

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 28, Number 12

December 2012



December Meeting

Our annual Christmas meeting will be a luncheon on Saturday December 15 at 12:00 noon. This year our luncheon will be at the Creekside inn 544 W. Alma ave, San Jose (one block west of Hwy 87).

This year we will be having a gift exchange. The way it works is that everyone brings a wrapped gift suitable for a man or women costing about \$10.00. This type of gift exchange is always a lot of fun to participate in.

Reservations need to be in by Monday, Dec. 10 (see sign-up form on page 7). Talk-in will be on our repeater. W6UU, 146.985-. Why not renew your membership at the same time?

Looking forward to seeing all of you there.

73, Don Village K6PBQ

President's Prose

Elections are over and congratulations to the new team with Fred (AE6QL) as President, John (W6JPP) as Vice President and Clark (KE6KXO) as Director. All other positions remain the same. As I've pointed out before, all of the leadership positions are voluntary, so give your Officers and Directors your support, as well as your input and opinions.

As members, feel free to contribute articles and pictures to the SCCARA-GRAM ù just get them to Gary by the last Monday of the month. Any article, technical or otherwise, is welcome. If you have something you would like to contribute but aren't comfortable writing it up, contact Goetz (K6GKB) or me (AE6PM) for help. Technical articles and information on projects you're working on are especially welcome.

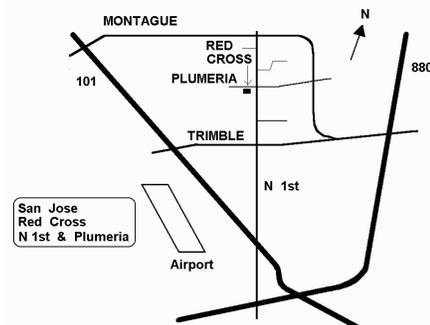
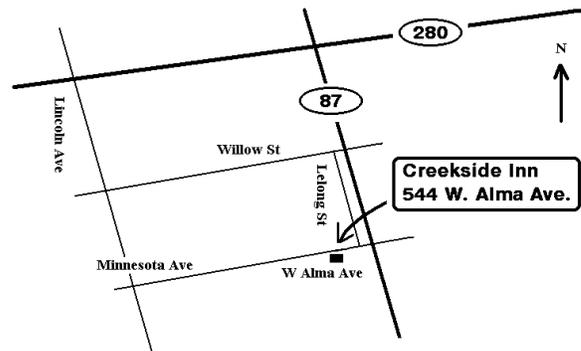
I'm still in Butte operating as AE6PM/7. The switching and control circuitry to protect my magnetic-loop receiving antenna is in place. I've decided that I need to be able to rotate it remotely, which I can't do at the moment. So, the rotator I ordered arrived yesterday and the three-conductor wire I need should be here tomorrow. If the weather holds I should be online with it by this weekend. The next step will be to determine if the loop can be mounted on the side of my existing mast or if it needs to be moved away (will the mast act as a magnetic antenna and degrade the directivity of the loop?. I'm relearning patience ù I either find what I need at the local Radio Shack or I have to order it from wherever, usually the latter, and wait a week or so for delivery. The 20-30

Calendar

- 12/15 SCCARA General Meeting–Luncheon
12/17 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting

- Day: Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012
Time: 12 noon
Place: Creekside Inn 544 W. Alma ave, San Jose (one block west of Hwy 87).
Featuring: Luncheon (reservations required)



The **SCCARA-GRAM** is published monthly by the **SANTA CLARA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**, PO Box 106, San Jose CA 95103-0106. Permission to reprint articles is hereby granted, provided the source is properly credited.

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

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

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

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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
Amateur license testing, ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group, Morris Jones, AD6ZH:	408-507-4698

degree daytime temperatures don't help either, but it could be a lot worse (and will be)!

Remotely controlling a station either in Montana or California is still on my list of things to explore as a solution to my noise problem on 40-meters. It recently occurred to me that I only need a better receiving location, not necessarily a complete station. Maybe I just need a friend with a radio and Skype?

Join Don (K6PBQ) and Wally (KA6YMD) on our 2-meter and 10-meter nets. If you have a license, you can be there. I'll be listening on 10-meters from here just in case there is an opening.



73, Don, AE6PM

Gwen KF6OTD

Congratulations to Gwen, KF6OTD -- one of our own!

Gwen was selected as one of four honorees in the greater San Francisco Bay Area for her diligent work with the Native American Indian community.



In the rotunda of the San Francisco City Hall were the ceremony was held, Gwen (holding the Eagle Feather) was given a commendation from Mayor Edwin Lee of San Francisco. With her are fellow Indian Education Directors from various school districts and their families. On Gwen's right is her husband, Lou, and one of her sons, Thomas (with the flowers) on her left.

Gwen has been involved in Indian education in school districts, mentoring students, organizing student family barbecues, POWWOWS, graduation dinners and elders luncheon at the Stanford POWWOW among other things for over twenty years. She has instilled a thirst for knowledge in the students she has touched and enkindled in them pride for their common Indian heritage.

Although she has retired from the School District, she is still heavily involved in the Indian Community, having served on the Diabetes Community Advisory Committee of the Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley and is a current board member of the American Indian Alliance of Santa Clara Valley.

Interview for spot run on PBS station KQED in San Francisco Bay Area during Native American Heritage Month of November.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=7lrewOf_gDk

Don - AE6PM

BBS site visit

As most of you know, SCCARA sponsors the N0ARY packet BBS. It's located at a commercial radio site on Mt. Umunhum. You can see it from most of the valley (but not around the south west portion), find the old radar block house on the peak itself, then look at the ridge just to the west. See those smaller buildings and many antennas? That's it.

Some board members have asked about the possibility of visiting the site. It's behind locked gates, so we have to make arrangements, but it's possible. Some of the membership probably would be interested too.

The road up there hasn't been maintained since they closed that radar station, so it's a little rough in places. If you're reasonably good with narrow mountain roads, you should do fine. Four-wheel drive is nice, but not required—I've made the trip in a Ford Taurus. For those who aren't comfortable with mountain driving, we'll probably arrange a car-pool.

The site is visible on Google maps satellite view, do a search on the coordinates: 37.159938, -121.908315. The smaller buildings along the west part of the compound is amateur stuff, the BBS is in the biggest of those. Farther up the road to the west are a couple of other radio sites, those are government (including the U.S. Coast Guard and the National Weather Service).

The plan is to schedule this trip in the spring, after the winter weather is done. In the mean time, some maintenance has to be done and certain board members said they want to tag along for a quick peek. That includes Goetz, who I'm sure will give a colorful assessment on what it's like. Look for that in an upcoming *SCCARA-GRAM*.

We'd like to get a rough count on how many are interested in going. Drop me a note at wb6yru@ix.netcom.com or catch me in person at any meeting.

73, Gary WB6YRU

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, November 15, 2012

FCC DENIES ARRL PETITION TO DENY RECONROBOTICS LICENSES, BUT LIMITS DEVICES TO 100 KHZ BANDWIDTH

On November 14, the FCC issued an Order on Reconsideration

dismissing a March 2010 Petition for Reconsideration filed by the ARRL that asked the Commission to deny pending Public Safety Pool license applications associated with the ReconRobotics Video and Audio Surveillance System; however, in doing so, the FCC made it clear that the devices may not exceed 100 kHz of bandwidth. The Recon Scout -- manufactured by ReconRobotics -- is a remote-controlled, maneuverable surveillance robot that transmits real-time video surveillance data that operates by FCC waiver in the 70 centimeter band. Read more here.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-denies-arrrl-em-petition-em-to-deny-reconrobotics-licenses-but-limits-devices-to-100-khz-bandwidth>

From *The ARRL Letter*, November 21, 2012

FCC Seeks to Assign Entire Amateur Portion of 160 Meter Band to Primary Status to Amateur Radio Service, Proposes New LF Amateur Band at 135.7-137.8 kHz

On Tuesday, November 20, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ET Docket No. 12-338) that proposes to amend Parts 1, 2, 74, 78, 87, 90 and 97 of the Commission's rules. Part 97 governs the Amateur Radio Service. These changes will implement allocation decisions from the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-07) that concern those portions of the radio frequency spectrum between 108 MHz and 20.2 GHz and make certain updates to the rules in this frequency range.

Most of the NPRM does not concern the Amateur Radio Service, but the FCC is requesting comments on the three parts that do: changing the allocation to the amateur portion of the 160 meter band, allocating a new Amateur Service band at 135.7-137.8 kHz and cleaning up the rules for the 10.0-10.5 GHz band. Comments on these proposed rules changes will be accepted until 60 days after the NPRM is published in the Federal Register (this can take up to six weeks after release of the NPRM). Reply comments will be accepted until 90 days after publication in the Federal Register.

ALLOCATION CHANGES TO 160 METER BAND

The FCC is proposing to change the Amateur Radio Service allocation to the 160 meter band (1800-2000 kHz), reallocating the 1900-2000 kHz segment to the Amateur Radio Service on a primary basis. In the NPRM, the FCC noted that "the ARRL has identified the 160 meter band and the amateur HF bands as '[b]y far, the heaviest-used [Amateur Service] allocations.'"

Historically, the 1715-2000 kHz band was allocated exclusively to the Amateur Service. In 1953, the FCC removed the 1715-1800 kHz segment from the Amateur Radio Service and allocated the 1800-2000 kHz band to the Amateur Service on a shared basis with the Radionavigation Service. Then in 1983, the FCC allocated the 1800-1900 kHz band to the Amateur Service on an exclusive basis and the 1900-2000 kHz band to the Radiolocation Service on a primary basis for federal and non-federal use and to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis. The FCC stated that "The purpose of allocating this band [1900-2000 kHz] to the Radiolocation Service was to provide reaccommodation spectrum for radiolocation users that will have to move out of the 1605-1705 kHz band when AM broadcasting is implemented in that band." The AM broadcasting proceeding was resolved in 2000, and a review of the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS) database finds that no one is licensed to use this non-federal Radiolocation Service allocation.

Currently, federal use of the 1900-2000 kHz segment is light, with only 10 assignments authorized to operate in this segment. "A

single federal assignment authorizes land and mobile stations in the Radiolocation Service to transmit on 1922 kHz using a necessary bandwidth of 600 Hz within a protected radius of 193 kilometers centered on San Diego, California,” the FCC noted in the NPRM. “All other federal assignments in the 1900-2000 kHz band are for unallocated uses, and thus, these assignments operate on an unprotected and non-interference basis.”

The FCC is proposing to amend the US Table of Allocations and remove the federal and non-federal Radiolocation Service allocations from the 1900-2000 kHz band and the raise the secondary Amateur Radio Service allocation to primary status because “there appear to be few (if any) Radiolocation Service stations operating in this band,” it said. “In addition, we note [from WARC-79] that ‘this [Radiolocation Service] allocation was made for reaccommodation purposes and not to provide additional spectrum for radiolocations needs,’ that the Commission has concluded its AM Expanded Band proceeding that would have prompted non-federal RLS licensees to relocate to the 1900-2000 kHz band and that this band was historically allocated to the Amateur Service on an exclusive basis.”

NEW AMATEUR SERVICE BAND AT 135.7-137.8 KHZ

In the US, the 130-160 kHz portion of spectrum is allocated to the Fixed Service and the Maritime Mobile Service on a primary basis for both federal and non-federal use. Delegates at WRC-07 allocated 135.7-137.8 kHz to the Amateur Radio Service in all ITU Regions on a secondary basis. Delegates also chose to restrict the use of this low frequency allocation to those Amateur Radio stations transmitting with a maximum equivalent isotropically radiated power (EIRP) of 1 W, as set forth in RR 5.67A.

Even though there are no non-federal stations in the Fixed Service or the Maritime Mobile Service that are licensed to operate at 135.7-137.8 kHz and federal use of this portion of spectrum is light, the FCC noted that electric utilities operate Power Line Carrier (PLC) systems in the 9-490 kHz band for “communications important to the reliability and security of electric service to the public.” In ET Docket No. 02-98, the FCC considered allocating the 135.7-137.8 kHz band to the Amateur Radio Service on a secondary basis and examined the potential for amateur transmissions to cause harmful interference to the PLC systems. At that time, however, the FCC declined to do so “after finding the potential for interference between amateur operations proposed at that time and the incumbent PLCs, and noting the importance of the PLC operations in helping maintain critical electric infrastructure.” The FCC noted the potential for some limited amateur operations in this band under individual experimental licenses and observed that such operations would “allow empirical data to be developed on the sharing possibilities in this band for future consideration.”

Now that 135.7-137.8 kHz is now allocated internationally to the Amateur Radio Service on a secondary basis in all ITU Regions, the FCC has concluded that “it is an appropriate time to re-examine the potential for shared Amateur Service-PLC use of this band.” It stated in the NPRM that it is seeking comments on whether 135.7-137.8 kHz band should be allocated to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis in accordance with RR 5.67A.

“Because PLC systems operating under Section 15.113 of the rules serve important functions, such as tripping protection circuits if a downed power line or other fault is detected in the power grid, we would only consider adding an amateur allocation if we were comfortable that Amateur Radio and utility PLC systems could successfully co-exist in this band,” it stated in the NPRM. “We seek comment on the advantages and disadvantages, and other costs and benefits associated with changing our rules. For

example, what benefits might accrue to the Amateur Radio community? To what extent do utilities deploy PLC systems on distribution lines in the 9-490 kHz band under our Part 15 rules, and how would those operations be affected were we to add a new secondary amateur radio service allocation in this band? What specific actions would PLC systems operators need to take if there were a secondary amateur radio service allocation in the band, and what are the associated costs?”

In addition, the FCC stated that is looking for comments on the whether the concept of requiring individual amateur stations to be “quasi-coordinated” for fixed use at a specific location still holds merit. The FCC did not pursue this option in 2003. “Are there other steps, such as limiting operating privileges in this frequency band (e.g., to Amateur Extra Class licensees) that would better facilitate amateur use of the band?” the FCC asked. “We also seek comment on the relevance of studies that discuss the potential for in-band Amateur Service radio transmitters to operate compatibly with PLC systems in light of any developments since our 2003 decision. In particular, we seek comment on the appropriate maximum field strength level and minimum separation distance from PLC systems for secondary Amateur Service operations in this band.”

CLEANING UP THE 10.0-10.5 GHZ BAND RULES

With the concurrence of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the FCC proposes to amend the Federal Table by revising the “10-10.45” GHz band and the reference to “G2” to read “10-10.5” and “G32,” respectively. In the WRC-07 Table Clean-up Order, the FCC combined the 10-10.45 GHz and 10.45-10.5 GHz bands in the Federal Table. In doing so, the frequency band was inadvertently not changed to 10-10.5 GHz. In addition, the reference to G32 was mistakenly changed to G2.

The FCC will also revise the text of three footnotes (US58, NG42, NG134) that pertain to the 10-10.5 GHz band. First, it will revise US58 by adding the existing Amateur-Satellite Service allocation to the list of permitted non-federal services in the 10-10.5 GHz band so that this footnote correctly lists all permitted non-federal services, and it will renumber this footnote in frequency order as US128. Second, it will combine the text of NG42 and NG134 (which require that non-federal stations in the Radiolocation Service not cause harmful interference to the Amateur Service in the 10-10.5 GHz band and that these stations not cause harmful interference to the Amateur-Satellite Service in the 10.45-10.5 GHz sub-band, respectively) and renumber the new footnote in frequency order as NG50.

From *The ARRL Letter*, November 29, 2012

ARRL UHF/MICROWAVE BAND PLAN COMMITTEE SEEKS INPUT 6 AND 3 CENTIMETER BANDS

Last year, in recognition of the need to update the published band plans for our UHF and microwave bands, the ARRL Board of Directors formed the UHF/Microwave Band Plan Committee to develop revised national plans for the amateur bands between 902 MHz and 3.5 GHz. After receiving extensive user input, the committee completed its task and the resulting band plans were approved by the Board in July 2012. The committee has now received an additional assignment to conduct a similar update to the 6 and 3 centimeter bands. In order to do this effectively, the committee needs to know how various segments of these bands are now being utilized around the country. You can help them by sharing what you know about local usage in your area and by

asking other users -- both individuals and groups -- to do the same. Read more at www.arrl.org/news/arrl-uhf-microwave-band-plan-committee-seeks-input-on-6-and-3-centimeter-bands.

Circling the Drain

If it wasn't for the Coriolis effect we would all be down the drain by now. As the treasurer of our club, I tried to deposit seven checks into our club account at the bank today. You might remember that this is the bank that now has a fee for depositing cash. Today they told me they could not accept checks made out to alphabetic characters like "SCCARA". After asking them to get on line and typing "SCCARA" and checking who the treasurer was, they still had a problem even though my driver's license confirmed the obvious. Finally a phone call to the home office and they said they could do this one more time. In the future, spelling out the name would be best the bank officer said. When I replied that there wasn't enough room on a check for all that, he offered that maybe the first three words and then "ARA" would get the job done.

This together with my recent security experience at the airport where the first Transportation Security Administration (TSA) cop looked at my driver's license, congratulated me on my age and told me I didn't need to take my shoes off. Trouble was, the succeeding cops couldn't do the math, and I had to take them off anyway! I think the inmates are running the asylum.

Goetz K. Brandt

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Nov. 12, 2012



{No minutes were received by the deadline.}

Board Meeting, Nov. 19, 2012



The November Board Meeting was cancelled for lack of a quorum.

Viki Moldenhauer, Secretary KI6WDS

Ukiah

The three amigos, Gregg (KF6FNA), Clark (KE6KXO) and I (K6GKB) visited my nephew's 40 acre ranch in northern California. The purpose of the trip was to sightsee, explore the ranch and play with some radios we were bringing along. The weather was beautiful, the sun winning a day long battle with nimbus clouds which simply highlighted the 160 mile trip through glorious back country. Once you leave Santa Rosa in the rear view mirror, you see what California must have been like 100 years ago. About five miles this side of Ukiah, a paved road leads west through some vineyards and eventually turns into a gravel road. Then a gate with a combination lock which I fortunately could open with a supplied four digits. After forever, the road turned to dirt and the telephone poles refused to follow. Clark began to feel very comfortable with the "off the grid" surroundings so

reminiscent of his childhood. Truth is, we were totally lost, had no idea where the ranch was and just kept pressing on. By some cosmic luck we ran into my nephew Marc next to the road who happened to be negotiating with a cat skinner for some work on his ranch. We had overshot our destination by many miles and were headed into Mendocino County's agricultural farmland where foreigners are greeted with gunshots. Marc turned us around and took us back to his estate where we stopped at his house trailer.

After a tour we settled down to the business of setting up a station. There was no shortage of tall trees and Gregg began things with Clark's wrist anchored sling shot. This thing can loft a tennis ball and its trailing monofilament nylon line wherever it is aimed and Gregg's first shot bisected the crotch of a tree at about 40 feet straight up. By joggling the line, the tennis ball was coaxed to the ground and quickly replaced by a nylon guy line. This, to the center insulator of a G5RV antenna, and up went the dipole sloped downward in an inverted V configuration, the extremities terminating ten feet above the ground. The end of the twin lead was at about 20 feet up and some coax brought things over to a picnic table next to Marc's house trailer. An Icom IC-706MKIIG, and Icom AT-180 tuner were attached to the G5RV with only a battery connection as the final piece of our station in the woods.

The power cable terminates into black and red insulated cable clips. You could almost hear my mental conversation as I told myself, the red is positive, the black is negative! Looking at the battery to make sure I would make no mistake, I got a loud report as the fuse in the cable went pop. Gregg tried to breathe life into the radio, but it was very dead and has since been sent to Kuni in Poulsbo Washington for repair. I brought my Icom IC-703 along not realizing that it would save the day. This we got connected to the coax, the tuner integral with the radio, the battery part of the back pack. Anderson powerpole connectors avoided the previous polarity issue. Gregg had a very long contact with someone in Texas, but the highlight of the day was my regular scheduled net at 3 PM. Fred (VE3FG) in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada gave us a 5-9. This from someone who detests the concept of QRP and had some trouble believing we were maxed at 10 watts! Dale (KF7JC) gave a similar report from Kent, Washington. The G5RV was really strutting its stuff! Most impressive was the total lack of noise at this location, the closest power lines many miles away. We congratulated ourselves on a perfectly successful installation.

Marc prepared a spare rib barbeque with a salad, sourdough baguette bread, butter as the cheese of choice and Budweiser to cleanse the pallet. Decadence taken to the level of Art! I should mention that Clark deployed his Travelscoot electric mobility cart and it worked splendidly. Disassembly of our station was surprisingly simple and quick. The return trip had us taking the Richmond San Rafael Bridge and the east side of the bay back to Alviso and the Bucky Hut. The clockwise circumnavigation of the bay resulted in no bridge tolls, capping a perfect day.

Goetz K. Brandt

Multi-band Beam

John (W6JPP) was intrigued by the 6/10/15/20 (12/17 also) meter eight element beam that Tom Schiller (N6BT) displayed at Pacificon. John found out it was a prototype and yes he could have it for a reduced price, provided he would pick it up at the factory. The factory happened to be in Atascadero, just south of Paso Robles. What better reason for a day trip south and points beyond. John and Fred (A6QL) went in John's Dodge pickup truck, the three amigos in my Camry. We departed about 9 AM, all of us unfed and quite hungry. Clark and I decided that Micky D's and

the like were out of the question and that we would find that hole in the wall the locals call home. We left the freeway and took old highway 101 into Gonzales, then a left turn on 4th Street where we asked a local lady where she would go to breakfast if so inclined. Her answer was unequivocally "El Rinconcito" which was half way up the block. Family run and very reasonable, just what we were looking for. Once fed, we pressed on, John leaving town the long way and falling in behind.

At about Fort Hunter Liggett I though I heard Clark mumbling about basic training and possibly pig hunts, not sure what I heard, my hearing being very bad. But what I did hear was coordination over the 2 meter simplex channel between Fred and Clark nailing down a stop at the next roadside rest area. Eventually we got a call stating that we must have missed the rest area because we weren't there. When we objected that we hadn't got there yet, it became clear that John had passed us without either of us realizing it and had been chasing after us at ever higher speeds. Don't you just love it when a plan doesn't come together? We substituted a truck stop for the road side rest area and were back on our way.

We left the freeway at Atascadero and after a few turns were in an industrial strip mall of very large proportions. None of the shops looked like antenna factories, in fact most were machine shops or auto repair facilities, many seeming to be interested in restorations. After a lot of dead ends, backing up, turning around, John found Tom's shop and we all piled out. Tom is one of those people who just make you feel good in his presence. He laughs with his eyes and tells stories that entertain. His shop is a compact affair, crowded with lots of fixtures and jigs of his own making that allow tubing to be cut, drilled and converted into antennas. He has walled off a portion of his shop and made an office which is his design department. John's antenna was ready for loading into his pickup. When John thought he might need a mast, a 2 inch heavy duty aluminum tube was instantly cut to size with one of Tom's cutoff saws. At this point, the three amigos decided to head west leaving John, Fred and Tom to a long lunch.

We took California 46 to the coast and came out at Cambria. This is an extraordinarily fine road, wide, fresh pavement, beautiful vine yarded countryside, a must for motorcyclists. The weather was overcast and rainy, but in no way detrimental to the beauty of what we were driving through. Once on highway one, called Pacific Coast Highway in southern California and Cabrillo Highway in northern California, the sightseeing just got better and better. Up through San Simeon, Big Sur where the road climbs to dizzying heights along the cliffs only to descend again to sea level and then on to Carmel and Monterey. We stopped to look at elephant seals of which there was no shortage. Every now and then the sun would break through a glory hole in the overcast and create a light show far out at sea. We passed by the legendary Nepenthe Restaurant with its awesome views. We crossed the arch bridge at Bixby Creek used in so many TV car commercials. At Salinas, we decided to keep on highway 1 and pass through Moss Landing, Aptos, Santa Cruz and then highway 17 to San Jose. Once home, we congratulated ourselves on a 400 mile round trip, proving on once again that northern California is about as good as it gets.

John is planning an antenna party to get the 40 meter beam atop his tower. Y'all come!

Goetz K. Brandt

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====
Date: 28 Jul 2011 02:17
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Does It Bother You.....

At one Army base, the annual trip to the rifle range had been canceled for the second year in a row, but the semi-annual physical fitness test was still on as planned.

One soldier mused, "Does it bother anyone else that the Army doesn't seem to care how well we can shoot, but they are extremely interested in how fast we can run?"

=====
Date: 26 Mar 2010 01:18
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: CD Player

I wanted to buy a CD player, but was completely perplexed by one model's promotional sign. So I called the salesclerk over and asked, "What does 'hybrid pulse D/A converter' mean?"

He said, "That means that this machine will read the digital information that is encoded on CDs and convert it into an audio signal."

"In other words," I said, "this CD player plays CDs."

"Exactly."

=====
Date: 29 Mar 2010 01:18
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Cell Phone Etiquette

Friends and I were chatting over dinner in a restaurant. A man at the next table told his cell-phone caller to hold on. Then he stepped outside to talk.

When he returned, I said, "That was very thoughtful."

"I had no choice," he nodded and said to me. "You were making too much noise."

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
License testing, new amateurs: W6JPP

WB6EMR, James D. Armstrong, Jr.,
evening & msg: 408-945-1202

KD6FJI, Lloyd DeVaughns,
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KK6MX, Don Apte, 408-629-0725
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K6PBQ, Don Village, 408-263-2789
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Newsletter Notes

There are two big things in this SCCARA-GRAM. Please look over the **ARRL News** column—in particular the two parts sub-titled **Allocation Changes to 160 Meter Band** and **ESPECIALLY New Amateur Service Band at 135.7-137.8 kHz**.

The FCC is considering giving amateur radio primary status in the 160 M band. That's good news, I hope you all will send comments to the FCC in support of it.

Even more significant (to me) is the proposal to give amateur radio a new segment in the Low Frequency (LF) band!

I've been thinking about this general idea for a long time. We have many segments in most other bands, but only one in the MF band (160 M) and nothing at all in the LF and VLF bands. There have been attempts in the past to gain something "down below," but they failed. And I hear there is some work being done to snag some space for amateur radio around the former emergency frequency 500 kHz, but nothing yet on that.

Here we have chance. This proposed new amateur segment isn't much—a pitiful 2.1 kHz, and it comes with restrictions, but at least it's something. The main users of the LF and VLF bands is the government in the form of navigation beacons. But those have been phased out and they say they have no future plans to use those frequencies. A couple of notable exceptions are the Navy's submarine channels in the VLF band and WWVB at 60 kHz. (If you have one of those clocks that sets itself, it gets its timing signals from WWVB.)

There is one fly in the ointment... actually, it's bigger, more like a buzzard in the ointment. The power companies have found that they can save a little money by transmitting certain control signals down the power lines instead of running separate communications lines. And they do it under FCC Part 15, so they don't need to worry about licensing.

Now, as we all know, a long wire will act like a good antenna. The frequencies used are low, but the power lines are very long. So to avoid interference from each other or other sources, the power companies have spread themselves out from 9 to 490 kHz. All they need to do is tell the FCC that this is a vital service not to be interfered with and bingo—they get treated like a licensed service. And it costs them essentially nothing. That's not bad, if you can pull it off... and they do.

So, when we comment on the new LF amateur segment, we'll have to address that issue. And it's an important issue, previous attempts to gain amateur segments in the LF band have failed just because of that one reason.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

Annual December Meeting Sign-up

Our annual December meeting will be a luncheon at 12 noon on Saturday, December 15, at the Creekside Inn 544 W. Alma Ave, San Jose. We will have a choice of three entrees, \$28.00 each. Talk-in will be on our repeater, W6UU 146.985-. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there. Why not renew your membership (back cover) at the same time. 73, Don K6PBQ

For the annual meeting in December, sign me up for the following lunch(es) at \$28.00 ea.

_____ Coulett Steak _____ Chicken Marsala _____ Salmon

Name: _____ Call: _____ Total for lunch(es): \$ _____

Give this form (or copy) with payment by Dec. 10 to the Treasurer or mail to : SCCARA PO Box 106 San Jose, CA 95103-0106 (By now it's getting close to the Dec. 10 deadline, give Don K6PBQ a call at 408-263-2789 to let him know you're coming.)



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 2013

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.