

# SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County  
Amateur Radio Association

Volume 25, Number 3

March 2009



## President's Prose

The Board of Directors decided at the February 16 meeting to hold the annual "dinner meeting" in April. As usual, family and friends are invited, so reserve April 13 for this event at the Home Town Buffet. Also, don't forget that we host the Electronics Flea Market on March 14. The minutes from that Board meeting should appear elsewhere in this issue of the *SCCARA-GRAM*.

The February 21 Technician license class at the Red Cross was a success. There are now 13 more Technician class licensees in the world. This class was conducted in hopes of infusing some amateur radio expertise into the cadre of Red Cross volunteers.

I'm sure you've heard by now that Pacificon, usually held in San Ramon in October, will instead be held in Reno in May. The Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club is no longer hosting the event. Personally, I'm sorry to see the move. I've enjoyed attending the technical sessions (especially the Friday Antenna Forum) and the convenience of being able to drive there each day – even with the miserable parking situation. I understand that SCCARA used to host this event under the leadership of our friend Shorty, AE6Z (SK). Perhaps one of you "old timers" could enlighten us with a short article for the *SCCARA-GRAM*?

Gary, WB6YRU, our Editor, encourages SCCARA members to submit articles for publication in the *SCCARA-GRAM*. He doesn't pay very well, but neither does he send out rejection slips. Last month, Ned wrote an article on his switched-capacitor filter, Lou submitted a piece regarding Jack Russell (SK) and Wally offered some repeater etiquette reminders. I'll take a turn this month with an article on Anderson Powerpole connectors – with some interesting information that you might not have been aware of. (Yes, I know *of* is a preposition.)

73, Don – AE6PM



## Attention Elmers

Please take a look at the "Need Help" column and check that your information is correct. Let me know if there are any changes, (including being removed or added.)

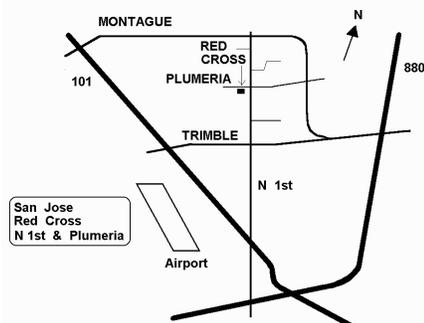
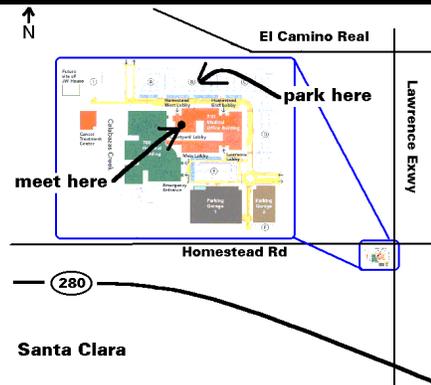
73, Gary WB6YRU, Editor

## Calendar

- 3/9 SCCARA General Meeting
- 3/14 DeAnza Electronic Flea Market–We Host!
- 3/16 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 4/13 SCCARA General Meeting – Dinner meeting

## General Meeting

Day: Monday, March 9, 2009  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Rm 196, 1  
Featuring: {to be announced}



# ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, January 30, 2009

## LAURA L. SMITH NAMED TO AMATEUR RADIO ENFORCEMENT ROLE

Laura L. Smith of Pennsylvania has been named by the FCC to fill the vacancy created when Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, retired in 2008 as Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. Hollingsworth served in that position for more than 10 years as the FCC's enforcement watchdog over the Amateur Radio Service <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/07/03/10198>>.

A 1990 graduate of the Pepperdine University School of Law, Smith began her legal career with the FCC, working in the Mass Media Bureau and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. She also served as Deputy Division Chief of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division. Smith is currently licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In 1998, Smith left the FCC to become Executive Director of Governmental Affairs for the Industrial Telecommunications Association (ITA) <<http://www.ita-relay.com/default.htm>>, now Enterprise Wireless Alliance. In that role, she monitored FCC and legislative proceedings and participated in all regulatory proceedings relevant to the private wireless industry. In 2001, Smith became ITA's President and Chief Executive Officer. While in that position, she was instrumental in the formation of the Consensus Group, a group of public safety and private wireless entities responsible for drafting the "Consensus Plan," a proposed resolution for interference in the 800 MHz band; this was adopted by the FCC in 2004.

Smith returns to the FCC after serving Of Counsel with the Maryland law firm of Shulman Rogers. While there, she dealt with telecommunications matters and provided counsel to numerous entities in the private radio and public safety communities. Smith has served as an industry consultant and written columns for a variety of trade publications including "Mobile Radio Technology Magazine" and "The Private Wireless Magazine."

In an October 2008 letter to then-FCC Chairman Kevin Martin, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, urged Martin to name a successor to Hollingsworth: "The appointment of a replacement Special Counsel in this position is of critical importance to the Amateur Radio Service, as the delay in finalizing the appointment stands to undermine in very short order an exceptionally successful and low-cost program of enforcement in the Amateur Service."

Calling the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement program "spectacularly successful," Harrison reminded Martin of the "long period in the late 1980s and 1990s during which the Commission was essentially uninvolved in enforcement in the Amateur Service. The Amateur Service, consisting of some 680,000 licensees of the Commission, is in essence a self-regulating service; however, due to the shared frequency allocations in the Service and the long distance propagation of amateur communications, a very few rule violators can cause severe disruption in the Service. On the other hand, even a minimal Commission presence has a very strong deterrent value."

When Hollingsworth was appointed as Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement, Harrison said that Hollingsworth "established a visible presence in the Service and very quickly, and with very little investment of Commission resources, using little more than the awareness of an enforcement presence, created strong deterrence against rule violations."

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>           |          |
| 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/nepa](http://www.n0ary.org/nepa))

### TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

Upon learning of Smith's move to the Amateur Radio enforcement role, Harrison remarked that he was "very pleased to see the Commission move forward with the hiring of a new Special Counsel responsible for enforcement of the Amateur Radio Service rules. Ever since Riley Hollingsworth announced his retirement, we have met with the Enforcement Chief numerous times and corresponded with FCC Chairman Martin to ensure this position remains intact at FCC. The Commission acknowledges the self-regulating environment we maintain, but also understands that we need their assistance occasionally to resolve a few situations. They have continually reassured us that this is an important matter for them, and Ms Smith's hiring confirms that."

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From *The ARRL Letter*, February 6, 2009

## **ARRL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ISSUES MOBILE AMATEUR RADIO OPERATION POLICY STATEMENT**

On January 30, at the instruction of the Board of Directors at its January 2009 meeting, the ARRL Executive Committee adopted a policy statement on mobile Amateur Radio operations. The statement addresses the growing number of proposed state and local laws and ordinances regulating the use of cellular telephone and text messaging, inadvertently affecting Amateur Radio mobile communications <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/MobileAmateurRadioPolicyStatement.pdf>>.

In its statement, the Executive Committee urges state and municipal legislators to limit the scope of their proposals, limiting them to devices such as full duplex wireless telephones and related handheld or portable equipment. Alternately, it suggests that licensed Amateur Radio operation be listed specifically as an exclusion to the proposed regulations.

"At the start of each new session, you see a flurry of this type of proposal in state legislatures across the country," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. As of February 1, 2009, Henderson said that the ARRL is aware of proposals in 11 states: Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Montana, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wyoming, as well as several local city or town proposals.

"These proposals are usually intended to regulate cellular telephone and text messaging by drivers as a matter of safety but, when they are written in very broad terms, can include Amateur Radio mobile operations in the 'net' they cast," Henderson continued. "The Executive Committee's policy statement gives a good, concise background of the role the Amateur Service plays in public safety and service communications. It also highlights the differences between communications conducted by cellular telephone and those using Amateur Radio. Finally, the statement offers some suggested statutory language for state motor vehicle codes which would protect Amateur Radio mobile operation."

The ARRL recognizes that driver inattention is a leading cause of automobile accidents. The policy statement raises the fact that cell phones utilize full duplex communications -- where the user is talking and listening simultaneously. The Executive Committee statement says "Two-way radio use is dissimilar from full-duplex cellular telephone communications because the operator spends little time actually transmitting; the time spent listening is more similar to, and arguably less distracting than listening to a broadcast radio, CD or MP3 player. There are no distinctions to be made between or among Amateur Radio, public safety land mobile, private land mobile or citizen's radio in terms of driver distraction. All are distinguishable from mobile cellular telephone communications in this respect."

The ARRL Policy Statement also recognizes the responsibility of the amateur community to conduct its activities in a manner that does not create unsafe operation of their motor vehicle. "Safety has to be a top concern at all times," Henderson concluded.

## **ARRL ANNOUNCES SECOND HOMEBREW CHALLENGE**

The first ARRL Homebrew Challenge, announced in the August 2006 issue of QST, offered a prize for the best 5 W, 40 meter CW and voice transceiver our readers could build. The only requirement was that the rig had to be built for less than \$50 of new, readily available parts. In 2009, ARRL ups the ante in the Second Homebrew Challenge by upping the power limit to 50 W. All entries are due no later than February 28, 2010 <<http://www.arrl.org/qst/hbc/>>.

"Low power (QRP) operation is fun, but often a little more power is even more fun," said ARRL Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR. "For our new challenge, we are asking readers to design, or adapt a published design (with appropriate credit), and build a 50 W amplifier to follow a 5 W/40 meter transceiver. This could be used behind one of the radios from the original challenge, or from other QRP radios at similar power level." There will be two cash prizes for this challenge. In addition to the prizes, the winners will receive the usual QST page rate for published articles.

The amplifier must operate on 40 meters. It must operate as a linear amplifier capable of accepting a QRP input signal and putting out a minimum of 50 W PEP into a 50 ohm load. It must meet all FCC requirements for spurious emissions. The amplifier must include control circuitry to switch from transmit to receive through a single contact closure and provide a path from antenna to receiver during receive mode. Hallas suggested taking a look at the two part series by Rick Campbell, KK7B, "Designing and Building Transistor Linear Power Amplifiers," in the February and March 2009 issues of QST.

Hallas listed some basic requirements for the Homebrew Challenge:

- It must meet all requirements while operating from a 13.8 V dc power supply.
- It must put out 50 W PEP on 40 meters with a 5 W PEP input.
- It must be a linear amplifier with third order and higher intermodulation products must be below -28 dBc (28 dB below the carrier) as measured using the procedures described in the ARRL Lab product review Test Procedures Manual <<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/prodrev/testproc.pdf>>.
- It must be capable of key down operation at 40 W CW output for 5 minutes without more than a 5 percent reduction in output level.
- Single contact transmit/receive switching is required.
- Parts must be readily available either from identified national retailers or by mail order. No "flea market specials" allowed.
- The total cost of all mechanical and electrical parts required for duplication of the amplifier cannot exceed \$125.

All entries must be received at ARRL Headquarters no later than February 28, 2010. The amplifier that meets all the basic requirements at the lowest cost will receive a prize of \$200. An additional prize of \$300 will be awarded for an amplifier that meets all the basic requirements and, in the sole judgment of the reviewers, provides the most useful mix of the following additional attributes within the \$125 cost limitation:

- Full output with an input lower than 5 W, perhaps as low as 2 W, to allow operation with other popular radios.
- Use of aluminum oxide or other types of power transistors rather than beryllium oxide.
- Operation on additional bands besides 40 meters.
- Operation in support of full break-in (QSK) mode.

Hallas noted that some RF power transistors, and even some conduction cooled vacuum tubes, are built on a beryllium oxide substrate or heat conduction base. "Beryllium oxide is inert and safe if properly handled," he said. "If crushed, drilled or filed, however, the resulting dust can be harmful if breathed. Many new power transistors use an aluminum oxide substrate that avoids this problem. It is recommended that aluminum oxide be used if possible. If you do choose to use beryllium based transistors for your amplifier, please treat them with the respect that they deserve, and dispose of them as hazardous material outside of normal household waste disposal channels if they fail or are no longer needed."

Each entrant must submit the fully operational amplifier, as well as a documentation package. This package should include a draft QST article with a discussion of the design considerations and tradeoffs and a description of the construction techniques. The article will also include test and alignment steps, operating instructions, along with a readable schematic with a list of all parts used, their source and price.

Those who do not have the capability to measure the desired and undesired output products accurately may submit amplifiers early for an unofficial pre-test in the ARRL Lab. Hallas advised entrants allow two weeks (from ARRL's receipt of the package) to be notified of the results.

The station will first be evaluated in comparison to the basic requirements by the ARRL Laboratory. Entries determined by the Lab to be acceptable on the basis of FCC spectral purity and output requirements will be further evaluated by the QST Technical Editorial Staff.

While the basic rules and evaluation criteria were provided in the original announcement, Hallas said that there are always questions on interpretation. "We have thus again provided a Web resource <<http://www.arrl.org/qst/hbc/>> to provide the questions and answers (FAQs) to all interested participants. Answers provided should be considered a part of the rules and are binding on all entrants."

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From *The ARRL Letter*, February 20, 2009

### **"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:

Scott McCann, W3MEO, of Queenstown, Maryland, asks: I am fairly new to SSB and CW on VHF and was surprised during the September ARRL VHF contest to have worked W2SZ, the RPI Amateur Radio Club station on Mt Greylock in Massachusetts. I was running 2 W CW to a homebrew four element beam 20 feet off the ground. The boys on the mountain were running a lot bigger station than I was.

This station was well over the horizon. I wonder what propagation mode supports this beyond line-of-sight (LOS) communication? I worked several other stations that were also well over the horizon.

The Doctor Answers -- The propagation mode is most likely troposcatter, in which VHF signals are scattered by the troposphere, the lowest region of our atmosphere extending about 7 miles to the border with the stratosphere. Troposcatter is in common use by the military and some commercial users for paths up to a few hundred miles -- generally using high power and high

gain antennas.

Troposcatter is also the mode that results in a commonly occurring type of long distance TV transmission. W2SZ -- the Amateur Radio club at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York -- uses big power and antennas from a fantastic location, making this mode a common occurrence. You can find out more about troposcatter and the other propagation modes supported by the troposphere at this Web site <[www.oe1cwj.com/literature/troposcatter.htm](http://www.oe1cwj.com/literature/troposcatter.htm)>.

Do you have a question or a problem? Send your questions via e-mail <[doctor@arrl.org](mailto: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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## **Anderson Powerpole connectors – the REST of the story**

Most of us are (and all of us should be) using Anderson Powerpole connectors for the dc power connections to our equipment. I say "should" because those connectors are the standard adopted by ARES/RACES. They come in several flavors: 15, 30, 45, 75, 120 and 180 amp product ratings. The ones we're usually concerned with are the 15, 30 and 45-amp variety. You probably already know that the connector (metal) part is the same length and width for all three, and that all three fit into the same colored modular plastic housing. The difference between them is in the size of the barrel - the part where you insert the wire to be crimped or soldered. The 15-amp connector barrel is sized for (i.e., accepts) #16 to #20 wire, the 30-amp is sized for #12 to #16 wire, and the 45-amp is sized for #10 to #14 wire.

The important thing to note here, and that's not obvious, is that the only thing that changes the current-carrying capacity specification of the connector is the size of the wire attached to it. Not because of the ability of the wire to carry the current, but because of the mass of the wire being able to conduct the heat away from the connector-to-connector interface of the mated Powerpole connectors. The connector contact resistance is low, but finite (525 to 875 micro-ohms per the data sheets), and the current through that resistance generates heat. If the wire doesn't remove the heat, the connector interface overheats, the contact spring tension deteriorates and things quickly go from bad to worse. The end result could be (I've seen a picture somewhere) a melted plastic connector block with the connector contacts welded together inside. Also, be aware that having the connector blocks joined side-to-side (multipole) instead of alone (singlepole) reduces the current carrying capacity even more.

Our ham radio current requirements are usually fairly benign (i.e., low duty cycle) so you might be able to ignore all of this. But if you wish to avoid problems, you should be aware of the information that follows from the Anderson data sheets.

The specified connector current carrying capacity (15, 30 or 45 amps) is based on a 65° C temperature at the connector contact interface. This would be a 40° C rise from an ambient temperature of 25° C.

|  |
|--|
| <b>Current carrying capacity for a 40° C rise in the singlepole or multipole configuration</b> |
|--|

| contact current | wire gauge | current single-pole | current multi-pole |
|-----------------|------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 15 A            | #20        | 10 A                | 8 A                |
| 15 A            | #18        | 16 A                | 12 A               |
| 15 A            | #16        | 22 A                | 16 A               |
| 30 A            | #16        | 22 A                | 15 A               |
| 30 A            | #14        | 28 A                | 19 A               |
| 30 A            | #12        | 34 A                | 23 A               |
| 45 A            | #14        | 28 A                | 17 A               |
| 45 A            | #12        | 34 A                | 21 A               |
| 45 A            | #10        | 46 A                | 31 A               |
| 45 A            | #10        | 46 A                | 31 A               |

**Table 1. Note the significant derating when the contacts are in a multi-pole configuration.**

| Nominal Connector Rating |             |            |             |            |             |            |
|--------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| wire size                | 15 A single | 15 A multi | 30 A single | 30 A multi | 45 A single | 45 A multi |
| #20                      | 10 A        | 8 A        | —           | —          | —           | ---        |
| #18                      | 16 A        | 12 A       | —           | —          | —           | ---        |
| #16                      | 22 A        | 16 A       | 22 A        | 15 A       | —           | ---        |
| #14                      | —           | —          | 28 A        | 19 A       | 28 A        | 17 A       |
| #12                      | —           | —          | 34 A        | 23 A       | 34 A        | 21 A       |
| #10                      | —           | —          | —           | —          | 46 A        | 31 A       |

**Table 2. Powerpole connector current-carrying capacity as a function of wire size and Single-pole or Multi-pole connector**

Summarizing, the 15 amp connector might exceed specification temperature limits at currents as low as 8 amps (multipole with #20 wire), the 30 amp connector at currents as low as 15 amps (multipole with #16 wire) and the 45 amp connector at currents as low as 17 amps (multipole with #14 wire).

Now you have the REST of the story. Don't just take my word for it, download the datasheets from [www.andersonpower.com](http://www.andersonpower.com) and do your own analysis.

Don Steinbach - AE6PM

## Treasurer's Treatise

Our financial status as of February 24, 2009, is:

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| Checking account | \$3,429.62 |
| Savings account  | \$3,843.87 |
| Cash on hand     | \$ 409.46  |

Total \$7,682.95

Recent account activities:

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Income from HT raffle | \$ 159.00 |
| Membership income     | \$ 210.50 |

We had the following expenses:

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Gary Mitchell, SCCARA-GRAM                                  | \$ 171.99  |
| Tarp for antenna trailer                                    | \$ 93.95   |
| Don Village, Mount Madonna and Christmas Dinner reservation | \$ 638.00  |
| Arnold Thomas, for 10 badges                                | \$ 75.00   |
| ASVARO, Flee Market   | \$1,625.00 |

Ned, AC6YY

## Packet Bulletin Board Systems (BBS)

As most of you know, SCCARA sponsors the N0ARY packet BBS. There have been talks given in the past, but it's been a while. So, beginning with this issue, there will be a short series of articles to bring you up to speed.

If you don't have packet capability, you'll need a TNC (Terminal Node Controller). A TNC is like a telephone modem, it interfaces between your computer and your radio. In fact, that's really what it is, a modem. The instructions with most TNCs are pretty good these days, so we won't go into that here. Suffice it to say the computer interface end of a TNC is a serial port. So you'll need a computer with a serial port and running terminal software. Even just an old dumb terminal will work, if you happen to have one.

### Packet BBS introduction

In a nutshell, packet BBS is sort of the amateur radio version of e-mail and a single usenet group on the internet. Their main function is to store and forward messages. There are three classes of messages: personal to a particular amateur, bulletins of general interest readable by anyone, and NTS traffic that is handled by an amateur involved in traffic handling.

Packet BBSs are set up to be available for as many users as possible, much like repeaters. One typically only uses their local BBS. Messages are routed to other BBSs automatically. In that sense a BBS is like your local post office, it doesn't matter which one you use. But before you can send or receive personal messages, you need an account at one BBS, like having a PO Box at your local post office. Of course this being amateur radio there's no cost at all, but a simple account is needed in order for the system to know where to route your messages.

There are a few different "flavors" of BBS, each is usually known by the call of its author. For example, the N0ARY BBS sponsored by SCCARA was created by Bob Arasmith, N0ARY, in Sunnyvale. The command set of each BBS is fairly standardized, but each BBS author (programmer) may have expanded on the capabilities of their specific system.

### Getting Started

You'll need an account to use your local BBS. Don't let that scar you, it's mainly just a matter of the BBS registering your call as a

user and assigning a home BBS, that's the only info absolutely needed. There's not much to it, the BBS will guide you through if it doesn't already know you. Your call will already be known from the packets you're sending. The BBS may ask for your first name, QTH, and the call of the BBS that will be your home BBS, (defaults to this one). Any other info is optional and merely stored locally, it doesn't get broadcasted in any way.

## White Pages and Choosing a Home BBS

The BBS you intend to use is your home BBS. It should be a full-service BBS, be easy to reach (no nodes needed), and where you intend to pick up your personal messages.

Most BBSs have a database of users. This is called the White Pages database, or just WP. It's composed of all the users of that BBS, plus the users of every BBS from messages that have come through. The minimum information in this database is your call and your home BBS. Most BBSs are known to each other. Once your call is associated with a given BBS, your messages will get routed properly.

Many BBSs automatically send WP updates for other BBSs. In that way, WP is a distributed database of all BBS users (more or less). The data includes: your Call, First Name, QTH (City, State, Zip), and Home BBS. Your name and QTH aren't absolutely needed, but it's nice to have as a backup. Any other data your BBS may know about you is NOT included.

Once you have chosen a BBS as "home," try to stick with it. Changing BBSs can result in lost messages. All you have to do is just connect to another BBS and declare that as your home. It can take time for that change to propagate through the network. Setting another BBS as home when traveling can confuse the WP database. So if you use another BBS, make sure you set your home BBS to your real one or it may default to itself.

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Future articles will get into the specifics. But if you'd like to get started now, by all means go for it. N0ARY was designed to be easy to use. On 144.93 MHz, 1200 baud, connect to N0ARY-1. The BBS is located atop Mt. Umunhum, so anyone in the area should have no trouble at all connecting. Try the HELP and INFO commands.

73, Gary WB6YRU

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# Meeting Minutes

## General Meeting, Feb. 9, 2009



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

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## Board Meeting, Feb. 16, 2009



Unapproved Minutes. Red Cross, 2731 North 1st Street, San Jose, CA

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 pm. by Don Steinbach.

Attendance

### Board Members:

Don Steinbach, AE6PM, President Fred Townsend, AE6QL, Vice President David Dippon, AE6YE, Secretary Ned Tufekcic, AC6YY, Treasurer Don Village, K6PBQ, Trustee John Glass, NU6P, Director Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, Director Wally Britten, KA6YMD, Director Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, Director John Parks, W6JPP, Director

Guests: None

Excused Absences: None

Don Steinbach asked the Board members to review the agenda, and items were added. He announced a one day Technician license class at the Red Cross on Feb 21.

### Vice President's Report

Fred Townsend reported on upcoming speakers. Since Radio Fest is the day before our next meeting, he is thinking of recruiting a speaker from Radio Fest for the March general meeting. He also mentioned asking Craig Anderson to talk about Wifi. The recent article in CQ magazine comparing handheld transceivers might also make an interesting topic.

John Parks mentioned interest in a satellite or moon bounce speaker. Fred Townsend mentioned that he is on-call to go to Norfolk and may miss the next meeting.

Fred Townsend is moving his Internet domain so we will gain the ability to edit email list.

### Secretary's Report

Lou Steirer offered a motion to accept the minutes from January's board meeting with minor corrections. Fred Townsend seconded the motion. The motion was agreed to.

There was discussion about the distribution and content of the membership roster.

### Treasurer's Report

Ned Tufekcic reported that \$170.50 was collected in membership dues and badge fees. He also reported that \$159.00 was collected from the raffle for the VX-150.

### Trustee's Report

Don Village reported that the club station will be open on February 28. He invited Ned Tufekcic to run PSK 31. He also asked to Don Steinbach about having the Yaseu rig ready on the 28th.

USS Hornet ham radio club may allow us to operate their club station aboard ship. . Activities

John Parks forwarded emails from Commander Satra to the board members. August 1 is the proposed date for operating a special events station to commemorate the 119th anniversary of USGC. There will also be a tour of a Coast Guard cutter and a static helicopter display. John Parks would like board approval if USGC asks us for use of the tower trailer.

John Parks will contact USS Hornet ham radio club.

John Parks also suggest that the Spring picnic be held on April 25, however this date conflicts with the county-wide RACES drill. He will work to find an alternate date.

John Parks further asked if the club is going to sponsor a class Technician or General license class. Don Steinbach expressed interest in holding a General license class, and wanted to determine the level of interest.

Newsletter

Gary Mitchell highlighted the article written by Ned Tufekcic on a kit he built. Don Steinbach mentioned Wally Britten's article about repeater etiquette. Gary is looking for more content produced by club members.

#### BBS

Gary Mitchell is working on a new link to BBS in Florida. There is also discussion with a BBS operator on the East side of valley. NVIS antenna is being considered for an HF link to these BBS systems. He is also considering 10 meters.(FM), and asked about using a club rig to test. He may want to work a trade for rig that works on 10 meter FM

#### Repeater

No new status. Wally Britten reported strange sounds on 440 repeater.

#### Web Master

Wally Britten has kept the web site updated. He created a supplemental email list. There was discussion about notification to members whose membership has expired. John Glass suggested sending a reminder postcard.

John Parks moved--the postcards be sent to member whose membership is delinquent at end of Feb 2009. Lou Steirer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Old Business

##### VX-150:

Lou reported that the raffle raised \$159.00. The retail value of a VX-150 is about \$120.00. Don S feels this is not worth purchasing equipment for a raffle to raise fund for the club.

#### Flea Market

The first Electronics Flea market of 2009 will be held on March 14. Lou Steirer announced that ASVARO has asked for payment. He passed around a signup sheet for volunteers at the last general meeting. Lou Steirer will organize the activity. Gary Mitchell will be in charge selling excess club items.

#### Quicken 2006

Don Steinbach gave Ned Tufekcic a CD with Quicken 2006.

#### President's Bag

Don Steinbach gave David Dippon two rolls of raffle tickets.

#### Proposed 2m repeater sale

John Parks announced that Hawk has declined offer to purchase repeater. A number of suggestions were offered. John Glass suggested taking it to the flea market. Fred Townsend suggested advertising them for sale on the Internet. They was discussion of their usefulness Gary Mitchell mentioned a second port on BBS. He would like to use parts (duplexer) of it for the BBS.

John Parks moved to keep duplexer and controller and scrap the remaining repeater items from the old 2 meter repeater. Gary Mitchell will be responsible for the disposal of scrapped items. Fred Townsend seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Dinner Meeting

Don Steinbach mentioned that the membership was polled about dinner meeting. Fred Townsend added that a speaker has not been scheduled for the April general meeting. Lou Steirer mentioned that some member bring family members to a dinner event. Don Village mentioned that past dinner meetings were an Old Timer's night. A few members are asked questions about their amateur radio background and interests.

Lou Steirer moved that we hold the April meeting as a dinner and social event at Hometown Buffet (Kiely and El Camino in Santa Clara). John Parks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Trailer Tarp

Gary Mitchell reported that a custom tarp would be required for the tower trailer. It would cost almost \$1000. He proposed using 6 mil plastic, which may last 3 or 4 years. He also purchased clamps. John Parks mentioned that he was authorized to get a tarp at a previous meeting. He mentioned that other suppliers are available. It was suggested that the trailer be allowed to dry. John Parks will work with Clark Murphy to get the trailer covered this week.

#### New Business

##### Invoice from ASVARO

ASVARO has submitted a bill for \$1625.00, due within next 30 days for flea market.

Lou Steirer moved to pay the ASVARO invoice. Don Village seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Documents

Don Steinbach asked for a review of who maintains copies of the following club documents:

Insurance and Equipment warranties-----Ned Tufekcic, Treasurer  
Bylaws ----David Dippon, Secretary  
Property List----Gary Mitchell

#### Christmas Lunch

Don Village asked to be reimbursed for expenses for the 2009 Christmas lunch deposit (\$200) and the 2009 Mt.Madonna reservation (\$438). Fred Townsend moved reimburse Don. John Glass seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### RACES

Fred Townsend announced that RACES is buying a backup controller for the current 2 meter repeater. They are interested in using phone patch. They further invited us to give them a demonstration of phone patch. Don Steinbach agreed to either present the demonstration or provide a SCCARA member to present it.

#### Patches

Ned Tufekcic showed board new patches made by Arnold Thomas. He wanted board approval before offered to membership. They are \$7.50 a piece. John Parks moved to accept design of patch. Lou Steirer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ned mentioned that different sizes are available.

Gary Mitchell moved we buy patches 10 at time. John Parks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Future Actions

##### Bylaws

##### SCCARA Elmers

Gary Mitchell is willing to make changes to Elmers list. He will mention this in SCCARA-GRAM

##### BoD email

Fred Townsend is working on allowing the email list to be changed.

##### SCCARA-GRAM

The deadline is last Monday month.

## Spring Picnic

The date for this activity is TBD. Fred Townsend suggested scheduling it on a Sunday to avoid conflicts with other events.

Wally Britten moved to adjourned. John Parks seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 pm

Respectfully Submitted, David Dippon, Secretary

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# Pacificon 2009

Pacificon 2009 to be hosted by EMCOMMWEST, May 1, 2, and 3, at the Circus Circus Hotel, Reno, NV

On February 15, I learned that the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club had decided not to sponsor the Pacificon Convention this year. They have done an outstanding job of running Pacificon every year since 1992, and this decision was made by their Pacificon Committee, based on the current economic downturn, and unsuccessful negotiations with the host hotel. Realizing the difficulty of finding a replacement for the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club, that with an experienced committee spends nearly a year planning this successful event, I decided to contact EMCOMMWEST, the second largest Amateur Radio Convention in the Pacific Division. They very kindly accepted, knowing the marriage of the two events would require an expansion of program matter, and the addition of Friday presentations. I am truly grateful to the entire EMCOMMWEST team for their decision. The Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club has been very supportive of this effort, and is making all of their speaker, vendor, and organizational information available to the EMCOMMWEST team. The keynote speaker will be Steve Ewald, WV1X, Field Organization Supervisor from ARRL HQ; and the banquet speaker will be Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, who was in charge of Amateur Radio rules enforcement at the FCC when he retired. I hope many of you will be able to attend this year's Pacificon. More information is available at <www.pacificon.org>.

See you at EMCOMMWEST/Pacificon!

Thanks and 73,  
Bob Vallio, W6RGG  
Director, Pacific Division  
ARRL The national association for AMATEUR RADIO

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# Packet Pieces

**Downloaded from the BBS packet network:**

=====  
Date: 21 Nov 2008 08:35  
From: N0KFQ@N0KFQ  
To: TODAY@WW  
Subject: Today in History - Nov 21  
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November 21, 1877  
Edison's first great invention

The American inventor announces his invention of the phonograph, a way to record and play back sound.

Edison stumbled on one of his great inventions--the phonograph--while working on a way to record telephone communication at his laboratory in Menlo Park, New Jersey. His work led him to experiment with a stylus on a tinfoil cylinder, which, to his surprise, played back the short song he had recorded, "MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB". Public demonstrations of the phonograph made the Yankee inventor world famous, and he was dubbed the "Wizard of Menlo Park."

Edison set aside this invention in 1878 to work on the incandescent light bulb, and other inventors moved forward to improve on the phonograph. In 1887, Edison resumed work on the device, using the wax-cylinder technique developed by Charles Tainter. Although initially used as a dictating machine, the phonograph proved to be a popular tool for entertainment, and in 1906 Edison unveiled a series of musical and theatrical selections to the public through his National Phonograph Company. Continuing to improve on models and cylinders over the years, the Edison Disc Phonograph debuted in 1912 with the aim of competing in the popular record market. Edison's discs offered superior sound quality but were not compatible with other popular disc players.

During the 1920s, the early record business suffered with the growth of radio, and in 1929 recording production at Edison ceased forever. Edison, who acquired an astounding 1,093 patents in his 84 years, died in 1931.

=====  
Date: 22 Nov 2005 12:21  
From: W1GMF@W1GMF  
To: HUMOR@USA  
Subject: HUMOR FOR TODAY 1101  
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## Today's Joke

This burglar was robbing a house in the middle of the night. While he was looking around, he heard a voice say, "Jesus is watching you." As he panned his torchlight around the room, he saw a parrot on a perch in the corner of the room. He approached the parrot and asked, "Did you just say something to me?"

The parrot responded, "Yes, I did.... Jesus is watching you."

The astounded burglar asked the unique bird its name. "My name is Dennis."

"Gee, Dennis is a very unusual name for a parrot."

"Well, Jesus is a very unusual name for a ROTTWEILLER!"

## Last Laugh

A Sunday School teacher was telling his class the story of the Prodigal Son. Wishing to emphasize the resentful attitude of the elder brother, he laid stress on this part of the parable. After describing the rejoicing of the household over the return of the wayward son, the teacher spoke of one who, in the midst of the festivities, failed to share in the jubilant spirit of the occasion. "Can anybody in the class," he asked, "tell me who

this was?"

One hand waved in the air. "I know!" The student said, beaming. "It was the fatted calf."

=====  
Date: 22 Nov 2005 12:20  
From: W1GMF@W1GMF  
To: HUMOR@USA  
Subject: HUMOR FOR TODAY 1027  
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#### Today's Joke

A juggler, driving to his next performance, is stopped by a police officer.

"What are these matches and lighter fluid doing in your car?"

"I'm a juggler, and I juggle flaming torches in my act."

"Oh yeah? Let's see you do it." The juggler gets out and starts juggling the blazing torches masterfully.

A couple driving by slows down to watch. "Wow," says the driver to his wife. "I'm glad I quit drinking. Look at the test they're giving now!"

#### Last Laugh

Two confirmed bachelors sat talking, their conversation drifted from politics to cooking.

"I got a cookbook once," said one, "but I could never do anything with it."

"Too much fancy work in it, eh?" asked the other.

"You said it. Every one of the recipes began the same way -- 'Take a clean dish...'"

=====  
Date: 21 Nov 2008 01:35  
From: W1GMF@W1GMF  
To: HUMOR@USA  
Subject: THE TRUCKER AND THE BIKER  
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One day a trucker stopped at a diner for lunch. When he gets his order a biker gang comes in and starts making fun of the trucker. The trucker doesn't do anything. He gets up pays for his meal and leaves. One of the bikers goes to the man at the cash register and says "not much of a man is he." "Nope" said the cashier, "ain't much of a driver neither, he just backed over twelve of your motorcycles".

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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

A few people have asked for information regarding the NOARY BBS, possibly a talk at one of our meetings. I have already given talks on it in the past, but of course that doesn't help new members. This time I thought it would be better to have it in the form of articles in the *SCCARA-GRAM*. That way people would have the information available at hand. This would also make it easier to transform into something we can hand out at some point in the future.

So, starting with this issue, there'll be a multi-part article on packet BBS. Questions and comments are welcome.

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.