

# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 25, Number 4

April 2009



## ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, March 27, 2009

### FCC CLARIFIES WHAT CONSTITUTES AN AMATEUR RADIO REPEATER

In December 2007, Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, President of the Northern California Packet Association (NCPA), filed a Petition with the FCC, asking for the Commission to clarify the definition of a repeater. According to Part 97, Section 3(a)(39), a repeater in the amateur service is “[a]n amateur station that simultaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels.”

Mitchell sought clarification on the word “simultaneously,” asking if it referred to the signal information being retransmitted, or to the fact that the receiver and transmitter must both be active at the same time while acting on the same signal information. On March 23, 2009, the Commission clarified that even if there is a slight delay between what is received and what it transmits (as in the case of D-STAR and other digital repeaters), it is considered simultaneous if the receiver and transmitter are both active at the same time.

Mitchell pointed out in his petition that while the Commission's Rules specify on which bands amateur repeaters may operate, “some amateur repeaters are operating on bands other than set forth in Section 97.205(b) with systems that are essentially voice repeater stations, but that digitize and retransmit the user's voice, on the theory that because there is a small delay in retransmitting the signal of another amateur station, the signal is not 'simultaneously' retransmitted and, therefore, the system is not a repeater.”

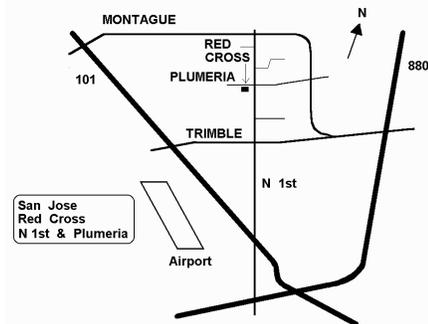
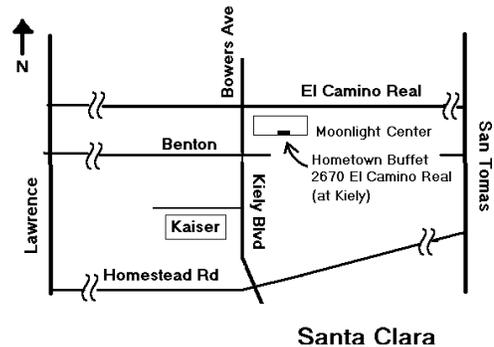
In its reply, the Commission pointed out that prior to 1994, a repeater was defined as “[a]n amateur station that automatically retransmits the signals of other stations.” This, the Commission told Mitchell, was revised to clarify “that certain accommodations for message forwarding systems do not apply to other operating activities such as repeaters and auxiliary stations.” The Commission proposed to define a repeater as “[a]n amateur station that instantaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels,” but ultimately replaced “instantaneously” with “simultaneously” because commenters noted that there is always a small propagation delay through a repeater. As one commenter explained, “The word 'simultaneously' in this case means that the repeater is receiving and transmitting concurrently, whereas each signal might be

## Calendar

- 4/11 Electronic Flea Market—De Anza College
- 4/13 SCCARA General Meeting—Dinner!
- 4/20 SCCARA Board Meeting—(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

## General Meeting

- Day: Monday, April 13, 2009
- Time: 6:00 PM
- Place: HomeTown Buffett, Santa Clara
- Featuring: Dinner meeting/social



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**The deadline for articles is the last Monday of the month.**

SCCARA was formed in 1921 and became a non-profit corporation in 1947. SCCARA is an affiliate of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). The club station is W6UW.

**Web page:** <http://www.qsl.net/sccara>.

**OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**  
(all officers are also directors)

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

**SCCARA REPEATERS**

SCCARA owns and operates two repeaters under the call W6UU:  
2 meter: 146.985 - PL 114.8  
70 cm: 442.425 + PL 107.2

Phone auto-dial and auto-patch is available. The two meter repeater is located at Eagle Rock near Alum Rock Park in the foothills of east San Jose. The 70 cm repeater is located at the Regional Medical Center (formerly Alexian), east of downtown San Jose, north of 280 and 101.

**SCCARA NETS**

On our two meter repeater: Mondays at 7:30 PM, (not the second Monday--our meeting night). Coordinator: Don Village, K6PBQ. On ten meters, 28.385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00 PM. Net control: Wally Britten, KA6YMD. Visitors welcome.

**NØARY PACKET BBS**

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

**TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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

slightly displaced in time between receive and transmit.”

To be able to repeat another station's transmission, the Commission said that a repeater “must be able to receive a transmission from another station and retransmit it. Because the word 'simultaneously' in the definition is used to modify 'retransmit,' we believe it refers to a repeater station's transmitter being active when retransmitting the signal received by the repeater station's receiver from another amateur station. We conclude, therefore, that 'simultaneously' as used in the definition of a repeater refers to the receiver and transmitter both being active at the same time.”

**FCC PROPOSES NEW RULES FOR MEDICAL DEVICES OPERATING ON 70 CM BAND**

On March 20, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) <[hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-20A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-20A1.pdf)>, proposing to allocate spectrum and adopt service and technical rules for the utilization of new implanted medical devices that operate on 413-457 MHz (70 cm). According to the Commission, these devices, called implanted neuromuscular microstimulators, would greatly expand the use of functional electric stimulation to restore sensation, mobility and function to those persons with paralyzed limbs and organs; they would be implanted in a patient and function as wireless broadband medical micro-power networks (MMNs). The Amateur Radio Service has a secondary allocation in the 70 cm band.

The FCC said that several proponents claim that this technology “could revolutionize medical treatment and therapy for millions of people living with brain and spinal cord injuries and neuromuscular disorders such as multiple sclerosis, polio, cerebral palsy and ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, often referred to as 'Lou Gehrig's Disease'), as well as numerous other neurological disorders. It could be used in conjunction with next-generation prosthetic limbs to provide wireless sensation and control to the prostheses. Of particular note, this technology can provide an important tool in the medical treatment and care of numerous US soldiers who suffered spinal cord, brain and other serious injuries in Iraq, Afghanistan and other missions abroad.”

Last month, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, met with officials of the Alfred Mann Foundation, developers of the implanted neuromuscular microstimulators, to discuss ARRL concerns with the NPRM. Imlay and Price both came away satisfied that the project should have little, if any, impact on Amateur Radio operators. “There are redundant layers of interference rejection mechanisms built into the product that should protect its users from being impacted by strong Amateur Radio signals,” Price said. “The very low power output of these devices should have no impact on the Amateur Radio Service. The ARRL Executive Committee will monitor this filing and take action as appropriate.”

The FCC is seeking comments on the feasibility of allowing up to 20 MHz of spectrum in the 413-457 MHz band to be used under the Medical Device Radiocommunication Service (MedRadio Service, formerly the Medical Implant Communications Service [MICS]) in Part 95 of the Commission's rules, and seeks comments on the allocation of four specific segments for this purpose: 413-419 MHz, 426-432 MHz, 438-444 MHz and 451-457 MHz. The Commission also seeks comments on the prospective service and technical rules that would govern MMN operations, such as transmitter power, emission bandwidth, duty cycle, contention protocols, and other operating specifications that generally comport with the framework of the existing MedRadio Service.

**LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN US SENATE TO**

## INVENTORY RADIO SPECTRUM

Two US Senators -- Democrat John Kerry of Massachusetts and Republican Olympia Snowe of Maine -- have introduced a bill in the Senate that would mandate an inventory of radio spectrum bands managed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) <[www.ntia.doc.gov](http://www.ntia.doc.gov)> and the Federal Communications Commission. The inventory would include those frequencies between 300 MHz-3.5 GHz managed by the two agencies.

The proposed legislation, known as the "Radio Spectrum Inventory Act" <[thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?111:S.649](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?111:S.649)>, states that the NTIA and the FCC would be required to inventory the spectrum no later than 180 days after the bill becomes law; after the initial survey, follow-ups would be required every two years. Both agencies would need to prepare a report listing the licenses or government user assigned in the band, the total spectrum allocation, by band, of each licensee or government user (in percentage terms and in sum) and the number of intentional radiators and end-user intentional radiators that have been deployed in the band with each license or government user. Additionally, if the information is applicable, the report would be required to show the type of intentional radiators operating in the band, the type of unlicensed intentional radiators authorized to operate in the band, contour maps that illustrate signal coverage and strength and the approximate geo-location of base stations or fixed transmitters. The report would then be sent to the Senate's Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation and to the House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The bill also mandates that both agencies create a centralized portal or Web site that lists each agency's band inventories. This information would then be made available to the public via an Internet-accessible Web site. Both agencies would also be required to make all necessary efforts to maintain and update the inventory information "in near real-time fashion and whenever there is a transfer or auction of licenses or change in allocation or assignment." The bill includes an exemption for licensees or users if they can demonstrate that disclosure would be harmful to national security.

"Our public airwaves belong to the American people, and we need to make certain we are putting them to good use in the best interests of those citizens," Senator Kerry said. "Last year's 700 MHz auction resulted in \$20 billion for the treasury and will create greater opportunity and choice for consumers and businesses that need broadband service. We also took a great step forward when the FCC established a way for unlicensed devices to operate in white spaces. These two initiatives are evidence of how valuable spectrum is and how it serves as fertile grounds for innovation. We need to make sure we're making as much of it available to innovators and consumers as possible."

"Used by millions of consumers and countless businesses on a daily basis, wireless technology is a proud part of America's innovative history and a key to its economic future," Senator Snowe said. "But as radio spectrum is already a scarce yet valuable resource in many areas, we must ensure that this public good is allocated and used efficiently for the needs of the American people. This legislation is the first step to addressing comprehensive spectrum reform and will work to enhance advanced communications services to keep people on-line and in touch."

ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, said that the bill is in its infancy and that there is no corresponding legislation in the House of Representatives: "The text of the proposed legislation neither exempts Amateur Radio nor considers the frequency-agile and unfixed nature of most Amateur Radio

operations. This bill merits watching and presents amateurs an opportunity to educate their Senators about the nature of our stations and our Service."

The bill is co-sponsored by Senators Bill Nelson, a Florida Democrat, and Roger Wicker, a Mississippi Republican.

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From *The ARRL Letter*, March 13, 2009

## US COAST GUARD TO DISCONTINUE LORAN STATIONS

Last month, the US Coast Guard <[www.uscg.mil](http://www.uscg.mil)> announced that due to economic conditions, they would be closing down the 24 LORAN-C (Long Range Aid to Navigation) <[www.navcen.uscg.gov/loran/default.htm](http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/loran/default.htm)> stations operated under the auspices of the USCG. LORAN stations provide navigation, location and timing services for both civil and military air, land and marine users. According to the USCG, LORAN-C is approved as an en route supplemental air navigation system for both Instrument Flight Rule (IFR) and Visual Flight Rule (VFR) operations. The LORAN-C system serves the 48 continental states, their coastal areas and parts of Alaska.

LORAN-A stations were developed beginning in World War II, and signals were transmitted on frequencies in and around our present-day 160 meter band. LORAN-A was responsible for reduced amateur radio operations, including frequency and power limitations, on 160 meters in the United States. In 1979, the Coast Guard phased out the LORAN-A stations; they were replaced by LORAN-C stations. The newer stations operated on 100 kHz, enabling the restrictions on the 160 meter amateur band due to LORAN functions, to be dropped.

According to the Coast Guard, the nation's oldest continuous sea-going service will continue to operate the current LORAN-C system through the end of fiscal year 2009; it is in the process of preparing detailed plans for implementing the fiscal year 2010 budget. According to USCG Vice Commandant and Chief Operating Officer Vice Admiral V. S. Crea, further details of the LORAN-C termination plan will be available upon the submission of the President's full budget. -- Some information provided by Cliff Appel, W7CGA

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## Treasurer's Treatise

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

Checking account	\$7,450.67
Savings account	\$3,843.87
Cash on hand	\$ 149.81
Total:	\$11,444.35

Recent account activities:

Flee Market income table sales:	\$256.75
Flee Market income coffee, sodas and donuts:	\$440.00
Flee market income vendors:	\$3,180.00
Membership income:	\$130.00

We had the following expenses:

Ned Tufekcic Sound Card Interface and Stamps:	\$68.40
Gary Mitchell - Newsletter	\$106.95
BBS electric bill	\$70.00

73, Ned AC6YY

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# SCCARA's March flea market

Thanks to everyone who volunteered for the March De Anza Electronics Flea Market. The weather was our main concern and it turned out ok....after on and off showers the previous week. The buyers were greeted by 159 vendors...the most we ever had since we moved to De Anza. With the good turn out of both buyers and sellers we had a net profit of \$2251.75. This includes the gate fees, food and miscellaneous sales.

The members who gave their time to make this a successful event were: Clark KE6KXO, Don K6PBQ, Greg KF6FNA, Wally KA6YMD, John W6JPP, John KA6ANW, Ned AC6YY, Dick KD6QG, Lloyd KD6FJI, Don AE6PM, Bob N3FAW, Nick N3WG and Gwen KF6OTD. Thanks also to Svend J., Mikel L., Tom C., Ron G., Howard T., and Dona K. who seem not to ever get enough flea market activity and help out all the clubs every month.

If the SCCARA members who helped out in April can not await SCCARA's turn again in May 2010 there is an opportunity to help out another great organization on June 13. Reserve the date as I will be starting to take sign-ups for SVECS's flea market effort soon.

Lou WA6QYS

Photos by Rober Schwimmer N3FAW



**Gwen KF6OPD**  
doing her usual great work,  
assisted by Tom KF6TWZ



L-R: Jerry, N6SWC, Ned AC6YY, James K6WRS, Jacob almost 2, John W6JPP, Nick N3WG, Clark, KE6KXO, Lou WA6QYS

## General Meeting, March 9, 2009



{No minutes were submitted by the deadline. – Ed}

## Board Meeting, March 16, 2009



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

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 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  
Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, Director  
Wally Britten, KA6YMD, Director  
Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, Director  
John Parks, W6JPP, Director

Guests  
Clark Murphy, KE6KXO  
Gregg Lane, KE6FNA

Excused Absences  
John Glass, NU6P, Director

Don Steinbach asked the Board members to review the agenda.

Vice President's Report  
Fred Townsend announced that Craig Anderson will speak at the next general meeting. The agenda is being discussed, and may include the author of Outpost, which is a program for packet radio.

Fred Townsend also mentioned that he has donated some desk lamps for Field Day.

Secretary's Report  
The minutes for last months Board meeting were reviewed. There was a discussion about delinquent memberships. The next set of SCCARA-GRAM mailing lists will only include 2009 members.

John Parks moved to accept last month's minutes with minor corrections. Don Village seconded the motions. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report  
John Parks delivered \$256.75 from the flea market to Ned Tufekcic. Ned Tufekcic also mentioned that there are five additional memberships to be processed.

Trustee's Report  
Don Village is going re-solder one of the antenna cables. The club station at the Red Cross will be open for general operation on March 28. Clark Murphy asked if there is sign on the outside of the door.

Activities  
John Parks announced the Spring picnic is being cancelled due to schedule conflicts. Planning for an August 1 activity with Coast Guard is still in progress. This activity involves a tour of a Coast

## Meeting Minutes

Guard cutter, helicopter, and operation of a special events station. John Parks send an email sent to Gary Mitchell with information about the activity in the SCCARA-GRAM. Members wishing to attend must submit their name by July 15. Fred Townsend asked if there will be an operator roster.

John Parks is still coordinating with the carrier Hornet ham radio club to allow SCCARA members to operate aboard ship.

Newsletter  
No new status

BBS  
Gary Mitchell reported that the electric bill for the BBS system for this year has been paid. He also mentioned some memory errors on system.

Repeater  
Wally Britten reported that both repeaters are running fine. He did mention some inter-mode heard on 440 repeater. Gary Mitchell asked about dues for NARC. There was discussion about voting with NARCC.

Web Master  
Wally Britten reported that the web site is updated as new information becomes available.

Old Business

Flea Market  
Lou Steirer reported the proceeds from this past weekend's flea market:

3180.00 ---gate  
440.00 ---food  
256.75 ---table.

\$ 3876.75 -- total

\$1625.00 was paid to ASVARO, so the total profit was 2251.75. There were 159 vendors, which was the largest turnout sent the flea make moved from Foothill.

Dinner Meeting  
Lou Steirer reported that the reservation has made for the Home Town Buffet (Kiely and El Camino, Santa Clara). There will be no presentation. There was discussion about a door prize (candy or flowers). Don Village moved to authorize \$20.00 for the door prize. John Parks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

John Parks asked about giving away some unsold items from the flea market. Lou Steirer suggested they be given away as raffle prizes at an SEVECS breakfast. It was agreed to allow John Parks to dispose of stake mounts.

Lou Steirer moved to reimburse Ned Tufekcic \$68.40 for the PSK sound card interface and postage stamps. John Parks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Membership Roster  
There was discussion about what information should be put on the membership roster available. David Dippon will send Gary Mitchell the latest roster. Gary Mitchell will format the roster for distribution. John Parks suggested a roster be included in the new member's packet.

Old 2 Meter Repeater Hardware

Gary Mitchell agreed to accept the repeat hardware except for the controller and cavities. The club will retain the controller and cavities. John Parks offered the use of his truck to transport the repeater hardware to Gary Mitchell's residence. The plan is to move the repeater hardware from Don's garage on Wednesday morning or prior to March 23.

Field Day  
Don Steinbach asked who wants to chair field day. John Parks agreed to chair Field Day. There was discussion about laptops and monitors. Don Steinbach asked if there were any other long lead items. Fred Townsend suggested badges or T-shirts for Field Day. Fred Townsend moved that the club buy the Field Day chairman a T-shirt. David Dippon seconded the motion. The motion was agreed to by all board members, except John Parks who abstained.

Ned Tufekcic mentioned using automated logging and computer rig control software. Fred Townsend mentioned the difficulty of translating the log databases between different logging programs. Fred Townsend and Ned Tufekcic will meet to plan the details of logging and rig control software for Field Day.

Lou Steirer asked if we were running as a class 2A station, and asked about VHF/U and GOTA. He also asked about a Field Day planning meeting. A Field Day planning meeting will be held after the May 11 general meeting.

NARCC  
Wally Britten announced the upcoming NARCC meeting. NARCC is discussing reallocating a portion of the 2 meter band. They are considering 12.5 Khz channel spacing. Wally mentioned that he is inclined to vote against 12.5 Khz spacing, and asked for the Board's opinion.

Gary Mitchell moved that Wally Britten be directed to vote for 15 kHz and against 12.5 kHz spacing. John Parks seconded the motion. The motion passed with all members in favor, except Fred Townsend.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
David Dippon, Secretary

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## What's with this Declaratory Ruling?

By now you've probably heard the news, (FCC clarifies what is a repeater). It was even the lead article in the March 27, 2009 ARRL Letter (reprinted here). I never expected such publicity, just a private response from the FCC.

You know the result. What you may not know is how this came about. And therein lies a tail...

The NCPA is sort of a roundtable organization for the various packet special interest groups. It's a band planner and coordination overseer for digital in this region. They handle frequency allocations for digital. I've been its president for a number of years now.

The two meter band is one of the most popular—and thus the most crowded. I hear there's a long waiting line for two meter repeater coordinations. Most of this refers to the two meter band.

One of D-Star's biggest advocates, Tim Barrett (who spoke on D-Star at one of our meetings recently), seems unwilling to wait in line with the other repeater owners. He figured if D-Star

is not a repeater, it could go anywhere in the band and he wouldn't have to get a coordination from NARCC. And since it transmits digitized voice, it should be in the digital segment.

There is only one duplex channel pair in the digital segment. The problem is that one of that pair is in the "forbidden zone" for repeaters. So, if the NCPA gave the go-ahead to put a D-Star repeater there, the NCPA would be at fault along with Tim for violating FCC 97.205(b). Not to mention the fact that there are many D-Stars who also would want in. Digital only has 13 percent of the band—and that's for all digital interests.

There is this slight delay in the signal as it goes through a D-Star repeater. And *THAT*, Tim argued, means it isn't a repeater since what comes out isn't "simultaneous" with what went in. I thought that argument was silly since *ALL* electronic systems will have *some* delay, even if only nanoseconds.

But Tim wouldn't accept any counter arguments that might short circuit his plans. I needed some additional authority to back me up. So I asked the FCC through their web site what exactly is meant by "simultaneous" as used in the definition of a repeater, (97.3(a)39).

The answer came back that this can only be handled through a Petition for a Declaratory Ruling. I sent in the petition late November 2007. It only took them one and third *years!*

The declaration came down just as I expect. So, problem solved, that's the end of that.... Right? Unfortunately, no. In fact, in the mean time, it went from bad to worse.

It turns out Tim is a very obstinate and determined fellow. Apparently he thinks his D-Star system is more important than anything else. But he's no idiot, evidently he saw this coming and figured out an end-run. He noticed part of the packet segment is outside of the repeater forbidden zone.

He convinced NARCC that packet was dead and they should take over the digital segments—all without breathing a word to the NCPA, of course. They went along with his plan, which put D-Star repeaters *between* packet channels—just 10 kHz separation! Naturally this has caused all sorts of problems and bad blood.

This started in the summer of 2008 and the battle rages on today. Recently it appears we've been able to convince some in NARCC the error of their ways, but they still have not taken steps to clean up their mess. There have been some interference complaints, involving the Official Observers, but D-Star repeaters are still operating between packet channels. Tim was forced to move his D-Star, but he didn't move it out of the packet segment. Now it's on a packet BBS channel, nearly line of sight to that BBS.

So, alas, my "victory" with this ruling rings rather hollow.

73, Gary WB6YRU

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## Coast Guard tour

Any-one who is interested to do the tour of the new Coast Guard cutter Berthoff scheduled for Aug. 1 at coast guard island in Alameda must send me an e-mail with call sign, names of all in your group as well as your address. This is mandatory by the Coast Guard. COMPLETE ROSTER HAS TO BE SUBMITTED 2 WEEKS PRIOR FOR THEM TO ISSUE CLEARANCES FOR EVERY ONE. I AM MAKING THE CUT-OFF DATE JULY 14TH. Send e-mail to w6jpp@arrl.net. If you do not send info prior to the cut off date you will not be allowed on the island. So please plan ahead. I will not be able to make any exceptions.

Also the same rules apply to anyone wishing to participate with the Coast Guard to help operate their special event station on the same date. The station will run for 24 hrs straight. COME AND HAVE FUN.

All people staying for the event station bring your own

food and drinks. NON ALCHOLIC. HOPE SEE YOU ON THE ISLAND.

If you just want to do the tour I still need names and addresses of all in your group, call sign if any, and state "tour only." If you are just going to be there to help the Coast Guard to operate the special event station state that in the e-mail, and if you want to do both state that.

The operating schedule will be made by the COAST GUARD AUX. on the morning of the event. I will have some input so let me know what is your preferred shift and mode of operation. Please note they will need some operators for the night shift as well. Tentative operating schedule is 10 am Sat. to 10 am or later Sunday.

The COAST GUARD REQUIRES EVERY BODY'S NAME AND ADDRESS, NO EXCEPTIONS.

73 W6JPP

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## NOARY BBS

### Part 2, help commands, message listing

The first commands a new user should try are HELP and INFO.

The INFO command is pretty much just a file reader. When used by itself, it lists the available information files. Give INFO with a file name to read that particular file.

The HELP command will list all commands starting with a given letter, it gives details about any specific command, and has different levels that you can set for general interaction.

When HELP is used by itself, it will tell you how to use the command. HELP S will list all commands starting with S. HELP SEND will tell you how to use the SEND command. HELP #, (where # is 0 to 3) sets the help level. That tells the BBS how interactive or chatty it should be. If you are an automated system, like another BBS doing message forwarding, it should be level 0. For most of us human types, level 3 is best.

You may find information about the e-mail interface or setting your e-mail address. Please ignore that. Unfortunately the e-mailer had to be turned off. You can thank the spammers for making that necessary.

So, there are actually three user ports. There's the two RF ports: 144.93 MHz at 1200 baud and 433.37 MHz at 9600 baud (connect to call n0ary-1). And there is internet access via telnet. Connect to sun.n0ary.org, log in name "bbs" (without the quotes, of course). Once you log in, it hands you over to the BBS as if you had just connected via RF.

For you technical types, you may recognize the system as a UNIX machine. Indeed it is. The BBS itself is a collection of UNIX processes running on an old Sun Sparc II workstation.

OK, now, you've connected, you've looked over the help files and are reasonably familiar with the BBS, now it's time to do something with it!

The primary functions of any packet BBS is to send messages, read messages, and list what messages are available.

Messages come in three flavors: Personal, Bulletin, and NTS. Personal messages are addressed to you specifically. Bulletins are

readable by anyone and are "flooded" over wide areas. NTS is just what you'd expect, they're National Traffic System messages. You can think of these as the Amateur Radio version of e-mail combined with a single newsgroup on the internet. NTS is half way between P and B type. You can read those, but if you want to handle NTS traffic, read up on how to do it first. There's a check-out process.

Let's start with listing messages.

To list your personal messages, use the command LIST MINE (or just lm for short). This will happen once automatically when you first connect. Listing bulletins has various options.

NOTE: you can abbreviate most commands. For example, you can enter "list mine" or shorten it to "lm". In the descriptions that follows, command options with some capitalized letters indicate you can abbreviate those options with just the capitalized letters.

The list command will display a list of messages that is a subset of the total list messages that you are allowed to see and read. Everyone can see bulletins, NTS and mail addressed to or sent by. Personal messages addressed to others will not be listed for you.

Messages will be displayed in this format:

```
Msg# Stat Size To From Cnt Date/Time Subject
5764 abcd 2004 W6XY@N0ARY N6ZFJ 1 0210/2141 Field Day
```

The "Stat" field shows you the data about the message. Each column has a particular meaning and multiple letters that can appear.

- a - Message Type  
B = Bulletin, P = Personal, N = Nts, S = Secure
- b - Forwarding Status  
P = Pending, I = In process, F = Forwarded, blank = No Forwarding
- c - Message Status  
H = Held, O = Old, K = Killed, blank = Active
- d - Read Flag  
R = Read by you, r = Read by addressee

The "Size" field is the size in bytes of the message body. The "To" field will be a call sign if it's P type, or a category/title and flood range if it's a bulletin. NTS will use zip codes. The "Cnt" field indicates how many different users have read the message. The "Date/Time" field is when the message arrived here in local time.

There are two formats of the LIST command:

```
LIST [type] [options] [range] [pattern]
LIST ASCENDING|DESCENDING
```

Type:

Message types can be Personal, Bulletin or NTs. You should only use one of these in any request. A message cannot match more than one type.

Options:

All, Last, New, Read, PENDING, Old, Killed, Held, Mine, Clubs, Local

At any time there can be up to 2000 messages on the system. You use these options to scale down the request.

- All - ignore the SKIP list
- Last x - last messages to arrive, defaults to 10.

- First x - oldest messages on the system, defaults to 10.
- New - new since previous LIST NEW during last login
- Read - messages that have been read by addressee
- PENDING - those awaiting forwarding
- Old - messages about to be deleted by aging
- Killed - messages that have been killed, will remain 3 days
- Held - messages awaiting sysop action
- Mine - messages addressed to you
- Clubs - where your CLUBS list matches the To, From or @ field
- LOCAL - messages left on this bbs for it's users

You may specify as many options as you like. The intersection of the request is displayed. For instance, LIST PER CLUBS READ KILLED, will list any PERSONAL message that are in your CLUBS list, that you have already READ and have been KILLED. It must satisfy all three conditions, CLUBS, READ and KILLED.

Range:

To further narrow the list you may specify message number ranges.

This is done in any of the following forms:

1000-2000 between 1000 and 2000, '-' is optional could be space.

2000- from 2000 to last message, '-' is optional

-1000 messages lower than 1000, '-' is required

Pattern:

There are 4 different pattern matching commands. The first 3 are the same as those used to match your CLUBS variable.

FROM XXXX or <XXXX match pattern in FROM field

TO XXXX or >XXXX match pattern in TO field

@ XXXX match pattern in @ field of FROM

XXXX match pattern in any field, TO, FROM, @ and SUBJECT

The last version is the most powerful, it will check against all of the three previous fields as well as search thru the SUBJECT field for the pattern. The pattern can appear anywhere in the field. If the pattern you are searching for is a list keyword you will have to enclose it in quotes so it isn't mistaken for the keyword. For example: LIST ALL "KILL"

N0ARY BBS has been written to allow you to run one option/type up against the 'L' without including a space. This is for compatibility with other BBS's. Putting multiple options together without a space will result in a syntax error or the options being mistaken for a pattern. Here are some examples, notice that the order of the parameters is not important.

```
LIST ALL KILLED READ [LA K R] or [LK A R]
LIST BULLETIN READ "SALE" [LB R SALE] or
[LR SALE B]
```

For compatibility with other bbs's the LIST NTS command can be abbreviated as LT.

N0ARY BBS also lets you control whether messages are displayed in ascending or descending order. To see the newest messages first, descending, or for the oldest messages first, ascending.

```
LIST DESCENDING
LIST ASCENDING
```

---

## Packet Pieces

**Downloaded from the BBS packet network:**

=====  
Date: 10 Jan 2005 02:23  
From: ZL3AI@ZL3VML  
To: HUMOUR@WW  
Subject: Penguins  
-----

There was this truck driver who had to deliver five hundred penguins to the state zoo. As he was driving his truck through the desert, the truck breaks down. After waiting by the side of the road for about three hours he waves another truck down and offers the driver \$500 to take these penguins to the state zoo for him.

The next day the first truck driver arrives in town and sees the second truck driver crossing the road with 500 penguins walking in single file behind him.

The first truck driver jumps out of his truck and says, "What's going on? I gave you \$500 to take these penguins to the zoo!"

The second truck driver replies, "I did take them to the zoo. And I had enough money left over so now we're going to see a movie."

=====  
Date: 26 Nov 2005 06:21  
From: W1GMF@W1GMF  
To: HUMOR@USA  
Subject: HUMOR FOR TODAY 1123  
-----

Today's Joke

A young man excitedly tells his mother he's fallen in love. He says, "Just for fun, Ma, I'm going to bring over 3 women, and you try and guess which one I'm going to marry."

The next day, he brings three beautiful women into the house, sits them down on the couch, and they chat for a while. He then says, "Okay, Ma, guess which one I'm going to marry."

She immediately replies, "The one in the middle."

"That's amazing, Ma. How did you know?"

"I don't like her."

Last Laugh

At a fast food joint, I asked for a half dozen chicken nuggets.

"We don't have half dozen nuggets," said the teen at the counter. "We only have six, nine, or twelve."

"So I can't order a half dozen nuggets, but I can order six?"

"That's right."

"All right, I'll take 6."

=====  
Date: 28 Nov 2005 06:50  
From: W1GMF@W1GMF  
To: HUMOR@USA  
Subject: HUMOR FOR TODAY 1125  
-----

Today's Joke

The line at the Department of Motor Vehicles inched along for almost an hour until a man finally got his license.

He inspected his photo for a moment and commented to the clerk, "I was standing in line so long, I ended up looking pretty grouchy in this picture."

The clerk looked at his picture and reassured him, "It's okay. That's how you're going to look when the cops pull you over, anyway."

- Author Unknown

Last Laugh

I was checking out with just a few items at the store and placed one of those plastic order dividers on the belt behind them. After the cashier had scanned all of my items, she looked all over the divider for the bar code so she could scan it. Not finding a bar code she said to me, "Do you know how much this is?"

"I've changed my mind, I don't think I'll buy that today." She nodded, and I paid her for the things and left. She had no clue to what had just happened.

=====  
Date: 19 Nov 2005 17:20  
From: W1GMF@W1GMF  
To: HUMOR@USA  
Subject: HUMOR FOR TODAY 1117  
-----

Today's Joke

Last summer, my husband, took me camping for the first time. At every opportunity, he passed along outdoor-survival lore. One day we got lost hiking in the deep woods. He tried the usual tactics to determine direction -- moss on the trees (there was none), direction of the sun (it was an overcast day), etc., etc.

Just as I was beginning to panic, he spotted a small cabin off in the distance. He pulled out his binoculars, studied the cabin, turned and led us right back to our camp. "That was terrific," I said. "How did you do it?" "Simple," he replied. "In this part of the country all the TV satellite dishes point south."

- Author Unknown

Daily Thoughts

"Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful."  
~ Ann Landers

=====

Date: 22 Nov 2005 12:00  
From: W1GMF@W1GMF  
To: HUMOR@USA  
Subject: HUMOR FOR TODAY 1026

-----  
Today's Joke

An airliner was having engine trouble, and the pilot instructed the cabin crew to have the passengers take their seats and get prepared for an emergency landing.

A few minutes later, the pilot asked the flight attendants if everyone was buckled in and ready.

"All set back here, Captain," came the reply. "Except the lawyers are still going around passing out business cards."

- Author unknown

Daily Thoughts

If someone with multiple personalities threatens to kill himself, is it considered a hostage situation?

Last Laugh

I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman, "Where's the self-help section?" She said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose.

- Author Unknown

=====

Date: 25 Nov 2005 08:24  
From: ZL3AI@ZL2BAU  
To: HUMOUR@WW  
Subject: Debt

-----  
A man went to his lawyer and told him, "My neighbor owes me \$500 and he doesn't want to pay up. What should I do?"

"Do you have any proof?" asked the lawyer.

"Nope," replied the man.

"Okay, then write him a letter asking him for the \$1000 he owed you," said the lawyer.

"But it's only \$500," replied the man.

"Precisely. That's what he will reply, and we will have the proof we need to nail him."

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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, (408) 269-2924  
packet: home BBS NOARY  
e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com

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## Newsletter Notes

This issue has part two of the NOARY BBS series. There'll probably be at least two more installments. If anyone has any questions or finds something confusing or would like to know something specific, please say so and I'll do what I can to modify the articles appropriately.

Likewise, if anyone would like more information about that battle with D-Stars in the packet segment, NARCC vs the NCPA, or whatever, let me know.

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.