing material. Gary Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

Lou Steirer announced that SCCARA is sponsoring the March flea market.

Ned Tufekcic offered a motion to acquire a sound card interface for one of the club radios, not to exceed \$100.00. He suggested a Rascal. David Dippon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

Lou Steirer announced that the next SVECS breakfast will be January 24th. The speaker will be Sharon Moerner, N6MWD, who will give a presentation on Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm

Respectfully Submitted, David Dippon, Secretary

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## Board Meeting, Jan. 19, 2009



Unapproved Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:57 pm. by Don Steinbach.

Attendance

Board Members

David Dippon, AE6YE Don Steinbach, AE6PM Don Village, K6PBQ Lou Steirer, WA6QYS Wally Britten, KA6YMD Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU

Guests: Clark Murphy, KE6KXO Gwen Steirer, KF6OTD

Excused Absences

Fred Townsend, AE6QL John Parks, W6JPP John Glass, NU6P Ned Tufekcic, AC6YY

Don Steinbach asked the Board members to review agenda. He also announced a one day Technician license class February 21.

Vice President's Report

There was no report from the Vice President.

Secretary's Report

The minutes from the December board meeting were reviewed.

Don Village offered a motion to approve the December Board meeting minutes. Lou Steirer seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

There was no Treasurer's report. Don Steinbach had handed the Treasurer's records to Ned Tufekcic. The bank signature card has been transferred to Don Steinbach and Ned Tufekcic. Clark Murphy and Barbara Britten have been removed from the signature card.

Trustee's Report

The club station will be open on January 31 for general operation. The Tx output power on the Yaesu rig will be checked.

Activities

There was no report. The activity with the USCG is in limbo.

Newsletter

Gary Mitchell proposed that the Elmers list be updated. David Dippon asked if photographs would be printed in the SCCARA-GRAM. Photographs can be printed in the SCCARA-GRAM but need a caption or a story. Gary Mitchell agreed to continue as editor for the coming year.

BBS

Gary Mitchell expressed a concern about the user channel not putting out enough power.

Repeater: No new status.

Web Master

Wally Britten reported that the Club web site is running well since web server's ISP was relocated.

Old Business

VX150 raffle

Lou Steirer reports \$83 dollars has been collected so far. Don Steinbach asked about the value of the VX 150. There was discussion about future raffles being a good value if items have to be purchased.

Proposed 2 M repeater

Don Steinbach mentioned that Gregg Lane was not present to inform the board if Hawk was interested in purchasing the old repeater. This issue will be deferred.

Field Day Reservation

Don Village has made the Field Day Reservation for Mt Madonna.

New Business

Don Steinbach mentioned he planned to upgrade his version of Quicken. He offered to donate a 2005 Quicken copy to Ned Tufekcic.

Bob Vallio gave SCCARA a General class Q&A book. Don

# Circular Advice

Steinbach asked what to do with it. Gary Mitchell suggested it be given to Novice or Technician member. It was suggested that we give it to a young member. Gary Mitchell suggested we draw lots if more than one member is interested. The Board agreed to draw lots.

## DeAnza Swap Meet

Don Steinbach asked who is in charge. Lou Steirer has talked to the ASVARO, Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Organizations. SCCARA will host the March 21 flea market, which is still in the planning stage. Lou Steirer is looking for new gatekeepers. Don Steinbach asked who was going to decide about selling excess club items. He mentioned that pricing should be decided in advance.

Gary Mitchell offered a motion to allow Clark Murphy to sell a batch of wire strippers. Don Village seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Gary Mitchell asked if the Board wanted to get rid of items or get top dollar. Don Steinbach put Lou Steirer in charge of organizing the flea market activity. He put Gary Mitchell in charge of setting the prices.

## Future Actions

Don Steinbach mentioned the need to adjust the Bylaws. The need to define the term for officers and directors was mentioned. Gary Mitchell mentioned simplifying the membership dues formula.

Gwen Steirer suggested the new Board members have a group photograph taken.

There was a discussion about continuing dinner meetings. Gary Mitchell suggested the membership be polled.

The SCCARA-GRAM Elmers list needs review. There was a discussion about how to update the Elmers list.

The Board of Director's email distribution list needs to be updated

Don Steinbach mentioned that Gary Mitchell needs inputs to the SCCARA-GRAM.

Don Village asked if we should continue to hold the Holiday luncheon at the Creekside Inn. Lou Steirer offered a motion to continue holding the Holiday luncheon at the Creekside Inn. Wally Britten seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Clark Murphy asked about a replacement tarp for the antennas trailer.

Don Village offered a motion for Gary Mitchell to acquire a replacement tarp. Lou Steirer seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

David Dippon showed the Board members a proposed certificate.

Clark Murphy suggested a meeting presentation on the phone patch for the repeater.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted, David Dippon, Secretary

It was already late fall and the indians on a remote reservation in South Dakota asked their new chief if the coming winter was going to be cold or mild. Since he was a chief in a modern society he had never been taught the old secrets. When he looked at the sky he couldn't tell what the winter was going to be like.

Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, he told his tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the village should collect firewood to be prepared.

But being a practical leader, after several days he got an idea. He went to the phone booth, called the National Weather Service and asked, "is the coming winter going to be cold?"

"It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold," the meteorologist at the Weather Service responded.

So the chief went back to his people and told them to collect even more firewood in order to be prepared.

A week later he called the National Weather service again. "Does it still look like it is going to be a very cold winter?"

"Yes," the man at National Weather service again replied, "it's going to be a very cold winter."

The chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of firewood they could find.

Two weeks later the chief called the National Weather service again. "Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?"

"Absolutely," the man replied. "It's looking more and more like it is going to be one of the coldest winters we've ever seen."

"How can you be so sure?" the chief asked.

The weatherman replied, "the indians are collecting firewood like crazy."

Remember this whenever you get advice from a government official!

Lou, WA6QYS

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## Packet Pieces

**Downloaded from the BBS packet network:**

=====  
Date: 20 Nov 2005 12:50  
From: ZL3AI@ZL2BAU  
To: HUMOUR@WW  
Subject: Limericks/Golf/Outlook  
-----

## Limericks

-----  
There once was this buddy of mine,  
Whose limericks would always rhyme,  
But the meter, I fear,  
Oft offended the ear,  
When he foolishly tried to cram too many words onto one line.

## 3 Golf Quickies

-----  
The interesting thing about golf is that no matter how badly you play; it is always possible to get worse.

The greatest sound in golf is the "Woosh, Woosh, Woosh" of your opponents club as he hurls it across the fairway.

There were four 80 year old men playing golf. One complained the hills were too high. The second complained the bunkers were too deep. The third said the holes were too wide. The fourth one said 'Shut up! At least we're still on the right side of the grass!'

## A Matter Of Outlook

-----  
She married him because he was such a "strong man" She divorced him because he was such a "dominating male."

He married her because she was so "fragile and petite." He divorced her because she was so "weak and helpless."

She married him because "he knows how to provide a good living." She divorced him because "all he thinks about is business."

He married her because "she reminds me of my mother." He divorced her because "she's getting more like her mother every day."

She married him because he was "happy and romantic." She divorced him because he was "shiftless and fun-loving."

He married her because she was "steady and sensible." He divorced her because she was "boring and dull."

She married him because he was "the life of the party." She divorced him because "he never wants to come home from a party."

=====  
Date: 20 Nov 2005 07:50  
From: W1GMF@W1GMF  
To: HUMOR@USA  
Subject: HUMOR FOR TODAY 1119  
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"An abstract noun," the teacher said, "is something you can think of, but you can't actually touch it. Can anyone give me an example of one?"

"Sure," a teenage boy replied. "My father's new car."

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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

Did everyone see Ned's article on the audio filter kit? I'd sure like to see more of this sort of thing from the club. Either reviews (such as Ned's) or any kind of article related to amateur radio.

Please submit articles in plain text. The newsletter has its own formatting and layout. If you do any kind of formatting yourself, I'll just have to removed first. However, if you want some special layout, formatting or font, just let me know, we can work out nearly anything you need.

73, 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.