SCCARA-GRAM

Santa Clara County
Amateur Radio Association

Volume 28, Number 5 May 2012

President's Prose

I'm in the process of checking out a Kenwood TS-950SDX HF Transceiver that SVECS will soon be selling. It's a nice rig with dual receivers and lots of other capabilities, and I'll admit I'm having some fun with it. It's a heavyweight though, and at 60 pounds it's a little hard to move around. The front panel has 83 knobs and buttons so those of you who like knobs to fiddle with would be in heaven. There are also 58 menu functions, so knobs or menus, there's something for everyone.

A few weeks ago I suddenly lost the capability to share files among the three computers on my LAN. The absolutely useless error message was "Not enough server storage is available to process this command." Since that didn't lead me to an immediate solution, I eventually learned (from searching the internet) that the problem was likely caused by a download from Norton AntiVirus, which I use because I get it free from Comcast. As the write-up suggested, I went into the Registry, added a parameter called IRPStackSize, gave it a value of 30 (decimal) and now everything works fine. I've also lost the capability to access the files on my website using Internet Explorer with ftp. I suspect I can thank Norton for that as well, but there are other methods.

There was an interesting article in the April QST (Experiment 111 Coiled-Coax Chokes, page 61) where the author showed the results of his experiment showing the effect of coil diameter and spacing on the self-resonant frequency. Unfortunately, the author left some unanswered questions with respect to their use with antennas. That resulted in some lunchtime discussion and subsequent emails that you might find interesting.

Email from member: "I just read the April QST magazine article again and the same nagging thought still goes through my head. If you were unlucky enough to wind a coil of coax into a choke that happened to be resonant at the antenna frequency you were using, would this prevent energy from getting to the antenna? And if you pumped enough energy into it would it heat up and maybe burn up?"

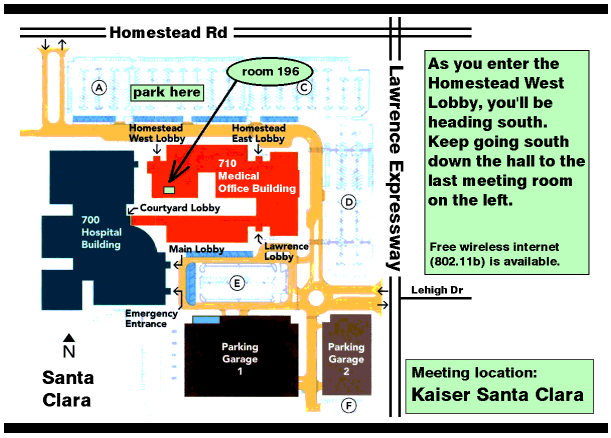
My answer (shortened): "Here's what I think: The resonance (parallel resonance) is due to the interwinding capacitance -- capacitance between turns -- and the inductance -- of each turn -- of the coiled coax shield. Now if we believe that this inductance and capacitance exists on the OUTSIDE of the shield only, then it doesn't prevent energy from getting to the antenna since the antenna current is traveling on the INSIDE of the shield. On the inside, the coax still looks like a transmission line and the fact that it's coiled up has no effect on its performance. On the outside of the shield, though, the coiled coax looks like a series string of parallel resonant circuits, one per turn. This theory is all based on the skin effect and the fact that the currents on the inside of the shield and the currents on the outside of the shield are not

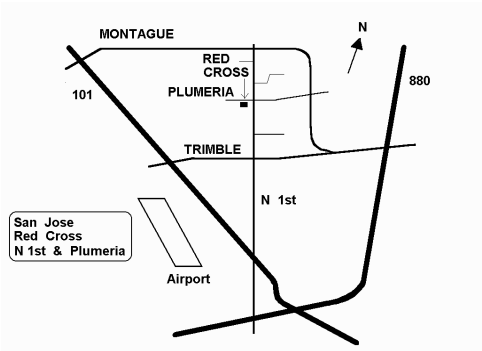
Calendar

5/12	**DeAnza electronic flea market**
5/14	**SCCARA General Meeting**
5/21	**SCCARA Board Meeting**--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
6/9	**DeAnza electronic flea market**–We host!

General Meeting

Day:	Monday, May 14, 2012
Time:	7:30 PM
Place:	Kaiser Santa Clara, Rm 196
Featuring:	Fred Townsend AE6QL on the RigExpert AA-230Pro antenna analyzer





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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.

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(all officers are also directors)

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SCCARA REPEATERS

SCCARA owns and operates two repeaters under the call W6UU:
2 meter: 146.985 - PL 114.8
70 cm: 442.425 + PL 107.2
Phone auto-dial and auto-patch is available. The two meter repeater is located at Eagle Rock near Alum Rock Park in the foothills of east San Jose. The 70 cm repeater is located at the Regional Medical Center (formerly Alexian), east of downtown San Jose, north of 280 and 101.

SCCARA NETS

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

N0ARY PACKET BBS

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

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

the same.

As to heating up, since the observed effect is parallel resonance, the impedance rises at resonance so the current drops so self-heating shouldn't be an issue. On the other hand, the voltage across the coil and between turns could become quite high (Q times the applied voltage) and arcing might occur.

I don't see where the resonance peak in the QST article is an issue, but the magnitude of the impedance needs to always be large compared to the characteristic impedance of the coax. Here's more: I was just looking at the Transmission Lines chapter of my ARRL Handbook. Here they show choke baluns made of coiled coax and a table of coax type/length/number of turns for various frequencies. Some are for multiple bands and some are for single bands. Those for single bands are declared "very effective" and "were constructed to have a high impedance at the indicated frequencies" -- in other words, [they are] resonant."

A balun, whether acting as a current choke, or redirecting the current from the outside of the shield, can prevent the feedline from radiating. Conversely, it prevents the feedline from acting as a receiving antenna as well. In the case of a directional antenna such as a Yagi, this is highly desirable since it preserves the shape of the antenna pattern. Their usefulness with a resonant dipole is debatable since the effect of feedline radiation on the antenna pattern is negligible (see the Handbook) and the electrons entering and leaving the dipole don't care if the feed is balanced or not. The coiled coax choke baluns are most effective below their self-resonant frequency where the reactance is inductive, and become increasingly ineffective at frequencies above their self-resonant frequency. There are other balun designs that are not so frequency-dependant.

That's it for this month. Join Don and Wally on our 2-meter and 10-meter nets. I hope to see you at the Stanford Powwow May 12-13. Lou (WA6QYS) will be providing the details.

73, Don, AE6PM

Field Day

Field Day 2012, June 23 and 24

During Field Day, operators set up in local parks, at shopping malls, or even in their own backyards, and get on the air using generators or battery power. Field Day was designed to test operators' abilities to set up and operate portable stations under emergency conditions such as the loss of electricity. We want the community to know that in the event of an emergency, we will be ready to assist in any way we can. While people often think that cell phones or other communications technologies have replaced ham radio, we can still provide an important communications service that others can't.

Field Day is a serious test of skill, but it is also a contest for fun and the largest "on-air" operating event each year. During the weekend, radio operators try to contact as many other Field Day stations as possible.

The Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association will hold Field Day in Alviso and will be operating from Saturday, June 23 till Sunday, June 24. Set up will be on Friday, June 22. We hope that anyone who is interested in seeing what Amateur Radio is all about will come out for Field Day. A map and more details will be published in next month's SCCARA-GRAM.

At the May 14 SCCARA general meeting I will be looking for volunteers to help check out our radio equipment. At the June 11 SCCARA general meeting the program will be about

Field Day. I will be passing around a sign-up sheet for anyone wanting to participate in Field Day.

Till next month....73
Gregg KF6FNA

Powwow

SCCARA will again have a HF station operating at the Stanford American Indian Pow Wow. This will be on Mother's Day weekend, May 11, 12 and 13th. We will be setting up the antennas and station Friday afternoon. Come help and see what it takes to set up a temporary station to work across the country or around the world. You might get ideas to incorporate in your own home station. Do come and operate the club station, W6UW, on the HF bands. Irregardless of your license class you may operate on all the bands with the help of friendly control operators who will familiarize you with the radios and various antennas for optimum performance and enjoyment. The station will be set up near the North East corner of the Pow Wow grounds. Talk-in will be on the SCCARA repeater, W6UU, 146.985- with a PL of 114.8. There is a BBQ for the Indian community but SCCARA members are invited to join in. So bring a dish to share.....fruits, melons,chips, cookies, etc. At the Pow Wow there will be Indian dancing. drumming and Indian crafts for sale. Come and enjoy a day of radio operating and experience the sights and sounds of a different culture.

Lou, WA6QYS

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 5, 2012

FCC SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS BY AMATEUR RADIO AND IMPEDIMENTS TO AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

In response to the Congressional directive to prepare a study to assess Amateur Radio's role in emergency and disaster communications and the impact of private land use regulations on the Amateur community's ability to provide such communications, the FCC issued DA 12-523 soliciting comments from the public. The period for public comment runs until May 17, 2012.

"As part of the study contained in Public Law No. 112-96, the Commission has opened a 45 day period for comments to be filed on the issue," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "Because of the short deadline for the study to be completed and presented to Congress -- before the end of August -- the ARRL and the amateur community must quickly mobilize their response." Read more at www.arrl.org/news/fcc-seeks-public-comments-on-emergency-communications-by-amateur-radio-and-impediments-to-amateur-ra.

ARRL SEEKS COMMENTS ON PROPOSED 33 CM BAND PLAN

A few months ago, the ARRL UHF/Microwave Band Plan Committee asked the Amateur Radio community about current, planned and projected uses of the amateur bands between 902 MHz-3.5 GHz. The response was beyond our expectations, with hundreds of comments and suggestions received. After reading the feedback, the Committee began working on the band plans, and the draft plan for 33 cm (902-928 MHz) is now ready for review. Read more at www.arrl.org/news/arrl-seeks-comments-on-proposed-33-cm-band-plan.

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 12, 2012

AMATEURS MUST PROTECT NEW RADARS IN 23 CM BAND

The Federal Aviation Administration is deploying a new generation of Common Air Route Surveillance Radar (CARSR) that has some implications for the use of the 1240-1300 MHz (23 cm) band by amateurs. The Amateur Service allocation in this band is on a secondary basis, with aeronautical radionavigation and several other services primary in the United States Table of Frequency Allocations. The FCC rules require that amateur stations operating in the 23 cm band may not cause harmful interference to stations in the radionavigation-satellite service, the aeronautical radionavigation service, the Earth exploration-satellite service (active) or the space research service (active). One case of harmful interference in Southern California has been reported.

CARSRs are being installed in several dozen locations throughout the country and will use various frequencies in the 1240-1350 MHz range with an occupied bandwidth of about 3 MHz. In the vicinity of the radars, amateur operation may be precluded in a portion of the 23 cm band. The ARRL is in contact with FAA engineers. We anticipate that the constraints on amateur use of the band will be limited to those necessary to protect aviation safety, which of course cannot be compromised.

Work in Progress

Not much progress to report, projects either deferring to unscheduled interventions or simply poking along at glacial speed. John (W6JPP) was blindsided by car failure. What was supposed to be an outpatient operation turned out to be serious surgery. The car has been put back together again and is responding to rehab and a full recovery is expected. However the rebuild of the Cushcraft antenna has been delayed. There is still an antenna party on the horizon.

Joe (W6SNV) took delivery of his Yaesu Antenna Rotator and is more than pleased. As Ron Popeil of infomercial fame used to say, "Just Set It and Forget It." The rotator simply grinds away with no one in attendance, searches for the pre-selected heading and on getting close, slows down and kisses the destination. The Force 12 C-3SS has been disassembled, oxidation removed and polished, reassembled using Noalox and is ready to operate. The only thing left is to fashion two short mast sections, one goes below the rotator affixed to the tower and the other above to hold the antenna. Joe narrowly avoided heat stroke when he ran the eight conductor control cable through his attic and out under the eve of the roof to emerge next to the tower. We may yet live to see this project completed in our lifetime.

Clark (KE6KXO) was delayed much like John. His bottom mounted Hy-Gain Rotator on his MA-40 tubular tower kept locking up when trying to rotate the antenna some 40 feet above. You might have heard about the tower lowering incident that pretzelled the saddle. So the tower has been lowered again, would you believe without incident. Shows you what practice can do. All attempts to get the saddle aligned with the axel below have failed. The factory is going to send him a new one for $51 which seems extremely reasonable. I hope he doesn't remember who destroyed it in the first place!

Viki (KI6WDS) is the exception for this month. Viki lives in a duplex that fronts on Wolfe Road in Cupertino . It is one of those

mirror image condos that is split down the middle fore and aft, from the garden in the front, to the dividing wall though the middle, then to the fence out back. There is a gabled roof that runs across both units, right to left, along the long axis of the building, this parallel with the street. Viki lives in the left unit, and would you believe, the land lord lives in the right unit. The concept of a clandestine antenna project takes on new meaning under these circumstances! The coconspirator in this project is Gregg (KF6FNA) who early on outlined an MO based on boiling a frog by turning up the heat ever so slowly. Step one was to mount a pole on her chimney using TV antenna straps. This went up with a pulley at the top and the equivalent of a flag raising halyard. So far all quite on the eastern front! There is an unruly bush next to Viki's back door, just the thing in which to hide a push up multi section mast. In, up and again nothing heard. Finally Gregg got on the roof and connected a wire from the chimney pole to the rear bush pole, 21 feet to be exact. The length was suggested by Clark (KE6KXO) who remembered this length as having magical resonances just about any place you needed. A 1:1 balun terminated with a PL-259 connector allowed coax to enter Viki's shack through a conveniently located window. The antenna wire went to one terminal, two ground radials to the other and then across the backyard. First reports are that it works well on 40 through 10 meters. There is some tidying up to do, but the frog has been boiled without a croak!

Goetz K. Brandt, K6GKB

The Bucky Hut

Years ago, when men were men, a boy lived on a farm in North Dakota named Clark (KE6KXO). In today's terminology, "He lived off the Grid." Electrification was still years in the future, so electricity was generated on the farm and stored in great glass enclosed batteries. The farm was way ahead of the neighbors being the first to have an indoor toilet. Eventually the farm played itself out and the family moved to San Jose, California where Clark was enrolled in a private school along with his siblings. The school honed some of the rough edges, but the pioneer can-do spirit lived on. And so it was that Clark decided to build his own house and make his home in Alviso California. At that time, the old "New Chicago" was miles from civilization, a port city on the south end of San Francisco Bay. Ships could come and go as they pleased. The town had shades of that "Off the Grid" atmosphere. Looking south, you could just see the Bank of America Building in downtown San Jose. Looking north across endless bay lands was Hangar #1 at Moffett Field, and then nothing until the 680 foot radio tower in Palo Alto.

Having been raised in that self reliant mode where anything is possible, Clark decided that an ordinary house would not do. He was seduced by a Buckminster Fuller 39 foot diameter geodesic dome that could be bought as a kit, the individual facets being preassembled. This was big enough to use as a house, but the repeated flooding in Alviso presented a problem. If the dome were constructed at ground level it would surely drown in one of these floods. A friend of Clark's was taking Architectural Engineering at Cal Polly and took an interest in elevating the dome. Lots of math was required to configure five poles that would hold up the dome, make room below for a garage, a workshop, a laundry room and a washroom and living quarters above. Creating a skirt that was consistent with the dome provided a challenge. The difficulty was the absence of any right angles in the design, even the five poles reaching backwards from the center. The top and bottom are artfully partitioned with a walk around balcony. Looking back, Clark looks with wonderment at the compound angled cuts he had to make on lumber that even now is mitered to perfection. It took more than a year to complete back in 1974 and has since become a point of interest in Alviso. The final touch was enclosing a small back section of the garage for a ham shack, surely the most unique in our club.

Goetz K. Brandt, K6GKB

April Dinner meeting

Photos by Goetz K. Brandt, K6GKB

For Sale

A complete Kenwood Station consisting of the following is offered for sale

Kenwood TS-940SAT with all filters (CW & AM), Voice Synthesizer. Sub Display now lit with LEDs. Built in antenna tuner. All factory upgrades. Total alignment and PLL solder fixes 3 years ago.	$900
Kenwood MC-60 microphone	$100
Kenwood SM-220 Station Monitor	$250
Kenwood SP-940 matching speaker with filters	$100
Kenwood HS-50 Head phones	$50
Timewave DSP-9 External DSP audio Processor	$50
total	$1,450
As a package deal	$1,200 + Shipping

Free Delivery can be arranged. Includes all cables, manuals and associated papers and original product brochures and instructions. This combination has worked and confirmed 350 ARRL DX Stations.

It currently is on line and if interested you can call me at (408) 267-2624 or (408) 264-0965. Also can be seen inQRZ under my call.

Dick Letrich, W6KM

Trojan Horse

Any number of people are currently breathing life into old antennas. Not to be left out, I appropriated a vertical three band antenna from Clark Murphy's (KE6KXO) junk yard. It had weathered considerably and looked just awful. Pure aluminum has the ability to grow a very tough uniform oxide layer that provides a beautiful protective coating. Unfortunately, aluminum alloy does not do this, creating a leprosy that makes a mess of electrical connections and overall appearance. The aircraft industry realized this early on and has been fabricating "Alclad" corrosion resistant aluminum sheet for years. It is formed from high-purity aluminum surface layers metallurgically bonded to high strength aluminum alloy core material. Externally it behaves like pure aluminum, internally it behaves like a high strength alloy.

Clark loaned me a Black & Decker Workmate that allowed the individual elements to be clamped in place. Using 180 grit sanding strips, a shoeshine stropping of the tubes removed the corrosion. A follow up with 00 grit steel wool polished the tubes to a mirror finish. Wrapping the sanding strips around wooden dowels allowed me to remove the corrosion from the inside mating surfaces where tubes would be inserted. By some miracle, the clamps were all pure aluminum and responded to phosphoric acid which cleaned them to a white finish. A trip to OSH provided all the fasteners needed to replace what had turned to rust.

Reassembly was straight forward, simply the reverse of the disassembly. The only trick was to get the Noalox between all the mating surfaces to guarantee ohmic contact between the elements. This stuff is nasty, it is black and gets all over everything. Using an analog ohm meter verified that everything seemed to be back together. I attached an MFJ-259 analyzer to my three band antenna and that's when the project took a left turn. There were nulls, but nowhere near any ham band that I had ever heard of. This vertical is actually three distinct pieces that are attached to each other with collinear coils that jump across insulation gaps. There are three bands, and obviously two coils which are in fact traps. The coils are identical except one has more turns than the other. What seemed odd was that the longer coil was at the bottom and the shorter one at the top. I swear I put it back the way I found it, but maybe not. In any case, a quick call to Don Steinbach (W6PM) confirmed that this was illogical, the first section was the highest frequency and required the smaller coil.

I have been playing (working) with this thing for almost two weeks and it has fought me all the way. I have telescoped the sections in and out, I have squeezed the coils back and forth like an accordion, I have added radials in all directions, have tried different heights, have planted it in the middle of the back yard and to no avail. The best I could do was to get it to resonate on 20 meters with a very deep null, 1.1:1, but then no other band of use. I'm about to recycle a garbage can full of aluminum cans, and there may be some aluminum tubing sticking out the top!

Goetz K. Brandt, K6GKB

Uglier than Before

I have always said that to be brilliant must be intoxicating and to be stupid pacifying, but to be just clever enough to know that you aren't very smart is a bad place to be. To add to my misery, Gary (WB6YRU) warned me that my article about ugly baluns was lacking scientific method and now, as the "DUDE" said, "new data has come to light." An article in the April issue of QST magazine addresses the hand wound coaxial current balun with the scientific vigor I did not give it in my previous article. All the research I did never said that in addition to creating the inductance necessary to stop current flow you might actually be building a trap whose resonance could be at the working frequency being choked. Grab a form, wind up 20 feet of coax and you have a broad band choke is what most articles said. Not true! The diameter, the spacing, the number of turns, the coax used are all part of the equation and can result in both a current balun and a trap. Lord have mercy on the ignorant!

A call to Don (AE6PM) explained (I hope I got this right) that current exists internally in the coax, and skin effect has an additional current flowing on the outside of the coax. The trap is working with the internal current and the choke with the external current. Don realized I might screw this all up, so he pointed me to an article in the ARRL Handbook that simply gives all the parameters for building chokes that take the individual bands into consideration. I think I am going to take the easy way out and buy an ARRL Handbook.

Goetz K. Brandt, K6GKB

Induction Hot Plate

It may be a stretch to include induction hot plates as suitable monthly material for the SCCARA-GRAM, but magnetic fields are half of what propagate our radio signals into space. Europe and Asia have discovered induction cooking, but the US is slow to follow. The principal is simple. A copper coil passing an AC current creates a magnetic field which induces eddy currents in a ferrous material which in turn experience resistance and ultimately create heat. The beauty is the heat, which is only present in the vessel. The pot or pan must have iron content for all this to work and this is where my trouble started.

I bought a variety of cast iron pans, first from China and

then a set of Lodge cookware made in the US. All were "Pre Seasoned," a term used to describe the non stick property cast iron achieves after years of use. I can't describe the chemical bonding that took place when I fried eggs in these "Pre Seasoned" pans. I needed a chisel and a ball-peen hammer to remove my breakfast. Both the internet and many friends assured me this was as simple as finger painting. These are the same people who tell me they can hard boil eggs that peel every time. Just coat the pan with grease, heat in an oven for an hour and you're done, they say. Sorry, but it didn't work for me, but here is what did.

I took a file with a clean square end. Using just the end of the file, I scrapped the inside of the pan until all the pebbly sand cast finish was removed. I then used an orbital sander and with ever finer grades of sandpaper, got the inside of the pan to shine like a mirror. Then I proceeded with the seasoning instructions, building a new layer of caramelized oil on the inside and outside of the pan. Now the eggs just float in their melted butter.

In case your wondering, I'm retired and don't have a garden, or for that matter a yard that needs attention. In fact, there are a lot of things that don't get attention. That's what makes time available for important things like seasoning cast iron pans.

Goetz K. Brandt, K6GKB

New Radio

The first time I had to pay estimated tax I rebelled at the thought of filling out the necessary forms. It seemed to me that once a year was quite enough. So I simply wrote out checks, put my social security number at the top and "estimated tax" in the memo field at the bottom. The naked checks went into envelopes, one to the Feds and one to the state. And so it's been ever since, four times a year. Since I make no calculations, I simply send enough to cover all possibilities. Whether the money sits in my checking account at near zero interest or with the government at absolute zero interest is of little consequence. I mention all this because it produces a prodigious refund at the end of the year.

When you do your taxes with TAX CUT, there is a little odometer in the upper right hand corner that keeps track of your balance (refund in my case) and this year the excitement increased as I reached the end of the process. This gift to me was of such a magnitude that it required some thinning out. And so it was that I bought a new radio, an Icom IC-703, which is a QRP rig that has been discontinued.

I bought it on EBAY from someone working in Mountain View which eliminated the shipping cost. What I got was a brand new radio in ICOM's LC-156 Backpack. This is a self contained unit with battery, five band whip antenna, ground radials and charger. There is a separation case for the control head which allows easy access to the controls. It has an internal antenna tuner which can tune a wet noodle. Best of all it is functionally identical to an ICOM IC-706, so there was no learning curve. It has already been on the air and at 5 watts reached southern California, Nevada, Utah and beyond. I just love this radio! Now there is the world of low power radio to explore. Ham Radio has lots of flavors and this one tastes especially good.

Goetz K. Brandt, K6GKB

Rip van Winkle

I must have been asleep for a great long time, because I have just discovered Anderson Power Pole Connectors. Judging by the astonishment of my Ham friends, these must have been invented when I was just a child. Needing to terminate some power cables, I went to Ham Radio Outlet and bought all the components for a complete Power Pole tool box. The backbone of this collection is the crimping pliers that attach the terminals onto their wires. Just an awesome device that has a ratchet that once you begin there is no retreat. You must progress to destruction or with practice a perfect squeeze. Then the result of your work gets inserted into a plastic clip which also requires some intuition. This was very intimidating, but I was able to logic out what needed to be done and was successful. My first attempt was perfection and when I put the tool away I noticed the instructions which were just beneath the invoice. They were surprisingly easy to understand after the fact.

I mention all this, because as everyone else has already discovered these things are ingenious. Except for color, the plastic enclosures are identical. They are hermaphrodites, which means they perform the usual male/female plug function interchangeably. They can double up by locking to each other side by side. A roll pin can be inserted between any two so that they are forced to maintain their alignment, neither sneaking ahead of the other. There is an endless array of accessories, terminal blocks, fuse holders, distribution panels, you name it. So simple and yet so devilishly clever. I am now retrofitting them to all my wiring.

I wonder what else I have missed? Someone is probably going to tell me that you can now fit an entire telephone into a shirt pocket! No! No! Don't tell me, a pocket video phone with which you can see and talk face to face with anyone anywhere in the world! Easy now, I may look stupid ...

Goetz K. Brandt, K6GKB

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, April 9, 2012

Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Ave, Santa Clara CA 95051 Status: Unreviewed

The April General Meeting was a dinner meeting. After eating, a very brief formal meeting was called to order by Don Steinbach AE6PM at 19:14.

Introductions of members and guests were made. A card for Gwen was passed around for people to sign.

Don made several announcements: The flea market is this Saturday April 14; the SVECS quarterly breakfast is Saturday April 28th; the MS Walk is also Saturday the 28th. There are many QSO parties, see the listing in QST. There are 7 more state QSO parties this month.

Don K6PBQ mentioned a 100th Anniversary Titanic Special Events Station from today through the 15th.

Don AE6PM announced FARS is having an upgrade class from 4/26 - 5/21: six 2-hour weekly classes on Thursday evenings at the Mountain View Fire Administration building on Villa Ave.

Also Don AE6PM was contacted with a job opportunity: a company that does EMI testing needs a salesperson, and thought hams might be a fit.

Our flea market is in June, the SVECS flea market is in September.

Don adjourned the meeting at 19:22.

Board Meeting, April 16, 2012

Red Cross Building, 2731 N 1st St, San Jose CA Status: Unreviewed

The SCCARA Board Meeting was called to order by Don AE6PM at 19:38.

Attendance: President: Don Steinbach AE6PM; Vice President: Fred Townsend AE6QL; Secretary: Viki Moldenhauer KI6WDS; Treasurer: Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Trustee: Don Village K6PBQ; Directors: John Glass NU6P, Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Gregg Lane KF6FNA, Gary Mitchell WB6YRU; Wally Britten KA6YMD; Visitors: Clark Murphy KE6KXO

Announcements: Don AE6PM announced the SCCARA-gram inputs are due to Gary no later than April 30, 2012.

Treasurer's Report: Goetz K6GKB reported the account balances: checking = $5091.20; savings = $500.07; cash = $195.45.

Secretary's Report: The March board meeting minutes were reviewed and no corrections were made.

Vice President's Report: Fred AE6QL had information on upcoming meeting presentations: Elecraft will be in later in the fall; Tom Schiller N6BT will speak on antennas and contesting; and there will be talks on ATV and SWR. Fred has also been in contact with the Los Gatos High School student who was awarded a scholarship to a Costa Rica DXpedition, and suggested we could invite high school clubs to join us for Field Day and use the GOTA station. On the subject of future meeting topics, Goetz K6GKB requested we have Bob Vallio speak on the Kingman Reef DXpedition, and Viki KI6WDS mentioned George N6NKT has been on DXpeditions; we could have them in to talk.

Discussion Topics:
Sales tax id for flea market - After much discussion, it appears we need a taxpayer ID to collect sales tax for the FTB. We could have 2 surplus-equipment tables per year without one, but because we sell (non-surplus) food, we need the ID number. Goetz G6GKB will confirm we don't already have one, and get us one if needed.

Donation letter for tower/rotator/beam - Viki KI6WDS will write the letter; Lou WA6QYS, Gregg KF6FNA, and Clark KE6KXO will provide her the information.

MOU with San Jose - Chris Swarthout has it, and will get it to Fred AE6QL.

New ham handout - Gary WB6YRU reported the new member packet has been updated and delivered; the single-page handout is targeted for test classes; we should make a generic one for Field Day, flea markets, etc.; Gary will update it.

Automated email meeting announcement - by default it doesn't handle special events or dates, which may be confusing people; it was agreed to turn it off.

2M repeater - The Kenwood TKR-750 was received April 7. The Duplexor is at the 440 site, but needs some tuning, so it will go to Don AE6PM for work. The new repeater has its own controller. John NU6P recommended setting up the repeater using the internal controller to see how it works. The two repeaters will use separate tones: the existing Eagle Rock repeater will use 114.8, the new repeater will use 107.2 (like the 440 repeater). No S-meter circuit is needed if we have no external controller. For backup power, we'll use the other repeater, or hook up a battery.

Field Day planning:
Location - Gregg KF6FNA explained the problem of location: because of a lack of signups to help with setup/teardown at Mt. Madonna, he and Clark KE6KXO are looking at closer alternate sites: one possibility is a water company lot in Alviso; we could stay set up over night, and bring in a portapotty. Clark can talk to the lot owner if we settle on this site. One other possible lot is on Benton and Lawrence Expressway (SE corner). Gregg will nail down a location before the end of the month so it can be published in the next SCCARA-gram.

Existing bandpass filters - Don AE6PM has been working on the filters and delivered them to Gregg at the meeting.

Transceiver interaction investigation - Gregg plans on testing the interaction between the various club radios to simulate the co-location of a Field Day site. Don AE6PM volunteered to help.

Generator purchase - The generator purchase will be timed to have the 90-day warranty overlap with Field Day by a month or so just in case of problems; the purchase will be before the next club meeting.

Lou WA6QYS mentioned the SVECS breakfast on April 28; the speaker is KE6MEI from the Mounted Search and Rescue Unit of the San Mateo County Sheriffs Office; let him know if you want to attend.

The NARCC Meeting will also be April 28th. They have published several proposals; Gary WB6YRU described the 15KHz plan (respacing 20Khz to 15KHz in the lower 2 repeater bands) as requiring rework, but no loss of frequencies. After discussion, the club would support this proposal. Wally KA6YMD will be going to the meeting.

Lou WA6QYS informed everyone that a new area code overlay in the 408 area code will require all calls to dial 1-408-xxx-xxxx, even for local calls. This will affect our autodialer. John NU6P reported that both controllers can accomodate this, but we will need to re-program them.

Lou also reminded the board that the Stanford Powwow will be May 12, and the SCCARA DeAnza flea market is June 9th: there will be a signup sheet at the next meeting.

Station Trustee's Report: Don K6PBQ received the second license for the club station back from the ARRL. He will file the original with Viki an post a copy at the station. He also mentioned the MS walk on April 28, which he has enough hams to staff.

Editor's Report: Gary WB6RYU reported the newsletter is at a status quo.

N0ARY BBS Report: Gary WB6YRU reported the BBS is also status quo.

Repeater Chairman's Report: Wally KA6YMD said the NARC changes would not impact our repeaters.

Web Masters Report: Wally KA6YMD is keeping the web site

up to date. Goetz K6GKB had looked into club donations to the website host; discussion was deferred to the next meeting. Fred AE6QL asked whether the website quota is 10 MB or 10 GB: Wally will check.

Don adjourned the meeting at 21:16.

Viki Moldenhauer, KI5WDS, Secretary

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

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Date: 27 May 2010 02:34
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: A Day at the Races

A Rabbi is walking slowly down the street when a gust of wind blows his hat from his head. The hat is being blown down the street, but he is an old man, using a cane, and can't walk fast enough to catch the hat.

Across the street a young man sees what has happened and rushes over to grab the hat and then returns it to the Rabbi.

"I don't think I would have been able to catch my hat," said the Rabbi. "Thank you very much." The Rabbi then places his hand on the man's shoulder and says, "May God bless you."

The young man thinks to himself, "I've been blessed by the Rabbi. This must be my lucky day!" So he goes to the Racetrack and in the first race he sees there is a horse named Stetson at 20 to 1. He bets $50 and sure enough the horse comes in first.

In the second race he sees a horse named Fedora at 30 to 1, so he bets it all and this horse comes in first also.

Finally at the end of the day he returns home to his wife. When she asks him where he's been, he explains how he caught the Rabbi's hat and was blessed by him and then went to the track and started winning on horses that had a hat in their names.

"So where's the money?" she asks.

"I lost it all in the ninth race. I bet on a horse named Chateau and it lost."

"You fool, Chateau is a house, Chapeau is a hat!"

"It doesn't matter," he said, "the winner was some Japanese horse named Yarmulke."

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, W6JPP
TVI/RFI: WB6YRU
Homebrew projects, construction: KD6FJI, WB6YRU
Computers: older IBM PC: WB6YRU
Packet Network (BBS, forwarding): WB6YRU
Code operating and installations: WB6EMR, K6PBQ
DX (long distance/propagation): WB6EMR
Emergency operating/preparedness: WA6QYS
HF operating techniques (SSB, CW): WB6EMR, K6PBQ
Legal/FCC rules: WB6YRU
SCCARA (club inner workings): K6PBQ, WB6YRU, WA6QYS
EchoLink: KK6MX

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

W6JPP, John Parks, (408) 309-8709
e-mail: w6jpp@arrl.net

K6PBQ, Don Village, (408) 263-2789
e-mail: donvillage7@yahoo.com

WA6QYS, Lou Steirer, (408) 241-7999
e-mail: wa6qys@arrl.net

WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, (408) 269-2924
packet: home BBS NOARY
e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com

Newsletter Notes

I've been the *SCCARA-GRAM* editor for many years now, and of course was a member before then. And in all that time, I've never seen anyone contribute to the *SCCARA-GRAM* more prolifically than Goetz K6GKB. Just this month alone has almost a year's worth if he were a regular monthly contributor!

Thanks, Goetz!

Please notice that many of his articles aren't technical, they're just stories of what he's been up to lately. Technical articles are great, this is a technical hobby after all, but anything related to amateur radio is OK. So, I hope this will inspire more of you to contribute.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

SCCARA
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Affiliate of the ARRL,
American Radio Relay League

FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SCCARA Membership Form for 2012

If none of your info has changed, fill in name and call only

Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: E A G 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: _____

make sure your e-mail is legible and correct if you want the newsletter by internet

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 (costs the club about $35/year) ☐ internet

Give this completed form (or copy) with payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or mail to the club address.

Rev. 4/2/2012