

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 28, Number 7

July 2012



President's Prose

Field Day has come and gone. In my opinion, our relocation to Alviso this year was an unqualified success. Setup and teardown was uneventful thanks to thorough planning by FD Chairman Gregg Lane, KF6FNA. It was accomplished by the usual 10-12 folks. Some of the antenna locations were unique to say the least. On the downside, there was the wind. But, with wind there are no bugs or sweltering heat. On the upside, we were much more accessible to members and visitors. Local electrical noise, a concern of mine, turned out to be a non-issue.

The new Honda generator was a benefit as well. With the old generator we would probably have had to shut down over night due to the noise. The new generator was so quiet it ran out of gas once and no one noticed!

It's hard to believe that the year 2012 is half over and that the days are getting shorter already. I still have much to do before winter, besides carving out some vacation time in Montana.

That's it for this month. Join Don (K6PBQ) and Wally (KA6YMD) on our 2-meter and 10-meter nets. If you have a license, you can be there.

73, Don, AE6PM



Secretary Says

Thanks to Don AE6PM spilling the beans in the last newsletter, everyone knows about my passing the Extra exam last month. It is only fair that everyone also knows that it wouldn't have happened without the people in this club.

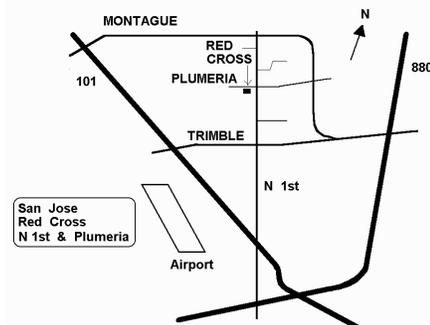
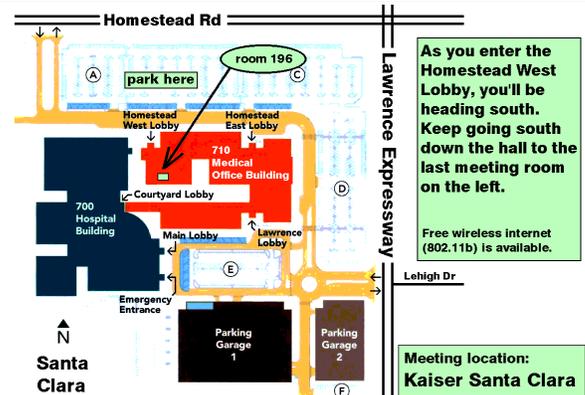
Everything I've learned is by talking to people at the club meetings and events, and especially the folks that have shown me how to operate at the club station. Don K6PBQ, Lou WA6QYS, Clark KE6KXO, Gregg KF6FNA, Goetz K6GKB, and Don AE6PM, and awhile back, Ned AC6YY and Alvin W6ATW, have all spent significant amounts of time explaining to me how to use the radios at the station, how to find and listen for contacts, and

Calendar

- 7/9 SCCARA General Meeting—dinner meeting!
- 7/14 DeAnza electronic flea market
- 7/16 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting

Day: Monday, July 9, 2012
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Rm 196
Featuring: Michael Wright K6MFW on ATV



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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

successfully complete them. In between contacts, they've also explained how and why radios and antennas work - often several times when it didn't sink in the first time.

The knowledge they shared made it possible for me to make educated guesses on the parts of the exam I hadn't gotten to study for. I am very grateful to them and everyone else who has shared information with me. If you have ever doubted it was worth coming down to the club station - it made all the difference to me. Thank you.

For all other new members, I strongly encourage you to take advantage of their generous offer of an experienced person to learn from, and a club radio and antenna all setup ready to use.

Viki , KI6WDS

*{Don't forget the **Need Help?** column in the SCCARA-GRAM. There you'll find a list of subjects and people "elmers" who are available to answer questions. - Editor}*

August Meeting

I am excited to announce Albert Mizuhara, W6DOZ, will be the SCCARA's August 13th speaker. If the name sounds familiar but you can't quiet place it I'll give you a hint. A few Al's associates were Bill Orr and Bert Jennings. Still need more help? Can you say Eimac? Can you say Varian? Can you say Jennings vacuum capacitors?

In 1948, when Al Mizuhara was licensed as W6DOZ, Russell H. Varian and Sigurd F. Varian, founded Varian Associates and introduced the klystron as their commercial product. Al later joined Eimac where he worked on gridded tubes. Then he moved to Varian for a while and then returned to Eimac only have Varian acquire Eimac. In the process Al moved from gridded tubes to klystrons.

Al is retiring from CPII, the successor company to Varian Eimac. Al will be telling us about building the giant 500KW klystrons used for deep space voyager missions. Maybe we can get him to tell us what is like working with Bill Orr as well.

Fred AE6QL

Field Day

As most are aware, this year field day was not held at Mt. Madonna Park, but instead in Alviso's ocean front property by the Bay. More accurately, the northeast corner of Gold and Catherine Street where there is a parking lot which is adjacent to a slough. The definition of a slough is "an area of soft, muddy ground; swamp or swamp like region" which just about says it all. This is city property and our club's attempt to get authorization for its use was rebuffed by a clerk who advised the paperwork would not be worth the trouble. So, using Occupy Wall Street tactics, we made the area our own.

Things began Friday morning at 10:30 AM with the arrival of the United Rentals port-a-potty. We had ordered a handicap model and what we got was the Taj Mahal of latrines. You could have had a barn dance in this thing! The lone driver of the truck gave the Tupperware hut a great push and it crashed to the ground from his trailer. Hope we didn't overload the thing,

because I think he is going to heft it back onto the trailer by himself when he picks it up.

Next came John (W6JPP) with his Dodge truck pulling the club trailer. This marvel of engineering belonged to Frank Quement before it was gifted to the club. We all remember Quement Electronics on Bascom Avenue. This trailer is the Swiss army knife of portable antennas. It has leveling jacks, outrigger supports, steamer trunks full of ropes, coax, extension cords, stakes, and office dividers, generator, barbecue, fire extinguishers, you name it. On top are three crank-up towers. Once leveled and in place it began delivering its goods.

Gregg (KF6FNA) was the grand master in charge of this three ring circus and his performance deserves a Nobel Prize. Having pre-measured the area, he had visualized the final layout in such detail that it only required execution. Step one was erecting the two section aluminum tower on Stink Island, a piece of real estate surrounded by a moat of putrid yellow brackish water. Someone had built a causeway out of sand bags that crossed this river Styx, but it was only one sandbag wide and a bit of a challenge for those with balancing problems. The tower base plate was nailed into the island, the Mosley antenna attached and the tower pulled into position. None of the three anchors for the guy lines were on the island itself. It was decided that no guy lines, coax or rotor cable should drag through the water which provided some fun. The stakes used for anchors were three foot sections of rebar which worked quite well. They could be easily driven into the ooze, but their removal was more difficult than anticipated.

The next antenna to go up was the three section trailer tower. Using one of the boat trailer winches, the rather large tower pivots at the hip on an axel which is part of the trailer. A second boat trailer winch sent the three sections skyward. The other Mosley antenna at the top looked very regal and was the show piece of the encampment. I say encampment because by now Wally (KA6YMD) had positioned his Falcon RV against the edge of the parking lot. Leveled on blocks and with the back yard awning extended it looked very cool. Next door, Viki (KI6WDS) parked her van and attached one of the clubs awning tents for her GOTA station. Next to that was the club trailer with its awning tent and further on John (W6JPP) parked his Truck and put up a two meter antenna. Several tables with food, ice chests with drinks and chairs everywhere. Before the day was over, there were a lot of antennas up.

Next morning began with a pancake breakfast with Chef Don (K6PBQ) at the burners. This went quite well, even some locals joined in. By now, local residents were showing up to question what was going on in their neighborhood. Clark (KE6KXO) was the first line of defense and was able to neutralize any anxieties by telling them that he lived in the dome house which they all knew well. Some cops came by, but after a thorough look decided they didn't want to complicate their shift reports with an anomaly that might require explanation. And so it went for all three days, many came, many wondered, but never a problem with our squatting on city land.

At the height of the event, there were ten antennas in the air, three awning tents, tables of food, barbecues, stations contesting, solar power, generator power, wind, lots of wind and sunshine that burned a nose or two. Wally, Viki and Gregg stayed the nights and stood shifts to protect the equipment, but no problems were encountered. Don (AE6PM) deployed his antenna plate under the rear wheel of his car and hoisted a SPIDERPOLE 39 feet into the air. By Sunday morning when the 11 AM ending bell was rung, most were quite satisfied with a field day choreographed to perfection by Gregg who was in total control of his production like the maestro of a symphony orchestra. The disassembly took half as long as the assembly, there being no

creative decisions required. The antenna trailer gathered up all its parts, pulled in its outriggers, dismantled its jack stands and was pulled back to its parking place. The genie is back in its bottle waiting for someone to give it rub in about one year.

The remaining tables, chairs, ice chests, awning tents, etc. found their way back into various vans and cars. When the final vehicle left the parking lot, there was no sign that we had been there. OOPS! The Taj Mahal was still waiting for the house mover to erase any stain of our presence.

Goetz K. Brandt

Antenna Challenge

Anyone who has been to Clark's (KE6KXO) house knows there is no shortage of antennas. They are tied up underneath the eve of his house, stacked up against the hot tub, laying on the ground and in great piles of remnants against the fence. It is the "PICK AND PULL" junk yard of antennas. Amongst all this wreckage was a box ordered ten years ago from Henry Radio in Los Angeles. I visited the address recently and sadly Henry's had given way to a Hollywood casting agency that could increase your chances as an extra for a fee. The faded label on the box declared that inside was a Creative Design Company 730V-1 antenna. The box was sun bleached, the staples pure rust, the labels hard to read. However, when looking inside, there was a brand new antenna ready to put together. I was told that several people had attempted to assemble it, but the lack of instructions posed a problem.

So they gave it to me and said "have a try." Reminds me of the old TV add, "see if Mikey likes it." I was able to find it on the internet, but what I found was other people wanting to know how it goes together. I laid all the pieces out on my driveway and things seemed to clear up in a hurry. The traps had arrows pointing to the boom as well as being predrilled much like a Mosley antenna. The slip on sections could only go together one way, so that was the final piece of the puzzle. There was a photo on the internet



of one in the air and using a slip of paper held against my computer monitor I was able to mark the length of the outboard trap on a piece of paper. Using this as a ruler, I was able to measure the distance to the capacity hats and the length of the adjustable end pieces. The capacity hats were one trap length away and the end pieces were two and a half trap lengths long. Transferring this to the actual antenna was the last step in the assembly.

The box unfortunately was full of parts from some other antenna, which confused things a bit. It is an upright ninety degree "V" trap antenna for 40-20-15-10 meters, provided with all the hardware to put it together, plus a matching balun. It went together

nicely and when mounted on a two section pushup mast (also from Clark's collection) worked nicely. A test on the morning Rhubarb net gave me 5X9 from most stations. It can be assembled and disassembled quite quickly and will make a nice portable antenna for future field days.

Goetz K. Brandt

SCCARA's flea market

The Weather Gods smiled on us on June 9, the day of SCCARA's sponsorship of the De Anza Electronic Flea Market. The day was neither too cold nor too hot to the delight of 125 vendors and the faithful buyers who came to seek bargains. From all accounts both groups were happy at day's end.

Of course these events don't happen by themselves. A lot of time was dedicated by a lot of people to bring this about. I would like to thank Mike KN6QI, George N6NKT, Seth KF6UZX, Svend KF6EMB and Rolf N6NFI for their support. The stalwart SCCARA members who answered the call were Gregg KF6FNA, John W6JPP, Clark KE6KXO, Gary WB6YRU, Don K6PBO, Don AE6PM, Goetz K6GKB, Wally KA6YMD, Viki KI6WDS, Mike AG6DG, Dona KI6DAR, Lloyd KD6FJI, Mike KB6LCJ, Joan KB6LFZ and Bill AG6EM.

It was a pleasure working with everyone helping to generate funds for our organization.

Lou WA6QYS

Write-only Memory

In searching for some Cinch-Jones eight conductor connectors to facilitate the wiring of our rebuilt TR-44 rotators, I ended up at Anchor Electronics at the corner of Walsh and Scott in Santa Clara. As I passed through the front door, I was greeted by a gentleman sitting in a chair behind a bit of a desk exactly at the door. Instead of connecting with this person, I went directly to the counter where a lady looked at my sample Cinch-Jones connector and began shaking her head. Then she called over to the door greeter who came over and also shook his head. But that's when things took a right turn as he began writing on a piece of paper.

He said it could be a BEAU "S3308" and if it had the cable clamp then it would be suffixed with "-CCT." Or it could be a TRW, now CINCH "S308-CCT," they chose to leave out the leading "3." I was flabbergasted, all this from memory. So I began laughing and said, you can keep all this in your head? He replied that he only needed to keep ten numbers in his head, the trick was to know in which order to let them out. Then he volunteered that HSC (Haltek Specialties) might have them. He said there was a rack on wheels at the end of one of the long rows which dealt exclusively with C-J connectors. He then began drawing me a detailed map, starting with the entrance, the check out counter on the right, the large area to the left, the wall with the resistors, the windows facing the expressway and down to the exact location of the gurney with the connectors. So I went to HSC and exactly where he described I found the bins, but alas the eight pin connectors were sold out.

When I was nine years old, my father whisked the entire family off to Europe in 1948. You couldn't live in bombed out Germany where he was teaching at the University of Heidelberg,

so he dropped us off in Switzerland for a year. We all went to school, but the truth is we learned very little except how to hold our hands and get disciplined with a rod! When I returned to the US, I rejoined my classmates from the fourth grade who were now in the sixth grade. Never did attend the fifth grade, have no idea what went on while I was gone. Everyone tells me that's when they teach spelling and memory. Thank god for computers which don't suffer these deficiencies. When I got home from HSC there were two sets of Cinch-Jones connectors in my mailbox! I must have ordered it from EBAY.

Goetz K. Brandt

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, May 31, 2012

FCC EXPANDS PART 95 MEDRADIO RULES TO ALLOW DEVICES IN 2360-2400 MHZ BAND

In a First Report and Order and a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ET 08-59) released on May 24, the FCC decided to expand the Part 95 Personal Radio Service rules to allow medical devices to operate on a secondary basis in the 2360-2400 MHz band. These devices -- called Medical Body Area Networks (MBAN) -- provide a way for health care facilities to monitor their patients via wireless networks. Because use of these frequencies will be on a secondary basis, MBAN stations will not be allowed to cause interference to -- and must accept interference from -- primary services, including radio amateurs who operate on a primary basis in the 2390-2395 MHz and 2395-2400 MHz bands. Read more at www.arrl.org/news/fcc-expands-part-95-medradio-rules-to-allow-devices-in-2360-2400-mhz-band.

From *The ARRL Letter*, June 7, 2012

ARRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVES 9 CM BAND PLAN

<http://> The ARRL Board of Directors has unanimously voted to approve the 9 cm band plan, as presented by the ARRL UHF/Microwave Band Plan Committee. Earlier this year, the committee asked radio amateurs for comments on a proposed 9 cm band plan, explaining that the purpose of these band plans is to share information about how the amateur bands are being used and to suggest compatible frequency ranges for various types of applications. The committee also recognized that local conditions or needs may necessitate deviations from a band plan, and that regional frequency coordinating bodies may recommend alternatives for use in their respective regions. Read more at www.arrl.org/news/arrl-board-of-directors-approves-9-cm-band-plan.

{The plan appears on page 9, and is available at www.arrl.org/images/view/News/BandPlan9cm.jpg. – Editor}

From *The ARRL Letter*, June 21, 2012

NEW AMATEUR EXTRA CLASS QUESTION POOL EFFECTIVE JULY 1

The new Amateur Extra class (Element 4) question pool (www.ncvec.org/page.php?d=358) -- released by the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC www.ncvec.org/) in January 2012 -- becomes effective on Sunday,

July 1. The current Amateur Extra class pool expires on June 30, 2012 and cannot be used after that date. This new question pool -- including graphics and diagrams -- will remain valid until June 30, 2016. The new Amateur Extra pool contains 702 questions, from which 50 are selected for an Element 4 examination. As of June 13, three questions -- E1D09, E2A14 and E6E10 -- have been removed (www.arrl.org/withdrawn-questions) from the new pool. The current Technician class question pool (www.ncvec.org/page.php?d=349) that became effective July 1, 2010 is valid through June 30, 2014. The current General class pool (www.ncvec.org/page.php?d=350) that became effective July 1, 2011 is valid until June 30, 2015.

ARRL UHF/MICROWAVE BAND PLAN COMMITTEE SEEKS COMMENTS ON PROPOSED 23 CM BAND PLAN

Last winter, 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 and 3.5 GHz. The excellent level of response provided us with the basis to complete drafts of the 9 cm, 13 cm and 33 cm revised band plans for ARRL Board approval. The Committee has now prepared for your consideration a draft band plan for 23 cm (1240-1300 MHz), the final band on its assigned list. Please look over the accompanying draft and let us know if you have any major concern. Read more at www.arrl.org/news/arrl-uhf-microwave-band-plan-committee-seeks-comments-on-proposed-23-cm-band-plan.

{The plan appears on page 13, and is available at www.arrl.org/images/view/News/Proposed23cmBandPlan.jpg. – Editor}

My first flea Market

I'm new to the flea market activity, so I will share my experience with those who have not yet volunteered. I arrived in the dark at Check Point Charlie, the dividing line between the free world and the down and dirty trading world of ham radio. John (W6JPP) had built the dividing wall several hours in advance of the early buyers who were already aiming their flashlights at anything that moved. Homeland security could learn a thing or two from John and his crew. My papers were in order and I was allowed to park near the Red Cross Van where people were already assembling the hospitality tent which this month belonged to our club.

All manner of tubing, corner brackets, apex brackets, wire tensioners, turnbuckles and foot pads were laid out on the ground. Tubes slipped into tubes, these into brackets, canvas applied, and then there was a grand gabled tent where before there had only been parking lot. Eight foot tables were set up just in time for Lou's (WA6QYS) arrival with the hot coffee, donuts and soda pop. The thermos jugs and donuts were laid out on the table, the soda pop into galvanized buckets which were smothered in an avalanche of crushed ice. Bunches of bananas, carefully pre-ripened by Lou, filled in the gaps. Finally, large industrial coffee makers were plugged into the Red Cross generator and chairs placed behind the tables. That last touch was Clark (KE6KXO) emerging from his Volkswagen GTI like the Turkish Sultan, Suleiman the Great, and assuming his imperial position behind the cash box. SCCARA was now officially open for business. I immediately had a cup of coffee and a glazed donut as did most everyone nearby.

For me there was great relief in seeing other people's stuff. It was like an alcoholics anonymous convention were you could be with people of your own kind. I soon learned that I am a

peasant compared to some of these property owners. My astonishment at their ability to lay out all this junk is second only to my disbelief that they pick it all up again and take it home for another day. One guy was armpit deep in old radios, more than you could imagine. A buyer asked whether the particular radio he was holding might actually work. "Yes, I plugged that one in last night and it works great!" I had to think of the gun show dealer who claimed the beat-up Italian surplus rifle had never been fired. Another dealer responded to an offer with disbelief, saying "you have to meet me half way," which simply meant he wasn't budging an inch. One fellow was seriously into military surplus, the sheer volume of which cannot be described. When I looked at the Chevy Van from which all this must have come I was puzzled. I went around back for look into Ali Baba's Cave to find it was still half full!

The fun of course is seeing many of your friends who seem to be similarly afflicted with the flea market chromosome. I left empty handed which means I am in remission, but not totally cured.

Goetz K. Brandt

Field Day Report

Site: While the water was a little odd-looking, it maybe wasn't as bad as Goetz makes out. The early dawn hours were actually beautiful and peaceful on Saturday morning, before the WIND started up. I don't know how the main operating tent made out, but the van behind which the GOTA station was trying to hide was not large enough to shelter us from the cold 20+mph wind. I salute the brave visitors who sat there shivering, trying to absorb new information and make their first contacts! Also, this site is smaller than the campsite at Mt. Madonna, so the antenna placement was critical; Gregg did a lot of work laying out different arrangements ahead of time, to make sure it all would fit, with minimum interference. It is a huge task to start from scratch with a new site, but it is perhaps more representative of what we would have to do in a real emergency such as a severe earthquake.

Towers, vehicular mast supports, and guy lines: This was my first chance to actually participate in the setting up and taking down of the towers. There are two: a heavy steel 55-foot tower that is mounted on the trailer, and a much lighter 40-foot aluminum tower that has a hinged foot that gets staked into the ground. Both have huge Mosely TA33 beams balancing on top. It was fascinating seeing how these go up, and how the guy lines get anchored (especially with our nautical expert Goetz on hand to share knot-tying and rope-wrapping expertise!). It turns out you can scatter vehicles around the tower on the 120-degree angles, and tie off to tow hitches. It helps to have really heavy vehicles to do this: I borrowed one that also served as a portable storage locker (thanks, Harry!). Also, you can drive a car wheel up onto a mast support like Don's Spiderpole, or fit a mast support into a trailer hitch receiver, like the 2 m beam that was attached to the back of my van. (If you plan on doing this, reconsider the wisdom of powered side doors on the van: after being parked for 2 days, and climbing in and out of the van side door a few dozen times a day, the battery was on its knees by the time I left!) I was also impressed at the sectional push-up masts that people deployed: these things look very whippy going up but when the guy lines get applied, they are pretty stable. (The non-guyed masts traced quite an arc through the sky in Saturday's wind.) It is a testament to the tower setup team that all these antennas had NO problems in the fierce wind.

New antenna: Just a little more than a week before Field

Day, my willpower had weakened and I ordered a Bravo 5 antenna from Tom Schiller, who spoke to the club in May. This is a 5-band remote-switchable successor to the club's Sigma 5 that I have been using. Tom built a shiny new Bravo 5 and sent it to me just in time. I had opened the box to get the manual out but not actually seen the antenna before loading the box into the van on Friday, although at least I had gotten the 100 feet of rotor-controller cable. This is not exactly proper preparation...

GOTA station: I somehow ended up in charge of this, and didn't quite hold up to the high standards of the rest of the event. I should have been spending those quiet early morning hours on Saturday assembling the portable antennas to be used by the GOTA station (but it was pretty dark...). In any event, while the new Bravo 5 antenna went together quite quickly (and had tuning dimensions well-marked by Tom), it took several people a couple hours to wire the conductor cable to the relay box, mostly because I kept helping. (But this is how you learn! Antenna assembly was mixed in with setting out the solar panel with its charge controller. All of this was hampered in my case by accumulated sleep deprivation, which distorts one's sense of time. So along about 11:30am, panic set in, gently nudged by Clark, and I scrambled to get all the bits and pieces of electronics into a working GOTA station. In my own defense (I don't sound defensive, do I? this was only the second time I had disassembled my station and reassembled it somewhere else, so the moral is to practice this before the "day of.") It really does get easier with practice. The other conclusion seems to be that even with several months' notice, I may not be ready for an emergency, so it is not looking good for the Big One. I better work on this... There is little excuse for the Sigma 5 incident, as I have assembled and disassembled this antenna a few times now, but I can only blame the sleep deprivation and lack of functioning neurons: as I was assembling the upper end, the wing nut went flying into the dirt near the trailer tongue, never to be seen again, in spite of several people helping me look. Considering the observers of this incident, the lack of wingnut jokes was admirable. Happily, the Can'O'Parts on the trailer yielded a workable hex nut. Or maybe Wally provided it. It all gets fuzzy about this point. (And it was only noon on Saturday. I think.)

In any event, our first GOTA contact was made by Wade, KJ6YHG, who just received his Tech license a couple weeks ago. Theresa got on the air and contacted W1AW amongst her 4 contacts! Gwen made a contact, and a couple who were at the same testing I was in also came and got on the air. Dan, a Canadian who rode up by bike made a couple of contacts; he's interning for the summer so we may see him again. We had one under-18 girl (a neighbor of Clark's) who toughed out the cold night wind to make 2 contacts! Several people came by to ask questions about the club, but didn't want to try operating. All told, we had 15 contacts made by visitors, of which 9 were made on solar power.

Solar power station: I had accidentally ordered a largish solar panel (it looked smaller on the website), and Don AE6PM had offered his shop and his expertise the weekend before Field Day to build a folding mount in the same style as his article the month before. This panel generates about 21V in bright sunlight, and about 16V facing a sunny sky but being in the shade. The panel feeds a charge controller which puts out 15-17 V and up to 1 A into a 20 AH AGM battery. We ran the GOTA station off this setup starting early Saturday afternoon. When the generator ran out of gas in the evening (which was only noticed when the station monitors went off, since the radios and laptops kept running off their batteries: this is one quiet generator!, the GOTA station kept on operating until around 8:30, well after dark. The next morning, the solar panel was set out at first light but didn't put out much until hit by full sun. Gregg had a handy in-line meter which reports the voltage, current and total watts pushed to the battery; this reported

0.8 A in full sun. In the event, after taking the little AGM battery down to 12.5V (from 13.7-ish V) by Saturday night, it took a couple hours to get it above 13 V. Along about that point, it was explained to me that the solar bonus points don't apply to the GOTA station contacts, so I set off to the main operating tent to talk someone into swapping power supplies. Lou agreed as long as it was "instantaneous"; it must have been close enough, since he raced through 8 CW contacts in the last 10 minutes or so, ensuring our bonus.

This was the first Field Day I've been really involved with helping put on, and it is a much richer experience than the year I "only" attended. I learned so much, enjoyed the preparation and the event, and hopefully helped convey some of the fun to the visitors.

Viki KI6WDS



Goetz K6GKB (left) and Gregg KF6FNA cross the "River Styx" bringing the aluminum tower to "Stink Island."



Don AE6PM and Lou WA6QYS assemble the beam



Beam antenna parts. "I've done this before, trust me..."



Lou WA6QYS keeping guy lines out of the water - who knows what could be in there. (See why Goetz called it the Styx.?)



Don AE6PM, Gregg KF6FNA, Lou WA6QYS and LLoyd KD6FJI consider the next step in tilting up the Aluminum tower on the island



The Mosely beam on the Aluminum tower



Goetz K6GKB preparing a rotor cable for the Bravo5, shortly before we discover it doesn't fit through the hole in the relay box. "Now let's see... that's black goes to 1... no, no, brown goes to 1, red to 2..."



Waterfront antenna farm (L to R): Sigma 5, Bravo 5, pole holding one end of off-center-fed window, (not the power pole), 5BTV, Mosely on Al tower



Lloyd KD6FJI, Gregg KF6FNA, John W6JPP and Mike KB6LCJ put up the UHF/VHF beam , Clark KE6KXO at the grill



Lloyd KD6FJI and John NU6P operating CW



Early Saturday morning, the antennas are up and ready.



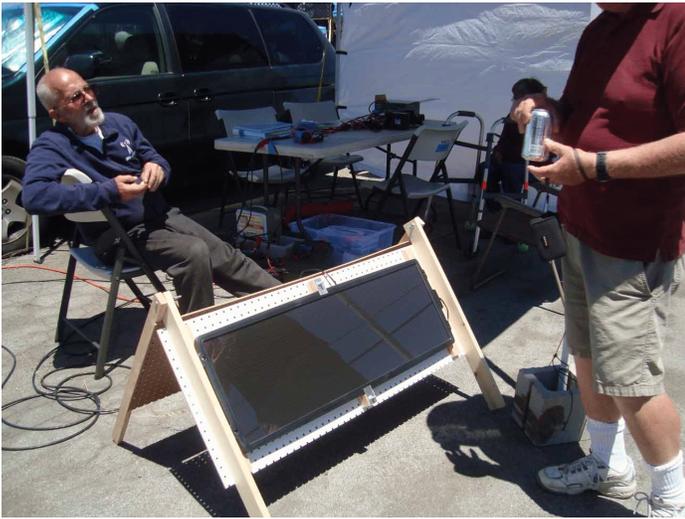
Lloyd KD6FJI (left) at the CW station. Fred AE6QL and Lou WA6QYS operating phone (right)



Gwen KF6OTD. Joan KB6LFZ, and Mike KB6LCJ



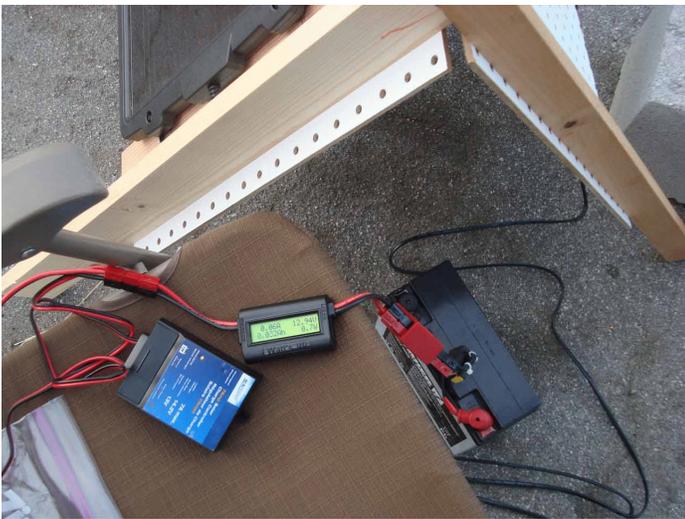
Wind in the flags and banner at the site as viewed from Gold and Catherine St facing north-east.



Solar panel charging AGM battery John W6JPP and Mike KB6LCJ



Everything packed onto the antenna trailer, including three towers Viki KI6WDS



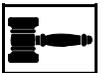
Solar charger controller, meter, battery (early morning so not much current)



The peanut gallery supervises work on the antenna trailer.

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, June 11, 2012



Kaiser Hospital, 710 Lawrence Expressway, Santa Clara CA 95051 Status: Unreviewed

Don AE6PM called the meeting to order at 19:35. Members and guests introduced themselves, and announced new licensees and upgrades.

Announcements:

Lou WA6QYS reported on the flea market: We got \$2520 from the gate receipts, and the food booth proceeds are still TBD (we owe the Red Cross a bit for sodas, and we will use some sodas for Field Day). The fee we had already paid ASVARO was \$1625.

Gary WB6YRU brought in the left-over donuts from the flea market, for meeting refreshments.

Gregg KF6FNA reported on antenna party activity: Lou WA6QYS took a Hustler 5BTV that wouldn't tune up over to Clark's house. With information Don AE6PM had from DX Engineering on adjusting the traps, they got it tuned up through 20m.

Don Apte KK6MX described a desktop super-antenna.

Don Pietrock AF6CI inherited a box of about 100 used vacuum tubes, and offered them to anyone interested.

Lou WA6QYS announced the next SVECS quarterly breakfast is July 28th.

Don K6PBQ announced the Saturday after Field Day June 30th, the station will be open. He also passed around a couple of the Special Events QSL cards the club station received.

Gary WB6YRU mentioned there were a few spare newsletters in the back of the room.

Fred AE6QL gave a preview of the August speaker, Al Mizuhara

W6DOZ, who will speak on large Klystrons, like those used on Goldstone. He was a project engineer at Varian. Fred also suggested that it would be good to have your own headsets along at Field Day, due to background noise from other stations, and wind. He recommended the Yamaha CM500 with boom mic, which works with both computers or radios; these run \$75 retail, or \$50 on the internet. Also if people have an old laptop to loan for Field Day, contact him.

Goetz offered to let anyone try to tune his antenna-from-hell, which is an unknown type for at least 10, 15, and 20 m. It has so far defeated tuning by the antenna parties at Clark's, and has nearly taken out Don AE6PM's computer.

Don K6PBQ announced the club picnic is August 18.

A drawing was held amongst attendees, and Joe Castellano W6SNV won a 2011 repeater directory.

The speaker for the evening was Field Day Chairman Gregg KF6FNA. He introduced other Field Day volunteers: Co-chair John W6JPP, Phone station Fred AE6QL, CW/Data station Don K6PBQ and Lou WA6QYS, GOTA and possible solar station Viki KI6WDS, UHF/VHF John W6JPP, Information desk Wally KA6YMD, and Safety Don AE6PM.

This year we are setting up in ALviso at the corner of Gold and Catherine Streets.

This Wednesday the antenna trailer will be moved to Clark's house at 1425 State St, to take it apart, check the coaxes are good and all the antenna parts are there, air up the tires, etc. Interested helpers should show up at 10am. Several other projects are in progress: the solar-panel-powered station, and antenna projects at Clark's. There are other tasks people could help with if they have time this weekend, like getting gas in the gas cans, etc. Other things we need are: another quick shade, folding chairs, clamp lights, and laptops: anyone who can help with these should let Gregg know. We will need stakes, since we'll have to do more guying than usual.

Help is needed for setup which starts Friday at 10am and tear down on Sunday after 11am, and of course operating on Saturday and Sunday.

Don K6PBQ will provide the usual pancake breakfast on Saturday morning, and there will be a potluck BBQ on Saturday evening with the club providing hot dogs and hamburgers. People should bring cookies, fruit, and salads to put on a community table where it is fair game for anyone to eat. People should bring their own snacks.

Things people should bring are: sound dampening panels, since we're in a smaller location; also headphones (we will have splitters); sunscreen for daytime and a jacket for evening (it can get cold when the wind comes off the water); hard hat and gloves for setup/teardown. Clark KE6KXO says there are no mosquitos.

We will operate as category 2A, which means 2 stations: phone and digital/CW; plus the GOTA station (which is for new hams or old hams who have not been on the air in the last year); plus a UHF/VHF station running sideband. We will be working off generator power, with 2 beam antennas, 2 wire antennas for 10-80 m, and a couple of vertical dipoles (the Sigma 5, 5BTV, and another for 40m), as well as a couple of 2m beams. For radios we will have 2 Yaesu's and 3 Kenwoods. Fred will bring his Elecraft K3, and John W6JPP will bring his own for the VHF/UHF station. Don AE6PM stated that people are encouraged to bring their own radios to Field Day, but the club will not be responsible if anything happens to them. For antenna supports, we will have push-up

masts, drive-on bases, and a variety of fiberglass and metal masting material from Don AE6PM, Clark KE6KXO and John W6JPP.

Fred will offer a class on the Pan-Adaptor as an educational aspect for Field Day. We will check on the legality of using the Pan-Adaptor in contests.

Lou WA6QYS will be getting us a portapotty for Friday through Monday. Clark KE6KXO also mentioned there are new restrooms at the Marina Park, but these will be locked at night. The regular size is \$113.13, the handicap-accessible size is \$156.43. The larger size was approved by show of hands. Clark offered his house and bathroom as well. We will have wet ones and hand sanitizer, and a hand-washing station (collapsible containers with spigots).

Gary WB6YRU gave an introduction to Field Day for those unfamiliar with it.

Clark KE6KXO has equipment for PSK31 if anyone is interested in trying it.

Ned will not be able to come to Field Day this year.

Don AE6PM adjourned the meeting at 20:30.

Viki Moldenhauer, KI6WDS, Secretary

Board Meeting, June 28, 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 19:36.

Attendance: President Don Steinbach AE6PM; Vice President: Fred Townsend AE6QL; Secretary: Viki Moldenhauer KI6WDS;

Treasurer: Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Trustee: Don Village K6PBQ; Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Gregg Lane KF6FNA, Gary Mitchell WB6YRU; Wally Britten KA6YMD; Visitors: Gwen Steirer KF6OTD, Clark Murphy KE6KXO Absent: Director John Glass NU6P

Announcements: The SCCARA-gram inputs are due to Gary WB6YRU on June 25, the last Monday of the month and the day after Field Day.

Secretary's Report: The May General and Board Meeting minutes as printed in the June SCCARA-gram were amended to correct/include the signatures, and approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report: Goetz K6GKB mastered printing from Quicken and passed out balance sheets: checking = \$4095.30, savings = \$500.07, cash = \$230.95. Lou WA6QYS reported that the food tally from the flea market is not finalized yet, since we'll be using some sodas for Field Day.

Vice President's Report: Fred AE6QL announced that Michael Wright K6MFW will be the speaker next month. Also Fred has finally halted the automatic email bulletins that were sending out the wrong information.

Other Business: Don AE6PM read an email he received from a group called At The Crossroads that is requesting SCCARA's services for an event on August 19, a fundraising hike on Mt.

Tamalpais in Marin. After discussion Don will respond that we are precommitted and will suggest a club closer to them.

Gary WB6YRU passed around business cards with color and with only B/W on the backside, for consideration. The decision was to stay with color.

Don AE6PM announced he will be gone from Jul 1 through the end of August.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to Field Day discussions.

Field Day:

Gregg will be making a run to Costco for food and meal supplies not already on hand, for 40 people. We need large plates, hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, green salad. Don K6PBQ will have ham, sausages, pancakes, syrup, juice, and the necessary cooking utensils for the Saturday breakfast. The club will also have soda and ice. Lou moved to allocate 250\$ for the Field Day food expenses, Don K6PBQ seconded, the motion passed. Gregg will go shopping Tuesday at Costco.

Clark KE6KXO has a BBQ with side burner for hot water.

Gregg needs people to contact other people in the club who plan on coming but didn't sign up, so he knows who will be there.

Setup will be Friday at noon at Clark's house, where we'll start with loading the trailer.

Computers: Bob N3FAW will be bringing his own computer which is already set up to work with his rig; John W6JPP will be bringing his own computer but needs software. Fred will have 4 monitors along. We will try to have spare laptops along; Wally will bring one.

Security: Gregg suggests we take all the rigs into vehicles at night. We will also have a 16ft cable through the chairs. Wally and Gregg will stay Friday night to watch stuff. There will be people operating Saturday night, but they may be busy so other people should help watch.

Portapotty: Lou has ordered it for delivery Friday morning, it will be locked until we set up.

Food schedule: We will have a potluck Friday evening, pancake breakfast Saturday morning, hot dogs and hamburgers Saturday evening, leftovers on Sunday. Wally will bring large coolers with ice in.

Weather: Fred AE6QL reported the weather prediction for Saturday is 75 degrees, with winds 5-15 mph.

Antenna layout: Fred brought maps of the site to check antenna layout; discussion was held of Gregg's antenna plan; a long wire down one of the streets was proposed.

W1AW bulletin: Fred made copies of the schedule for the W1AW bulletin transmission, for each station to have. Traditionally this is copied by the PSK31 digital or RTTY station. Bob N3FAW will be copying it, and Fred can set up the K3 to automatically copy it.

Additional antenna: Goetz got the antenna-from-hell tuned: it is a Design Engineering Co 730V-1, on 40-20-15-10m. He will bring it.

Station audio: Clark raised the point that we had discussed headphones for the stations due to closer proximity than at the Mt. Madonna site: but this doesn't let the public see and hear what is going on, and we should use a speaker for the GOTA station. Viki will bring a speaker.

Computer software: Fred reports there are 3 different applications on 3 pieces of software. Different stations may run different software, though all use Cabrillo for log submission. The idea is KISS software for the GOTA station, and more advanced software for the digital station. Fred will make installation CDs for people to install on their own laptops.

Pan-Adaptor class: Fred will hold it Friday night, he has a text prepared, and will have a large display for the Pan-Adaptor screen.

Antenna Analyzer: Fred would like to get the antennas up as soon as possible to test with his analyzer.

Noise level: When the trains go by, and the planes fly overhead, there is audio noise. There is possibly electrical noise from the sodium vapor light. Expect S7 background noise level. We had bad problems with noise from one pole close in at the Mt. Madonna site.

Club Batteries: the club has 3 good batteries, and Fred has one. Fred is bringing 1 club charger and one of his own, and Clark is bringing one club charger. There should be 3 club chargers; two are being repaired.

Public Information Officer: Wally is the official Public Information Officer. He will have a table, white board, handouts, paperweights. Don AE6PM and Gregg have flyers to put out. Refer all serious visitors to Wally.

Infrastructure: Don AE6PM has a canopy to bring. Gwen has tables. Everyone should bring chairs for themselves, and extras for visitors.

Site: There are no sprinkler pipes to accidentally hit with a stake.

Radio allocation: Don K6PBQ will choose the club TS-450 radio for his station; the FT-847 will back up the VHF/UHF station, the TS-440 will back up the SSB station, and the TS-140 will back up the GOTA station.

Results: Fred is sending in the data from the event. Everyone present heard him :-).

Banner: Wally will bring the SCCARA banner.

CW operators: We have Don K6PBQ, Lou, Bob on RTTY and PSK31. Ned may be able to come for the first hour, in which case he gets the station since he has to leave for work. Don will come back after dinner on Saturday this year.

Don AE6PM brought the assortment of screws for the antenna masts that are loose.

Gary reiterated the proper sequence for raising the tower: 1) the outrigger poles go up, 2) the collapsed (nested) tower is raised vertical, 3) the bottom layer is tied off (guyed), 4) then the tower is raised (unnested), with 2nd layer guy lines attached, and 5) 2nd layer is tied off. Apparently it is less exciting this way.

Gregg thanked Clark for opening his house and the core group that has been showing up there to get equipment ready for Field Day.

Don reminds everyone: Gregg is in charge of Field Day.

Don AE6PM adjourned the meeting at 20:50, after which radios were checked for completeness and transport to Clark's.

Viki Moldenhauer, KI5WDS, Secretary

Packet Pieces

Need Help?

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====
Date: 24 Jun 2010 03:05
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: A Difficult Question

There was a student who wanted to be admitted to the University.

He was smart enough to get through the written test, a GED, and was to appear for the personal interview. Later, as the interview progressed, the interviewer found this boy to be bright since he could answer all the questions correctly. The interviewer got impatient and decided to corner the student.

"Tell me your choice," the interviewer said, "do you want ten easy questions or only ONE real difficult question. Think well before you make up your mind."

The student thought for a while and said, "My choice is ONE real difficult question."

"Well, good luck to you, you have made your own choice!" said the man. "Now then... Tell me: What comes first, Day or Night?"

The student was jolted at first, but he thought for a while, then smiled and confidently said: "It's the DAY, sir."

Thinking to himself ("At last, I got you!"), the interviewer said, "How so?"

The student said: "Sorry sir, my choice was only ONE difficult question."

The student was admitted to the University.

=====
Date: 26 Jun 2010 03:05
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Dining Manners

A priest at a parochial school, wanting to point out the proper behavior for church, was trying to elicit from the youngsters rules that their parents might give before taking them to a nice restaurant.

"Don't play with your food," one second-grader cited.

"Don't be loud," said another, and so on.

"And what rule do your parents give you before you go out to eat?" the priest inquired of one little boy.

Without batting an eye, the child replied, "Order something cheap."

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 and 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 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
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
e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com

Newsletter Notes

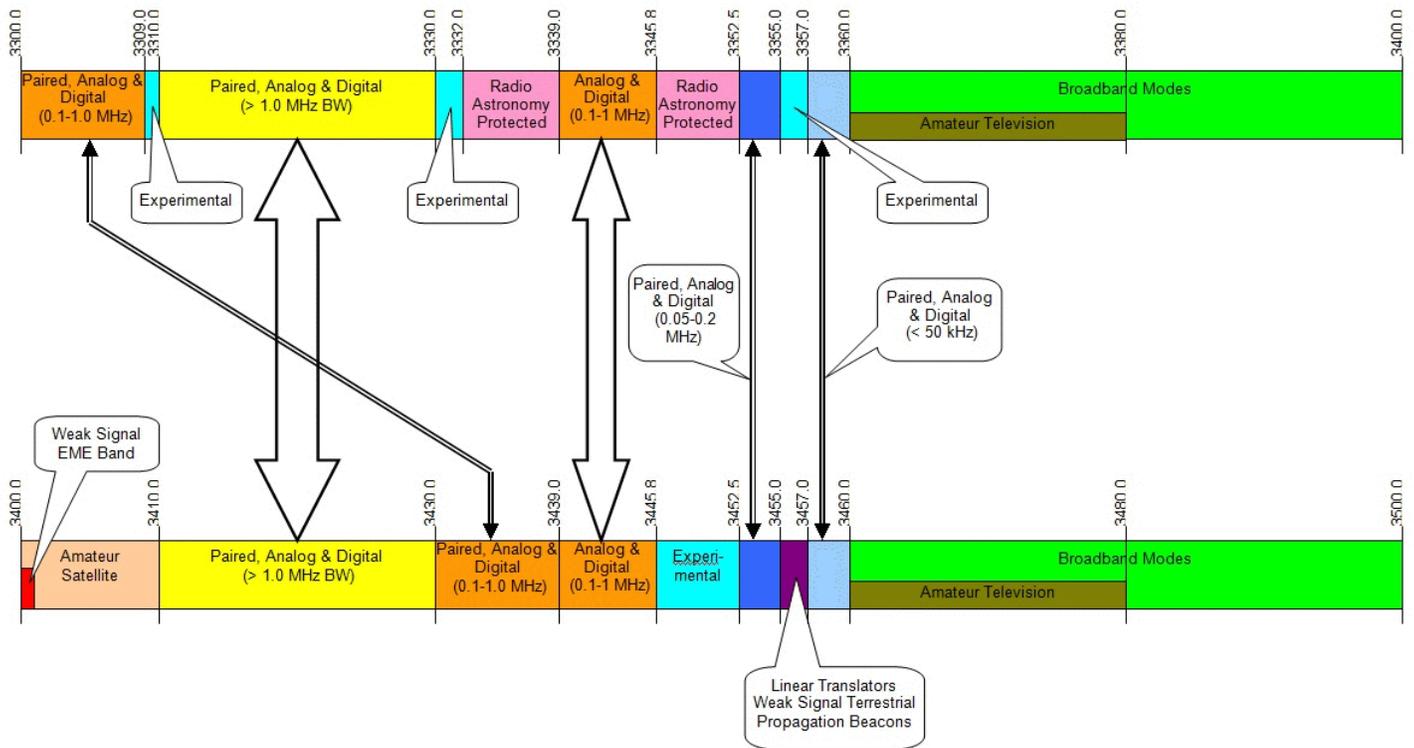
This is the biggest *SCCARA-GRAM* in recent memory thanks to Goetz K6GKB for another handful of great articles and Viki KI6WDS for the article with lots Field Day photos. For the mailed edition, this issue crossed the one-ounce barrier on postage. But that's OK, it's well worth it.

The ARRL UHF/microwave committee continues to be busy with band planning revisions. This issue contains the proposed updated plan for the 23 cm and 9 cm bands.

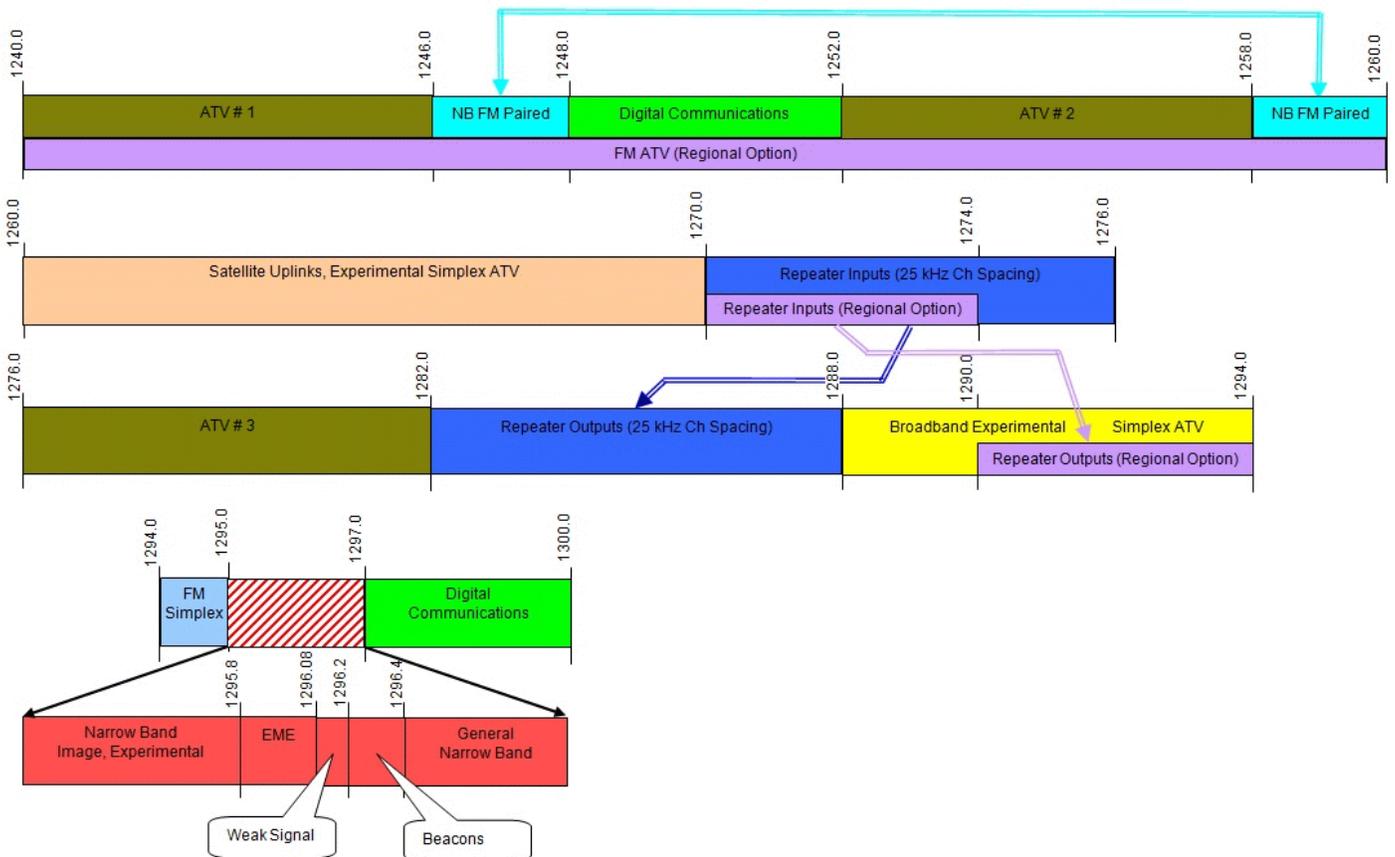
Not long ago the *SCCARA-GRAM* published the local band plans from the NCPA (for No. CA). Except for the 2 m and 70 cm bands, the NCPA adopted the ARRL band plans, so the local UHF and microwave band plans will be updated when the ARRL settles on the revisions.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

Proposed Band Plan for the Amateur 9 cm Band (3300 – 3500 MHz)



Proposed Band Plan for the Amateur 23 cm Band (1240 – 1300 MHz) Rev. June 18, 2012





SCCARA

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association
PO Box 106
SAN JOSE CA 95103-0106

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

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