

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association



Volume 29, Number 2

February 2013

Meeting Location

FEBRUARY MEETING WILL BE IN ANOTHER ROOM

Due to the fact that Kaiser Hospital is having a Regional Stockholders Video Conference Meeting in the whole conference center, they have moved us to the Hospital B06 meeting room in the next building. This room is in the Hospital basement across the hall from the cafeteria. There will be signs posted to direct you to the meeting room.

Lou, WA6QYS

Feb. Meeting

Our speaker for the February meeting will be Bruce Jahn from DAY SAVER BATTERY PACKS. He is located in Livermore CA. His presentation will be battery packs for the Amateur Radio Operator.

After the presentation, we will have Don Steineck AE6PM, Don Apte KK6MX, and Gary Mitchell WB6YRU with test equipment to check out the members or guests radios to check power output, deviation, and frequency to make sure they are set up OK. We will not do any calibration of their radios TESTING only.

John Parks V.P. W6JPP

President's Prose

I don't think it's too early to talk about Field Day (FD). Amateur Radio is extremely varied with specialties for all but Field Day typifies Amateur Radio like no other event and experiencing FD first hand is better than talking about Amateur Radio for a year.

For many of us the location of SCCARA's FD is of paramount importance. Your board has already reserved Mt. Madonna County Park, located in the extreme southwest corner of Santa Clara County, our most frequently used location. We do this because this is a popular location and we need to make reservations far in advance. It does not mean your board is committed to this location. We are always looking for a better location.

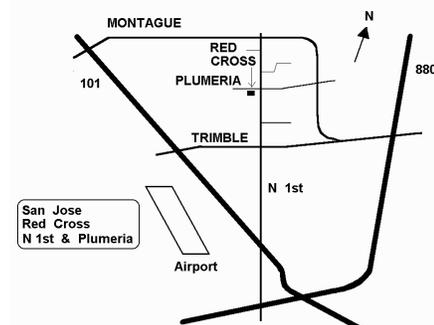
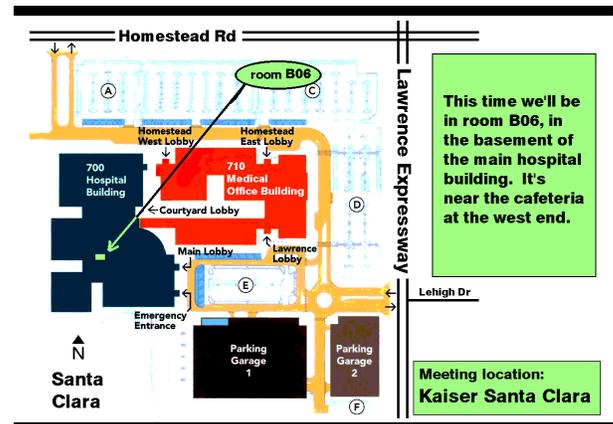
For any location there will be a list of pros and cons. In my business we call this a trade-off where we look to maximize the good and minimize the bad while recognizing there is no perfect

Calendar

- 2/11 SCCARA General Meeting
2/18 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting

- Day: Monday, Feb. 11, 2013
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Rm 196
Featuring: Bruce Jahn from Day Saver Battery Packs. And also member radio testing



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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>. (Webmaster: Wally Britten, KA6YMD, 408-293-3847, ka6ymd@arrl.net)

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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

solution.

One major problem is we must be able to camp overnight. Many municipal parks prohibit overnight stay. San Jose wants 6 months to think about granting an overnight exemption and then no guarantees a permit will be issued. We could be left hanging if they turned us down. Also, the restrooms are usually locked at night to prevent the homeless from using them as barracks with bathrooms. Unlock them and you may have territorial battles with the homeless. So the convenience of local travel is offset by major security and authorization problems.

Also our Alviso location within San Jose City limits and nearby sewer farm was so ugly only its mother would love it. Last year we sought to get permission for overnight stay. Permission was not actually granted. Rather the City agreed to turn a blind eye. The police would not interfere as long as no residents complained and as it turned out we were warmly greeted by the residents.

Before we could setup in Alviso we had to remove the glass shards that littered the site. You may not have noticed because Miss Viki, KJ6WDS, cleaned them up. Thank you Viki. Then the real work began with a lot of heavy lifting of which Gregg Lane, KF6FNA, did an awful lot. Thank you Gregg! He had help but not nearly enough.

We have been looking at ways to make the FD setup easier and reduce the heavy lifting. One way is to use wire antennas. You shoot tennis balls into a couple of trees and you have your wire antenna supported. A wire antenna like the Windom covers 80 through 6m but does require a tuner. A comparison with a Windom and beam antenna (20, 15, &10m only) favored the beam at some times of day and the Windom at other times. This probably had to do with the radiation angle of the antenna favoring different propagation modes. All told, the Windom had a major advantage of not needing a rotator or an antenna switch. This makes it a prime candidate for the Gota Station.

The key word in the previous paragraph you may not have noticed was trees. Alviso didn't have any and this made a big difference. In addition to supporting antennas and adding esthetic value the trees provided shade. Wonderful shade! It wasn't the heat but the sun glare that made things miserable on the second day. We have had this problem before but not nearly as badly as when the low level sun shown directly on our computer and radio screens at Alviso. The trees were badly missed.

Bottom line: If you have ideas to share about FD, particularly an alternate location closer to town, I'd love to hear from you. Contact me on the phone or e-mail.



73, Fred, AE6QL, ae6ql@arrl.net

Silent Key - WE6V

Sadly, I announce the passing of a very active former SCCARA member Jim O'Keefe, WE6V. Jim was a proficient CW operator and garnered us many points at our 1991 Field Day. He was also involved in introducing new hams to the joys of Morse Code. Jim became a Silent Key on January 19, 2013.

Lou WA6QYS

Treasurer's Treatise

Year end Account Balances

<u>Account</u>	<u>12/31/2011</u>	<u>12/31/2012</u>
Checking	7017.70	4154.67
Savings	500.07	500.07
Cash	82.45	403.65
TOTAL	7600.22	5058.39

Goetz, K6GKB

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, January 10, 2013

COMMENT DEADLINE SET IN WRC-07 IMPLEMENTATION PROCEEDING

As previously reported, the FCC has proposed to amend its rules to implement the allocation decisions of the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-07) and to make certain other changes. Notice appeared in the December 27, 2012 issue of the Federal Register, which started the clock on a 60-day window for the submission of comments. Thus, comments are due no later than February 25, 2013, with reply comments due no later than March 27, 2013.

While most of the 130-page Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order does not directly affect the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services, two sections of the document are of particular interest to amateurs.

Specifically, the FCC proposes to upgrade the Amateur Service allocation in the upper half of the 160 meter band (1900-2000 kHz) from secondary to primary, while deleting the existing allocation to the Radiolocation Service. This is possible, because the re-accommodation of radiolocation stations displaced by the expansion of the AM broadcasting band to 1705 kHz has been completed and there are no non-federal radiolocation stations licensed to operate in the 1900-2000 kHz band.

The FCC also seeks comments on whether, and how, an amateur low frequency (LF) allocation might be able to co-exist with Power Line Carrier (PLC) systems that are used by electric utilities to monitor and control the power grid. The Commission notes that while PLC systems do not have the status of an allocation, they carry "communications important to the reliability and security of electric service to the public." WRC-07 created a new secondary allocation to the amateur service at 135.7-137.8 kHz that already has been implemented in a number of other countries.

The ARRL will be preparing comments supporting both of these allocations. Individuals wishing to comment directly to the FCC should carefully read paragraphs 13-24 of the NPRM (transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2012/db1119/FCC-12-140A1.pdf) and follow the instructions contained in paragraph 175.

From *The ARRL Letter*, January 24, 2013

THE DOCTOR IS IN: MORE POWER FOR EME STATIONS

Carl Hasbargen, KN0WS, of St Paul, Minnesota, wrote to the ARRL's Doctor, wanting to know how to use more transmit power for the new Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) station that he plans to build later this year. In the past, he has used a portable generator to power a 180 W, 432 MHz linear amplifier into a quad Yagi antenna system. While Hasbargen was successful using that setup to make a contact via the Moon, he figures additional transmit power would be helpful. He told the Doctor that he would like to be able to use his current generator.

Hasbargen asked "If I have two identical model solid state linear amplifiers, each capable of amplifying a 25 W input into a 180 W output, can I simply take the 50 W from my transceiver, divide the power using a commercial antenna power divider to drive each linear amplifier, then combine the two 180 W outputs from the pair of amplifiers back through another power divider (used backwards as a coupler) to produce a final 360 W to the antenna?"

Here's what the Doctor had to say:

If you pull off the covers of many high power solid state amplifiers, you will see that is exactly how they are constructed internally (see photo). While it seems like a straightforward idea, the main issue, especially at EME frequencies, is relative phase delay. While a single dual-module amplifier is relatively easy to build and test as an integrated system, your separate amplifiers were not built with that in mind. At 70 centimeters, a wavelength is 70 centimeters long, but 1/10 of a wavelength is only 7, about 5 centimeters, or 2 inches in coax.

I would think you would want tolerances to accumulate to well less than that for reasonable operation, and with independent assembly and device selection (not selected as matched components) and alignment, I would be surprised if two randomly selected amplifiers would be that close. If you have the capability to phase match them, the difference, if any, could be accommodated in a short length of coax, preferably on the input side.

If the amplifiers are linear and can amplify at very low levels, it would be safe...to drive them with an input splitter and measure the power at each output. If they are the same and you put them in a combiner and the level is twice each, less the attenuation of the combiner, you are probably good to go. I would bring up the power slowly and watch for heating and other undesired effects.

Of course, in real life, each of the power divider/combiners will introduce a little loss, so don't expect the full 360 W -- still it should be close.

ICELANDIC AMATEURS GET MF PRIVILEGES

According to Iceland's IARU Member-Society, radio amateurs in Iceland now have operating privileges on 472-479 kHz, or 630 meters, as of January 16. Amateurs in Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Monaco already have operating privileges in this portion of the MF spectrum. Delegates at the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference approved this method of addressing Agenda Item 1.23, as the Conference considered a possible allocation of approximately 15 kilohertz between 415 and 526.5 kHz. After discussions and taking into account spectrum conflicts with the Maritime Mobile Service, delegates ultimately decided to allocate 472-479 kHz to the Amateur Radio Service on a secondary basis. Read more at www.arrl.org/news/icelandic-amateurs-get-mf-privileges.

Aluminum Soldering

The snake oil peddlers of the past have morphed into ever more delightful incarnations as the years go by. It matters not what trade show you go to, car show, boat show, RV & Camping show, or even a ham radio convention, they are there. One sells anti fogging solution for your glasses or bathroom mirror, another sells the fountain of youth juicer that will prolong your life, yet another sells drills that cut through a bastard file as though it were butter. The one that has intrigued me for years is the fellow who sells the aluminum solder sticks. A slight application of a wire brush to the damaged aluminum, a little heat from a Bernzomatic torch, application of the aluminum rod and VOILA, you have a beautifully scalloped weld.

Of course you never see this fellow again, so what are the chances his magic can be repeated? Enter the three amigos, Clark (KE6KXO) and Gregg (KF6FNA) and myself (K6GKB) to act as your CONSUMER REPORT test facility. Digging through Clark's well organized pile of antenna parts we came up with a section of aluminum tubing that seemed perfect for the test. A propane torch was found as well as welding gloves, matches and a welding table upon which to do the work. Following the instruction on the blister pack, we heated, scratched and sure enough the stick flowed and attached itself to the aluminum. When cooled, it seemed to be as strong at the base metal. It works! You might want to keep this in mind when repairing aluminum. Welding aluminum is beyond most of our abilities, but soldering we can handle.



Goetz K. Brandt

Antenna Autopsy

One of my vices is an irresistible urge to take things apart. Curiosity requires that I find out how they did whatever it is that they did. In my early years it was bicycles, motorcycles, then cars and finally airplanes. I was actually pretty good at understanding these things and in most cases things went together again and worked well. You can imagine my good fortune when Clark Murphy (KE6KXO) gifted me an orphaned element of a tri band antenna. Its twin was lost long ago. In fact there was no finding any part of the remaining beam antenna. What intrigued me were the three traps, 10, 15 & 20 meters, which seemed to be in good condition.

A trap is of course a resonant device which trades energy between electric and magnetic fields, rapidly to be sure. This requires capacitance and inductance in correct proportions so that with a little excitation things sustain themselves. The beauty is that

at resonance the trap seems to be the extreme end of the element to which it is attached, although there may be much more beyond the trap. At other frequencies the trap is simply invisible and passes things along as though it were not there. The inboard trap is for 10 meters, the next 15 and the outboard trap is 20 meters.

So being the aborigine with a fine gold watch, I had to know what makes it tick? What would one of these things look like and just how cheaply could it be made? Thank god that some bright person has been able to take this esoteric concept and accommodate it in the real world. And here is where my forensic talents come into play. Inside is a coil that provides the inductance and outside is an aluminum shell that provides the capacitance. And when apart it all looks like this:



Goetz K. Brandt

Conway Reef

Our speaker for January was George Williams (N6NKT), the communications coordinator for the San Jose Red Cross office. George was one of the nineteen radio operators who took part in the establishment and operation of station 3D2C on a tiny Atoll roughly 30 miles southeast of Fiji. This pimple in the middle of the Pacific is a bit more than a few acres in size with a maximum elevation of six feet. Surrounded by a submerged barrier reef, it has one entrance passable at high tide. A commercial dive boat made the trip from Fiji to the atoll, but had to stay outside in deep water. A hard bottom dinghy was used to deliver all supplies and equipment. George's presentation covered the effort from inception to completion, all nicely documented with beautiful pictures. If you can attend one of George's presentations, I recommend it highly, else go to the internet and have a look: www.yt1ad.info/3d2c/index.html.



Goetz K. Brandt

License Testing

The Silicon Valley VE Group holds amateur radio exam sessions twice monthly in Saratoga. For more information, visit www.svve.org, or contact Morris Jones, AD6ZH, at 408-507-4698 or mojoteri@comcast.net.

Big Thank You

SCCARA would like to thank Doug Pietrok AF6CI for his generous donation of his Kenwood TS440SAT xcvr and AT230 tuner. This will be a good addition to our club station.

73 Don Village K6PBQ Station Trustee

Work in Progress

Larry (W2QOV) is gathering club members for an antenna party. This group will lower and disassemble his tower. With luck, the next issue will be dealing with the reassembly and erection of the beast next to his shack. There is an immense Wineguard Antenna now adorning the structure and this has been deeded to me. My plan is to revisit "Over the Air TV" as my disgust with cable offerings has reached a climax. Can't understand why pay TV has more advertising than free TV. That's a double whammy that defies explanation.

Don Village (K6PBQ) has installed the Kenwood TS-440S radio at our Red Cross Radio Room. Greg (KF6FNA) and Lou (WA6QYS) reworked all the wiring so that it is mostly invisible and organized. The radio was gifted to the club and looks and performs like new. The internal tuner has been introduced to all the antennas on the roof and no incompatibilities found. Contacts were made on both CW and SSB. Fred (VE3FG), our Canadian friend in Saskatoon complimented us on the legendary Kenwood audio and said out 100 watts was giving an S8 signal. Club members are encouraged to try out our new radio.

Clark (KE6KXO) and I went to Sunnyvale to gather up the TH6-DXX Thunderbird antenna mentioned in last month's article. A sadder mess one couldn't imagine, buried in leaves and pea gravel. A slimy collection of aluminum which bundled up into a roll were saddled on two pillows and went home on the roof of my car. Several tubes dribbled pea gravel onto the hood which then clacked against the windshield with frightening whacks. But I got it all home and the fun has begun. Most of the bolts that hold things together were rusted solid and either snap or have to be hack sawed into submission. The formed attach plates have all been soaked in Phosphoric Acid and now look brand new. The tubing is surrendering its ugly corrosion to sanding and Brillo padding. So far everything seems to be returning to its original condition. I attempted the separation of several concentric tubes and to my amazement, they slide apart like a well oiled trombone. I can't wait to see where the obstacles will be, but so far things are proceeding flawlessly.

Goetz K. Brandt

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Jan. 14, 2013



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

The SCCARA General Membership Meeting was called to order by Vice President John W6JPP at 19:32 as President Fred AE6QL is out of town.

Introductions of members and guests were made.

Announcements:

John W6JPP announced new member John Houghton and returning member Rob AF6QC.

Lou WA6QYS announced the next SVECS breakfast has a date change due to a schedule conflict at the Senior Center: it will be Feb 2. The Coast Guard Auxilliary will talk about their mission and communications. Let Lou know if you want to attend. Lou also brought oranges that had been donated for the meeting.

John W6JPP thanked club member Doug Pietrok AF6CI for his donation of a Kenwood TS440 and tuner to the club station.

Don K6PBQ will get a reservation for Mount Madonna as a possible Field Day site. He also announced the club station will be open the last Saturday of the month: check in on the 2m repeater midmorning to be sure someone is there before you come by.

Teresa Nemeth, a club member with KKUP Community Radio, announced she is now the head Department Representative for Spoken Word at the station, and if we need any announcements made she can arrange them.

John W6JPP announced the club has been approached by a school to give a presentation on ham radio during school hours. John W6JPP, Gregg KF6FNA, Clark KE6KXO, and Lou WA6QYS have volunteered to coordinate this.

John W6JPP introduced the evening's speaker: George Williams N6NKT is the Emergency Coordinator for the Silicon Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross, which covers Santa Clara County and points beyond. He explained the radio usage by the Red Cross (amateur as well as commercial HF). He thanked SCCARA for maintaining the HF presence in the radio room in the Red Cross, and discussed the logistics of trying to support all the capabilities in the small space available. He also described the interaction between the Red Cross and the local ARES/RACES groups, the anticipated shortfall of available operators in emergency situations, and recommended club members take the ARES/RACES classes which are free.

In the second part of his presentation, George showed slides and gave an intriguing report of his participation in the 3D2C DXpedition to Conway Reef, near Fiji. He described the travel adventures, equipment deployed, living and operating conditions, and contact results. He gave helpful suggestions to prepare for micro expeditions (e.g., in state) such as: practice listening to pileups during contest weekends, try pulling out contacts without fine-tuning the frequency, practice working non-US stations (different accents and phonetic spellings), work weak stations, practice with a logging program (enter the call into the log as soon as you hear it, then repeat it from the log so you get corrected if it is entered wrong). He offered suggestions on finding expeditions to go on (email the organizers, join the DX club, watch for advertisements).

John W6JPP mentioned that club member Janet KF6PUQ is in the hospital for double knee replacements, and he and Gregg KF6FNA are working to set up an antenna for her.

John W6JPP adjourned the meeting at 21:15.

Viki Moldenhauer, Secretary KI6WDS

Board Meeting, Jan. 21, 2013



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

The SCCARA Board Meeting was called to order by John Parks W6JPP at 19:40.

Attendance:

Vice President: John Parks W6JPP; Secretary: Viki Moldenhauer KI6WDS; Treasurer: Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Trustee: Don Village K6PBQ; Past President: Don Steinbach AE6PM; Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS; Gregg Lane KF6FNA; Gary Mitchell WB6YRU; Wally Britten KA6YMD; Clark Murphy KE6KXO; Absent: President Fred Townsend AE6QL (excused);

Announcements:

Lou WA6QYS announced the SVECS breakfast is Feb 2, with a presentation by the Coast Guard Auxiliary on their mission and recent activities. Volunteers to help are welcome at 7:30; John W6JPP will be there.

Don K6PBQ announced the station will be open Jan 26 (last Saturday of the month); Don will be there but needs someone to help him close up. Gregg KF6FNA volunteered.

Lou WA6QYS also announced that the Mt Diablo group is hosting Pacificon on Oct 11-13, which will conflict with the SVECS flea market. Pacificon will be in Santa Clara for 2013 and 2014; Friday is the antenna forum.

Officers' Reports:

Secretary: John W6JPP raised a correction to the December Board minutes: there will be no speaker for June due to Field Day, so there are speakers lined up for the first five months. Don K6PBQ moved to approve the November and December minutes as published and corrected. Lou WA6QYS seconded, motion carried unanimously. Viki KI6WDS will get new rosters for John W6JPP and Gary WB6YRU, and send welcome packets to the new members.

Treasurer: Goetz K6GKB passed out the monthly balance report, as well as the yearly profit/loss statement that gets submitted to the state and fed. Checking=\$4234.67, savings=\$500.07, cash=\$551.65, total=\$5286.39. He will send these to Gary WB6YRU in digital form, and generate a monthly statement for the end of the year.

Trustee: Don K6PBQ has made a reservation for Mt. Madonna campground as a Field Day site; he needs a check for \$438.00 from Goetz (done in the meeting). For the Christmas luncheon, Don checked out Holder's Country Inn: it would be more expensive and not in a private room. Lou WA6QYS moved to make a reservation at Creekside Inn again, Gregg KF6FNA seconded, motion carried unanimously. Don K6PBQ needs a check for \$200 from Goetz (done).

Don K6PBQ announced that open station hours will be the last Saturday of the month, if someone wants to come down he'll meet people here. The club license was checked and expires in April 2014.

Vice President: John W6JPP sent out the speaker for February: DaySavers make battery packs for amateur radio and have now got a glass mat battery: they will give a half hour presentation. John also talked to Gary WB6YRU, Don AE6PM, and Don KK6MX: members can bring in their HT, mobile, or test equipment (voltmeters, etc.) to get tested.

John reported the Field Day location search is pending: Gregg KF6FNA and he will check more locations and update the

board next month.

President: Fred AE6QL sent the following in the agenda: a Presidential Challenge recognition for John W6JPP's efforts to get John Glass NU6P to make meeting announcements for the club repeater; board members are urged to get "callsign@arrl.net" email addresses; Gregg Lane KF6FNA is announced as Field Day Chair with the entire board as members of the committee; a student Akshat Agrawal akshat.ag77@gmail.com, KK6BLA, sent a letter requesting assistance from the club: Clark KE6KXO will send him email.

Standing Committee Reports:

Newsletter/BBS: Gary WB6YRU observed the newsletter costs were \$1318 last year, and dues were \$355; after discussion of the dues costs, costs of b/w vs. color printing and different dues structures to fund the newsletter, Goetz K6GKB will send a backup Quicken file to Don AE6PM to prepare details on SCCARAGram costs over several years. Further discussion was tabled until next month.

On the BBS, the new radio and TNC are ready to install. There are likely two trips up to the Mt. Umunhum site: a maintenance trip at a moment's notice when the folks with access tell Gary they are going, and a scheduled trip for club members later, but Gary has had no response of interest from club members.

Repeater/Webpage: Wally KA6YMD is updating the web page, the repeaters are chugging along. He sent an inquiry to the city on why our repeater goes off the air when the power goes out, since it is supposed to be on a backup power supply, but has not received a response.

Special Committee Reports:

Field Day: Gregg KF6FNA has volunteered to be chairman again, and expects everyone on the board to participate. Wally KA6YMD will handle First Aid again. A location search is in progress.

2 M repeater changeover: Don AE6PM is ready to take the repeater to its new location this week; there will be a work party later to install it.

Old Business:

Don AE6PM asked about the CD from AMSAT: Don K6PBQ put the manilla envelope and newsletter received from AMSAT in the club station, and will confirm this Saturday.

There was no update on the bylaws rewrite.

New Business:

Don K6PBQ announced the MS walk is April 27: volunteer radio support is needed for 2 rest stops, sag vehicle, a walking mobile, and net control. He has a couple volunteers already: John Felix KI6ANW and Wally for net control. Don will be doing the walk and would like to find other volunteers. The date conflicts with the April SVECS breakfast.

Don K6PBQ mentioned Doug AF6CI donated a Kenwood TS440SAT with internal tuner and a Kenwood AT230 manual tuner. These need to be checked out possibly on Saturday. Don will send email to Gary to publish a thank you in the SCCARAGram. Viki will send blank letterhead out to the board.

Don K6PBQ and John W6JPP contacted the repair company in Washington, which is willing to look at the broken club Kenwood 440. Don will ship the radio up for repair at his expense. If we later decide to get rid of this radio, he'd like first chance to buy it from the club. John suggested shipping through HRO's UPS service.

Viki KI6WDS brought a list of club VE's that John AE6ZR gave

her at the last general meeting.

John W6JPP reported that Fred said if we get 3 people who want a class for General or Extra license, a library would provide the room, and Fred and John will coordinate. If we let Morris know ahead of time, he will set up the testing (VE's teaching a class cannot do the testing).

Lou WA6QYS observed the club does not have a SWR meter or power meter at the station (an LDG antenna tuner with a cross needle meter would be nice). John W6JPP has an LDG AT200 which is his spare backup, but offered it in the meantime. Gregg KF6FNA suggested we accept John's SWR meter and autotuner. John W6JPP will give the meter and tuner to Gregg to bring over.

Gregg KF6FNA gave an update on the antenna work at the club station. On the fan dipole, the 20 M and 40 M are working well in band; the 30 M and 80 M are still in progress.

The offer of the TV station broadcast truck with hydraulic mast was discussed. George Williams has had contact with the TV station. We need to get a group to go test it out. George would accept it as a donation to the Red Cross if we can make the truck run. John W6JPP volunteered Gregg to go look at the truck and evaluate it (if the engine is knocking, the Red Cross and we do not want it). We could use it at the Red Cross to put a beam up on the last Saturdays.

John W6JPP adjourned the meeting at 21:17.

Viki Moldenhauer, KI5WDS, Secretary

Brain Droppings

Every once in a while I discover something so basic that it is embarrassing to admit that I was once in the dark. But then maybe, just maybe, someone else will benefit from my breakthrough. This all has to do with our repeater W6UU at Eagle Rock which has the ability to go silent when PG&E stops providing power. This has happened twice recently and here is what I discovered. When this happens there is no confirming beep when you try to use the repeater. You also don't get the traditional KER-CHUNK when the repeater lets go. The question is whether your equipment is at fault or the repeater?

As we all know, the displayed frequency on your radio is your receive frequency. This is the "A" half of the split frequency on your transceiver. You and the rest of the world to whom you are not talking during an outage are transmitting on the "B" split frequency which is the repeater's listening frequency. What I discovered is that by pressing the "SPLIT" button I could un-split my radio and work both inbound and outbound transmissions on the "A" frequency to which everyone is listening. Once in simplex mode you simply ask anyone to confirm your suspicion that the repeater is not functioning and would they un-split their radio to respond. I did this during the last outage and got an immediate answer from Clark (KE6KXO) who confirmed what I already knew. The power failure at my house included the Eagle Rock site which had gone off-line.

Goetz K. Brandt

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,
408-225-6769 e-mail: kd6fji@arrl.net

KK6MX, Don Apte, 408-629-0725
e-mail: kk6mx@aol.com

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

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

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

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

Newsletter Notes

The year-end financial report is missing all the different comings and goings (technically known as "cash flow") this month due to some technical problem the Treasurer was having with the software. I did get something, but parts aren't clear and there are questions. I'm told the details will be ready in time for the next newsletter.

Note in the ARRL column that we have a chance to gain some spectrum in the LF band. It's not much, but it's the only thing we have below 180 M... if we get it. Comments are due this month, so don't delay if you have plans on commenting. Even if you yourself aren't interested in experimenting "down below," some other amateurs are. Let's not drop the ball on this.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor



SCCARA

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Affiliate of the ARRL,
American Radio Relay League



FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SCCARA Membership Form for 2013

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): _____

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.