

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County
Amateur Radio Association

Volume 28, Number 9

September 2012



President's Prose

By the time you read this, I'll be back in Saratoga after spending two months in Butte, Montana. It's been a real lesson in propagation – very difficult to get a decent signal to/from the Bay Area from here. My current antenna configuration is a DX Engineering 40VE-1 quarter-wave 40 meter vertical and a horizontal fan dipole for 40/20/15 and 10 meters. The noise level here on 40 meters remains amazingly high, S7 to S8 all of the time. Makes me wonder if I'm in the middle of a giant pot farm fueled with grow lamps. Bob, W6OOY knows what I'm talking about! I'm seriously thinking about some kind of remote station arrangement.

We've all heard of thread galling when using stainless steel fasteners, where the bolts and nuts appear to weld themselves together for no apparent reason. This can be avoided by applying an appropriate lubricant to the threads during assembly, but apparently the manufacturer of my dipole center insulator/balun hadn't heard of this. I had great difficulty removing one of the nuts holding a lug in place and in the process broke the wire that was soldered to the threaded stud inside the balun. I had to cut the balun open to repair it. Such fun.

That's it for this month, I need to get ready to catch a flight to Salt Lake City then San Jose. As I prepare to leave, I'm wondering what new antenna adventures I'll have this winter when the snow falls and the temperature drops.

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



Surfin': Going Tropo

By Stan Horzepa, W1LOU

My normal Saturday morning mission began as usual: Driving my Subaru with my wife on board to go buy groceries. As we headed north over the top of South Mountain, I tuned the car radio to 102.1 MHz and expected to hear the vintage rock sounds of WAQY.

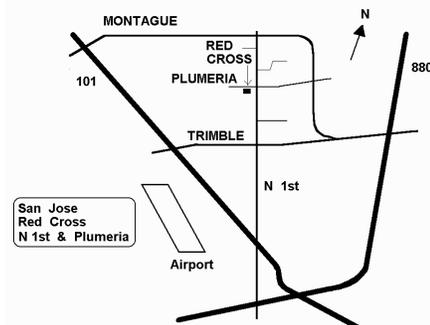
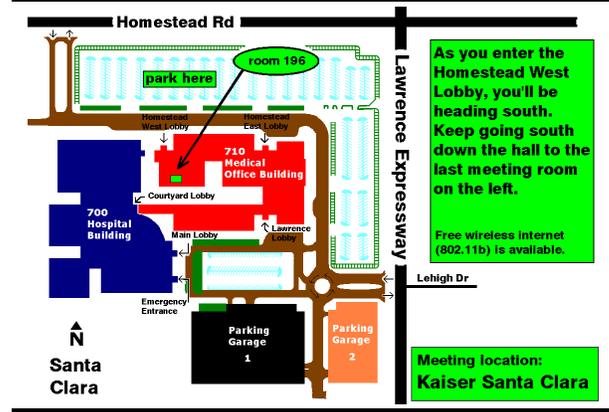
At that point in our journey, we are literally about 30 miles line of

Calendar

- 9/8 DeAnza electronic flea market
- 9/10 SCCARA General Meeting
- 9/17 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting

- Day: Monday, Sept. 10, 2012
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Rm 196
- Featuring: {To Be Announced}



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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

sight of the WAQY transmitter, but instead of hearing WAQY loud and clear, its signal was muddled with two or three other signals on 102.1 MHz.

"Band opening," I said to my wife.

"What?" she replied.

"Never mind," said I and we continued on our mission to shop for provisions in ESPN-ville (Bristol, Connecticut).

By the time we returned home, the band was back to normal and what I assumed was tropospheric propagation was gone with the wind.

Such is my typical tropo experience on a summer day: The tropo is cooking by the time I drag myself out of bed and disappears as the morning progresses.

On good days, I check the APRS map first thing in the morning and see stations on Cape Cod. On real good days, stations deep into Pennsylvania and south to the Carolinas show up, but they all disappear by high noon.

I always felt that APRS was a great bellwether for enhanced 2 meter propagation. You have thousands of ham radio stations all over the world regularly transmitting their exact locations, typically on the same frequency (144.39 MHz in the USA). Monitor that frequency, and when the DX APRS starts rolling in, it is a good time to move over to the weak signal portion of the band and start calling "CQ."

The aprs.mountainlake.com website (aprs.mountainlake.k12.mn.us/) automated the process. It collects recent APRS information, determines which stations are receiving DX APRS transmissions and displays that information as a footprint on a Google map that can display the whole world or your whole neighborhood.

Back to tropo, meteorologist William Hepburn provides six-day forecasts of worldwide tropospheric propagation conditions (www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo.html). Hepburn's website also describes the phenomena (www.dxinfocentre.com/propagation/tr-modes.htm).

Radio-Electronics.com has a tutorial (www.radio-electronics.com/info/propagation/tropospheric/tropospheric-propagation.php) on tropospheric propagation and Wikipedia does a good job tackling the topic and includes a short list of "notable" tropo DX events (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tropospheric_propagation).

Until next time, may the inversions be with you -- and keep on surf'n'!

Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU, seeks the unusual in radio. To contact Stan, send e-mail (wa1lou@arrl.org) or add comments to the WA1LOU blog (horzepa.blogspot.com/).

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Work in Progress

I bought a wind generator from Fry's Electronics to satisfy my project for "OFF THE GRID" electricity discussed last month. It is a SUNFORCE 600 watt model and sits assembled in my living room. The 40 foot tower is half way up my driveway and I need some assistance to get it behind my garage where it will be installed as the support for the generator. The controller sniffs the

battery it is attached to and produces either 12 or 24 volts as necessary. The recent power failure in my neighborhood that took our club repeater off the air makes this an even more attractive project. For those interested, here is a picture of what I bought:



Goetz K. Brandt

If there is one fly in the ointment, it is Bob's location which happens to be in a condominium complex. Neighbors are continually on the lookout for anyone having too much fun. The result is that antennas are hard if not impossible to put up. Bob has clandestinely arranged for tree climbers to hang long wires in the large pine trees across the street, but alas, these have failed for reasons unknown. The challenge now is to come up with an antenna that will give the booming signal his equipment deserves.

Goetz K. Brandt

Home Brew Night

Coming this Fall

No, you don't drink it... you do it. This is early warning. Take a look at the stuff you have built and see what you'd like to share with the club. Study up and collect whatever docs you need and be ready for Home Brew Night this Fall

Fred, AE6QL

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, August 23, 2012

FCC RELEASES CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED STUDY ON AMATEUR RADIO

On August 20 -- in response to a Spring 2012 Congressional directive -- the Federal Communications Commission released its findings on the Uses and Capabilities of Amateur Radio Service Communications in Emergencies and Disaster Relief: Report to Congress Pursuant to Section 6414 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012.

This report contains the FCC's "review of the importance of emergency Amateur Radio Service communications relating to disasters, severe weather and other threats to lives and property in the United States; and recommendations for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio operators in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts; and recommendations for improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in the planning and furtherance of initiatives of the federal government." It also required "that the study identify impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio Service communications and provide recommendations regarding the removal of such impediments."

"There are many positive things included in the FCC report to Congress," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson N1ND. "We are pleased that the Commission highlighted the existing Amateur Radio infrastructure to provide disaster and time-critical communications. They also recognized the flexibility of the Amateur Service in working with federal, state, local and tribal emergency service agencies to supplement existing communications. The affirmation of the value that Amateur Radio brings to the communities across the country is underscored by the suggestion that 'DHS work with state, local, and tribal authorities so they may develop disaster area access or credentialing policies for trained amateur operators, including a means for documenting their qualifications...'"

While the FCC did hold Amateur Radio in a positive light in its discussion of emergency Amateur Radio Service communications,

N3FAW

Bob Schwimmer (N3FAW) at the controls of his ham station. Having the eyes of an eagle and the ears of a snake, Bob migrated to RTTY which is now his primary mode of operation. Using MMTTY as the computer software interface to his radio and N1MM as his logger he has complete remote control of his station. It is fun to watch Bob spin the tuning knob on his computer display with his mouse and watch the radio keeping in step. When the X/Y scope gives two crossed ellipses, the text starts appearing on his screen. Then Bob clicks on the distant call sign, it gets loaded into a pre-programmed response, out goes the answer and the conversation begins. Kind of like a python pouncing on a rat, the eyes have it.



Mobile Mobile

the FCC report was not as favorable in the portion of the study that addressed impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio Service communications. In the comments provided to the FCC as they prepared the study, the ARRL -- as well as numerous individuals -- cited the proliferation of specific land-use restrictions, such as deed restrictions and homeowners associations covenants, that prohibit the erection of even modest Amateur Radio antennas.

The ARRL cited that such restrictions now apply to tens of millions of homes and condominiums. In communities across every state, these restrictions make finding suitable living arrangements that would also allow amateurs to participate effectively in providing support communications nearly impossible to find. The FCC disagreed with that assessment stating "our review of the record does not indicate that amateur operators are unable to find homes that are not subject to such restrictions. Therefore, at this time, we do not see a compelling reason for the Commission to revisit its previous determinations that preemption should not be expanded to CC&Rs."

When considering any current rules that serve as impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio Service communications, the report did agree with the ARRL's position, stating that "Commission rules that may be an impediment to enhanced Amateur Service emergency communications can, as the ARRL notes, be considered through the Commission's rulemaking process. Consequently, we do not believe that Congressional action is necessary to address any of these issues."

In the report, the FCC recommended that "DHS consult with the public safety, emergency management and Amateur Radio emergency communications associations and groups to identify training opportunities that will support better utilization of Amateur Radio operators for emergency communications, and to solicit views on how Amateur Radio capabilities could be further incorporated into response plans or initiatives. We also recommend that OEC include these recommendations in the NECP."

Henderson noted that it is significant "that the FCC recommends efforts be continued by DHS to facilitate the training and utilization of Amateur Radio across the emergency and disaster response spectrum -- from the public sector through to the various groups and organizations which provide support communications via the Amateur Service, including ARES, RACES, MARS or locally organized support groups. When served agencies and amateur groups plan and train cooperatively, it only enhances our abilities to serve our communities and the public."

With the delivery of the FCC's report to Congress, the ARRL will determine its next step in its efforts to find relief for amateurs who live under unduly restrictive private land-use regulations. "Our review of the FCC report shows that there is a lot to be done if amateurs living in deed-restricted properties are to receive even the limited relief they enjoy under the Commission's PRB-1 ruling or the limited relief given to deed-restricted properties given by the FCC's OTARD ruling," Henderson said. "This means continuing ARRL's efforts on Capitol Hill and continuing to seek a Congressional directive to the Commission to extend those limited preemptions to include prohibition of effective Amateur Radio antennas and support structure that are imposed by private land use restrictions. The FCC report to Congress is not the final action in this fight. It merely lays the groundwork for the next steps to be taken by the ARRL," he concluded.

Get the complete FCC report here: transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2012/db0820/DA-12-1342A1.pdf

Mobile operation usually consists of a ham radio station in a vehicle which can be operated while under way. What then would Mobil Mobile be?

My story begins more than eight years ago when I was sent to Florida to assist a company with its computer operations. Wishing to operate my rental car as a mobile station I went to AES in Orlando and explained that I wanted the necessary accessories to make my Icom-706 work. The man behind the counter named Ernie gave me his solution without any hesitation. An LDG antenna tuner, a Hustler antenna and a Diamond Lip mount and I should be in business. This all went together quite easily and was powered by a battery in the back seat which was trickle charged by the cigarette lighter socket up front.

I installed this in the rental car and began the tuning process. Needless to say I couldn't get it tuned for anything in the world. I even bought an MFJ-259 analyzer to nudge me in the right direction. So I went back to Ernie and told him that the antenna wouldn't tune. I got that look that said, "thank god you can't hear what I'm thinking!" Rather than trouble with me, he got the technician in the back of the store to give it a try. He put the radio on RTTY, meter on SWR, alternately pressed the mike button and diddled the wick on the end of the Hustler and five iterations later told me it was done. Can't tell you how deflating it is to be one-upped like that. The same afternoon I got onto my 3PM PST net and everyone was there and they all heard me loud and clear. Fred in Saskatoon, Dale in Kent Washington, Kerry in Medford Oregon, Howard in Temecula California, Bob in Joplin MO. and Mel in 1000 Palms, all 5X9 both ways. The highest piece of land in Florida is 345 feet above sea level, which makes for very fine conditions. And so it went for two and a half years with one little hitch. You can only rent a car for a maximum of four weeks in Florida, longer requires a lease. Not hard to imagine who lobbied for that piece of legislation. So, every four weeks, out of one car and into another. That's the "Mobile" in Mobile, as I had to have a setup that moved quickly and easily from one rental car to another. Once I made the mistake of returning to the agency for a map halfway through a rental and one of the attendants saw the Hustler lip-mounted to the right rear door. They guy went ballistic and said I would pay for any damage to the car. That taught me that the setup would have to be removed off site, then similarly re-installed in the new car. I became very adept at this transfer and eventually did it more than 100 times!

Renting cars can be fascinating. I always rented sub compacts for their low rates. One car company sent me into the parking lot where you were allowed to pick your own car. You simply had to choose from a row that had your class of car. So I looked for 20 minutes for the row of sub compacts and in frustration asked an attendant where the sub compacts might be. OH! We don't carry sub compacts, we price them but we don't carry them. You need to look in the Economy row for your car. Don't you just love the free enterprise system? Another time my brother came to visit from London at the exact expiration of my rental. The lady at the desk said, we are so sorry, we don't have any sub compacts. Would you be willing to take a Jeep Commander instead at the same price? So we styled our way down to Key West and back at \$18/day in an SUV extraordinaire. Disappointments like this are always within my threshold of pain. I always loved the sign in the Florida rental car shuttle buses, permanently installed by management that said "DRIVERS WAGES BASED ON TIPS". This always had a feudal smell for me.

Goetz K. Brandt

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Aug. 13, 2012



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

The SCCARA General Membership Meeting was called to order by Vice President Fred AE6QL, as President Don AE6PM was not present.

Members and guests introduced themselves.

Announcements:

Fred AE6QL announced that Pacificon is looking for volunteers: if you work 8 hours, you get in free. Contact them to sign up. He also announced the RTTY roundup is August 19.

Lou WA6QYS announced that this Saturday is the SCCARA picnic at Mary Gomez park (From San Tomas expressway, go west on Forbes and R on Bucher). The picnic starts at 10am. There will be a potluck: the club provides charcoal, hamburgers, hotdogs, hot links, and lunch meat. Bring a side dish to share with people. There will be bingo playing, HF stations, vertical antennas and fan dipoles, and control operators so anyone can operate. Bring folding chairs.

Lou also announced that Bob N3FAW has acquired a computer and keyboard for the club station: he has gotten it going so we can do RTTY and PSK from the club station.

Lou mentioned SVECS hosts the flea market on Sept 8, and passed around a sign up sheet for people to help.

Lou also mentioned that on 20m he contacted a special event station honoring the Navajo Code Talkers on 14.265 (also 7.265), from Window Rock AZ, with the call sign K7C.

Don K6PBQ announced the club station will be open the last Saturday of the month, Aug 25.

Fred AE6QL introduced the speaker Al Mizuhara W6DOZ who gave a very interesting presentation on klystrons, starting with engineering diagrams of the anatomy of a klystron, then discussing various examples. He covered their historical evolution from use in WWII in radar receivers, through applications in defense, medical treatment, TV communications, and today's use in communication with satellites and NASA missions. All throughout he answered technical questions on how the various devices operated and were constructed. He also shared glimpses of what it was like to work at EIMAC, when most of his colleagues were hams. After a break, he discussed the 100KW klystron at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility, and answered more questions before the meeting was adjourned.

Viki Moldenhauer, Secretary KI6WDS

Board Meeting, Aug. 20, 2012



{The August board meeting was canceled due to lack of quorum}

Viki Moldenhauer, KI5WDS, Secretary

Hard Boiled Eggs

Yesterday had me running to the kitchen to make an egg salad sandwich. I had followed the cookbook instructions for ensuring that the eggs would peel easily. Start them in cold water, bring to a boil, after ten minutes remove the heat and let them cool down again. The four eggs were lukewarm when I began. I started with the first egg, rolled it on the porcelain sink until the shell was thoroughly cracked, used my fingernail to lift one of the shards and with a jet of water a whole hemisphere of shell simply fell away. Within less than five seconds the other half shell slipped off and there was the egg naked and beautifully giving off a slight wisp of steam. On to the second egg which quickly joined it sibling next to the egg slicer. When the third egg behaved the same I was whistling a happy tune.

BIG MISTAKE! I might have heard a voice from on high say "not so fast." In any case, the fourth egg resisted any attempt to penetrate the shattered shell. The shell stuck to the membrane which in turn was super glued to the egg. I've been here before and it isn't pretty. After forever the egg looked like the last phase of leprosy. Great chunks of egg missing, the yolk protruding through the white, just a shambles of what an egg should look like.

So this one joined the others, north/south, then east/west through the egg slicer, the final squeeze upside down into a bowl. Some mayonnaise, a fork to mix into a paste and then onto a piece of bread. Some salt, then cover with a second piece of bread and the orgy began. I practically had to cross my legs the pleasure so basic!

The downside of the whole experience is that I still don't know how to hard boil eggs! Somewhere down deep in my subconscious mind this failure is lurking and holding me back from being the person I was meant to be.

So I have this fantasy where all the chefs who claim they know how to hard boil eggs are in a police lineup and I'm behind the one way glass. In a disguised voice I demand each one in turn to demonstrate their technique. Of course they all fail and I get to be right, there is no solution to this problem.

Goetz K. Brandt

Picnic

This year Don (K6PBQ) homesteaded the secure end of Mary Gomez Park in Santa Clara by arriving in the wee hours of the morning. Although next to the tennis court, it was away from the street and gave a much cozier atmosphere. There were three barbeque pits and their attendant tables and we used them all. There was a biblical multiplication of loaves that provided enough food to provision next years picnic. Radios and antennas went up in all quadrants. The club vertical V antenna was tried as a portable antenna and looked regal atop it 20 foot guyed pole. Fred (AE6QL) used his antenna analyzer to sniff at the end of several coaxes and said things didn't smell very good. Most went ahead anyway and the rest is history. Fred installed his Jumbotron Video screen so we could all see what the Elecraft P3 Panadaptor was displaying. Bob (N3FAW) set up his RTTY station, but it decided to misbehave. As the afternoon went on, stations began walking all over each other, but contacts were made.

Eventually, the Bingo game gathered those less electronically inclined. Fun was had by all. Once again, Clark (KE6KXO) answered questions from those who were enticed into our area by

our large SCCARA banner. Occasional yellow tennis balls dropping into our perimeter reminded us that there were others in the area. When the charcoal cooled down, most were satiated and ready to head home.

When we left, the only evidences of our presence were the park supplied paper garbage bags which were full to the brim. The only question for next year is, do we use this end or the other end of the park next year?

Goetz K. Brandt

America's Cup

Clark Murphy (KE6KXO), Gregg (KF6FNA) and I (K6GKB) went to San Francisco to observe the America's Cup sailboat races. We went down to the Marina Green and stood on the seawall and watched the catamarans strut their stuff. These are 45 foot versions of what's to come next year when the boats will be 72 feet long. These are "MATCH" boats, which means they are all the same except for some wiggle room in sail design. This means it will be a contest between sailors, not boats. Unfortunately, the immense size of the race course made it difficult to tell who was where, what the course was, or who might be ahead. The finish line was directly in front of us, so thankfully we witnessed the finishing order.

That night I watched the same races on television. An engineer and sailor named Stan Honey realized the hopelessness of watching sailboat races and decided to fix the problem. He is the inventor of the first down yellow line displayed during professional football games. He outdid himself with a complete overhead view of the course, the committee boats that mark the start, finish and course marks, as well as tracks of the boats underway that show where they have been. Each boat has a GPS that is accurate to within a few inches that squawks its position every few seconds. A helicopter flies above the bay broadcasting a picture of the whole race course. A television crew inside shipping containers on shore orchestrates a composite picture of all the boats, the course markers, the boundaries, and the boats with upwind lines across the course, much like yard lines on a football field, which display who is ahead. These lines make it possible to display the relative upwind/downwind distance between boats to within a meter. Each boat has four cameras aboard which allow close up crew maneuvers to be intermingled with the overhead view. The boats broadcast their conversations, make that yelling, that goes on during the race. This, plus an announcer that explains the subtleties of what is going on and you best stay home to watch these races.

I was perplexed by the colored lights that each boat displayed. There are lights on the bowsprit, the crossbeams and on the transom post. Turns out the forward lights are for the skipper, the aft light for spectators. The light flashes amber when approaching course boundaries, flashes faster as you get closer, and turns solid when you are outside the course. Blue indicates a penalty has been assessed and needs to be cleared. Green indicates various right of way conditions. Red means a boat is filing a protest. The only additional electronics on board that might assist a skipper is a hull speed indicator.

Whether watching from shore, or watching from home, this is an awesome spectacle. Just marvelous what gobs of money can do!

Goetz K. Brandt

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====
Date: 30 May 2010 02:34
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: A Dead Horse

Dakota tribal wisdom says that when you discover you are riding a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount. However, in the business world we often try other strategies with dead horses, including the following:

1. Buying a stronger whip.
2. Changing riders.
3. Saying things like "This is the way we always have ridden this horse."
4. Appointing a committee to study the dead horse.
5. Arranging to visit other sites to see how they ride dead horses.
6. Increasing the standards to ride dead horses.
7. Appointing a team to revive the dead horse.
8. Creating a training session to increase our riding ability.
9. Comparing the state of dead horses in today's environment.
10. Change the requirements declaring that "This horse is not dead."
11. Hire contractors to ride the dead horse.
12. Harnessing several dead horses together for increased speed.
13. Declaring that "No horse is too dead to beat."
14. Providing additional funding to increase the horse's performance.
15. Do a CA Study to see if contractors can ride it cheaper.
16. Purchase a product to make dead horses run faster.
17. Declare the horse is "better, faster and cheaper" dead.
18. Form a quality circle to find uses for dead horses.
19. Revisit the performance requirements for horses.
20. Say this horse was procured with cost as an independent variable.
21. Promote the dead horse to a supervisory position.
22. And the old standby: kick the dead horse.

=====
Date: 27 Mar 2011 18:22
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Captain's Log

The first mate on a ship decided to celebrate with a bit of stowed-away rum. He got so drunk that he was still a little drunk the next morning. Later in the day, when the first mate had sobered up, he looked in the ship's log. He read the Captain's entry for the day: "The first mate was drunk today."

"Captain, please don't leave that in the log," the mate said. "This could add months or years to my becoming a captain myself."

"Well, is it true?" asked the Captain, knowing full well it was.

"Yes, it's true," admitted the mate.

"If it's true, it has to stay in the log. That's the rule. If it's true, it goes in the log. End of discussion!" said the Captain sternly.

Weeks later, it was the first mate's turn to make the log entry. The first mate wrote: "The ship seems to be in good shape. The Captain was sober today."

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 your topic isn't listed, ask one of the Elmers under the topic that comes closest and we'll ask around.

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

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Newsletter Notes

I suppose it's just human nature. Ever since elementary school we've practiced the fine art of waiting until the last possible minute. You can see it in action on the news when tax payers show up at the post office on the night of the tax deadline.

There's no reason the *SCCARA-GRAM* should be immune. I could (and have) argued that this is different, this isn't work, we're here because we want to be here, this is one of the things we do for fun, etc. etc. But alas, our conditioned response to deadlines is too strong for that. So, I'm used to everything showing up all at once during the evening of the deadline. Once in a while something shows up before the deadline, but no one is perfect, we all make mistakes. ☺

The problem is that yours truly has a deadline too. The powers that be (or powers that were, this was years ago) decided that we need a reminder of the general meeting and the *SCCARA-GRAM* shall be it. The newsletter needs to arrive in members' mailboxes a few days before the general meeting—the second Monday of the month. So, the deadline became the last Monday of the month, which gives me one week from start to finish—including anything else I may have going that week—to do the editing, layout, publishing, and get it in the mail by the following Monday morning (the first Monday of the month). And the board meeting was moved from the fourth to the third Monday, so there would be time to get the board minutes in the following newsletter. (That's why the board meeting follows the general meeting so closely.)

By the way, it used to take a team of people to produce the *SCCARA-GRAM*, but thanks to modern computers and software and digitized everything, one person does it all now. It used to be quite a process... but that's a story for another time.

The difficulty is that sometimes corners are cut too close and submissions start slopping over past the deadline. No one sees that *other* deadline, except me. And I try not to be the bad guy by being pedantic on the deadline, but it puts me in a bind when stuff comes in late.

So, if you have something for the *SCCARA-GRAM*, please don't push the deadline. If, for whatever reason, you find yourself bumping up against the deadline, just relax and put it in the following month's newsletter. Then you'll have plenty of time and it makes life easier all around.

If something *HAS* to be in the current issue and you're against the deadline—work with me, we'll deal with it together. That means checking your e-mail often so time isn't lost waiting for replies, etc. But please keep that sort of thing to an absolute minimum. If you have something that's time-sensitive, plan ahead, resist that wait-until-the-last-minute conditioning.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor



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Affiliate of the ARRL,
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SCCARA Membership Form for 2012

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

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Address: _____ Licensed since (yr): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____ Licence Expiration
Date (mo/yr): _____

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 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.