SCCARA-GRAM

Santa Clara County
Amateur Radio Association

Volume 29, Number 3 March 2013

Prez Sez

I'm sitting here in my jacket wondering what happened to those nice, but brief, warm day days in February. Oh well, I know those warm days of summer will soon be here again and it will be Field Day time again.

Your board is already looking to those days to see how we can concentrate on the fun part of operating (and eating? while reducing the work part. The work part seems to fall in three major areas: 1) Food and Shelter; 2) Setting up the station; 3) Antennas.

Gwen and Lou Steirer have a tradition of doing a tremendous job at seeing to our basic food and drink needs. Let's not let them do it alone. I'm sure they can use help loading and unloading the kitchen. Don Village continues the tradition with Saturday morning breakfast. I hope we will continue the tradition of the Friday night barbeque if we can get the necessary grill in place. Do we have a volunteer?

Shelter for the operating position is furnished by the club in the form of push up awnings. Sleeping shelter is a personal thing. There is usually plenty of room to park your RV but be sure to get there early. It's hard to maneuver a RV when the guy ropes are strung. Tents are good too. If you are by yourself rumor has it the W6JPP bunkhouse will be there. Caution the bunkhouse is guarded by K9DOG-1 &-2. They are always looking for fresh meat to chew on. Be careful and see John, W6JPP for the password. One more word, if you have any black drape it is needed to keep the glare down around operating positions. It's awfully hard to see the computer screens with the sun bearing down. White drape cuts the sun a little but can be difficult when mounted directly behind the operator. The screens reflect a whiteout.

Setting up the stations is the easy part but it still takes time. We need to be careful not to gab too long after Don's breakfast or we miss the 11:00 am (local time) start of the contest.

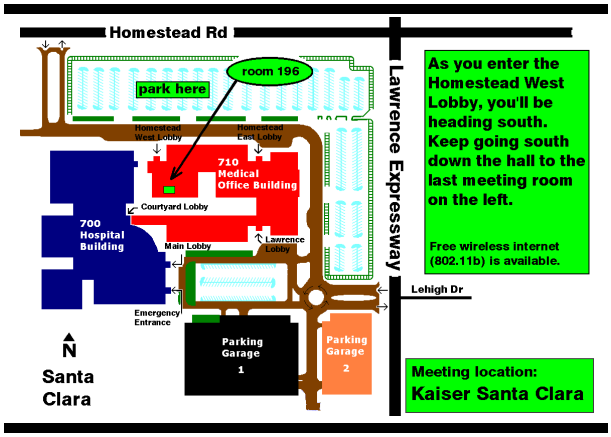
The tail that wags the dog is really the type and placement of the antennas. We operate class 2A which means we need three sets of HF antennas (phone, CW, & GOTA). The typical HF propagation characteristics are such the MUF (maximum usable frequencies) start high (in late morning) and descend throughout the day until 80 meters is the only band useable by midnight. Yes we make a few contacts with other local stations using near vertical incident skywave propagation but it becomes increasingly difficult to propagate eastward as the gray line moves across the Atlantic and the eastern US.

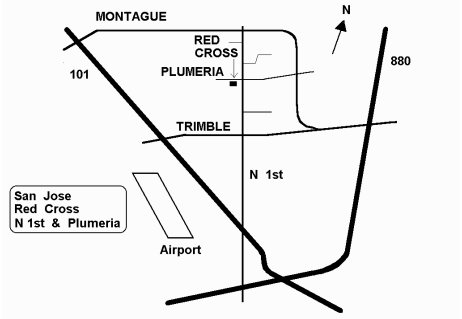
Calendar

3/9 **DeAnza electronic flea market**
3/11 **SCCARA General Meeting**
3/18 **SCCARA Board Meeting**--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting

Day: Monday, March 11, 2013
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Rm 196
Featuring: David Bottom WI6R on headsets for Amateurs; and Don Apte KK6MX on the history of Amateur Radio





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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)

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS
(all officers are also directors)

President	Fred Townsend, AE6QL	408-263-8768
	e-mail: ae6ql@arrl.net	
Vice President	John Parks, W6JPP	408-309-8709
	e-mail: w6jpp@arrl.net	
Past President	Don Steinbach, AE6PM	408-867-3912
	e-mail: ae6pm@arrl.net	
Secretary	Viki Moldenhauer, KI6WDS	408-738-8781
	e-mail: vym@comcast.net	
Treasurer	Goetz Brandt, K6GKB	408-259-7287
	e-mail: goetz@ix.netcom.com	
Station Trustee	Don Village, K6PBQ	408-263-2789
	e-mail: donvillage7@yahoo.com	
Director	Clark Murphy, KE6KXO	408-262-9334
	e-mail: clarkmurph@yahoo.com	
Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	408-241-7999
	e-mail: wa6qys@aol.com	
Director	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	408-293-3847
	e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net	
Director	Greg Lane KF6FNA	408-393-5607
	e-mail: kf6fna@comcast.net	
Director	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	408-269-2924
	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	

COMMITTEES

Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	408-269-2924
	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	
Repeater	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	408-293-3847
	e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net	
N0ARY BBS	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	408-269-2924
	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	

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: ncpa.n0ary.org)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

In terms of antennas that means you start with the smaller antennas, like the tri-band beam, and end up with the much larger wire antennas. The trick is to keep the wire antennas from one station from paralleling the wire antennas of other stations so we can minimize the coupling from one transmitter to another receiver. When this occurs it can damage the front end of a receiver as well as QRM the station. If the stations are parallel and operating on other bands, unless the receiver has roofing filters there is usually enough energy present to clobber the receiving station. Voice stations operate at wider bandwidths and are usually hit the hardest with local QRM.

The type of antenna surprisingly has a lot to do with QRM problems too. The club has long used single and multiband, center fed (CF) resonate dipoles. I know my first 40 and 80 meter antennas were dipoles. They are simple and cheap to build. The problem is a dipole is a single band antenna so you need one dipole and one coax for each band. If you have a tri-band beam you make your dipoles for 40 and 80. The dual band or fan dipoles are a compromise that allows multiband use of one feedline but at a price. They are a nuance to setup. Ask the folks that have been working on the fan dipole at the Red Cross. Furthermore the unused antenna, say the 80 meter portion when you are operating 40, is still resonate on 80 and becomes a QRM magnet. Not a problem if you are the only station nearby but a major problem when you are operating 40 phone and the CW station is on 80.

Recently the club has tried a different approach to wire antennas. The Windom antenna is a non-resonate, off center feed (OCF), multiband, and non-directional. It brings back the simplicity of a monoband dipole but has several major advantages. First an 80 meter Windom covers either 80 through 10 meters or with the right balun 80 through 6 meters. The off center feed is often easier to locate without the requirement the operating point be half way between the ends. It also operates a little better at an elevation 40 feet than a dipole. The major advantage is the Windom is not resonate in the unused bands so it is not the QRM magnet the dipole is. Furthermore it is as easy or easier than the monopole dipole to string up. Finally it has a balun which eliminates feedline common mode radiation and pick up.

Two other antennas we have looked at are the G5RV and the delta loop. They are both non-resonate also. The G5RV is similar to the Windom but smaller and is CF. The delta loop is also similar but may be CF or OCF making it the easiest to fit into a small space.

Space becomes the key issue in designing a three station antenna array. When we operated at the Red Cross we were so cramped that all antennas were parallel. Essentially we could only operate only one station at a time. We would have been better to operate 1A without the GOTA station. Likewise Alviso had multiple terrain problems in addition to the smell and blowing sand. The uneven ground did not work well for some antennas, we were too close in others, and there was a wide area noise problem that got 20 db worse at night. This may be the result of San Jose's sodium vapor street lights.

Once again the issue comes down to what location to use for Field Day. Since I have not heard of any other suitable locations it looks like a good bet the location will be Mt. Madonna County Park. If you have a better location as Obama says, I'm all ears.

73, Fred, AE6QL, ae6ql@arrl.net

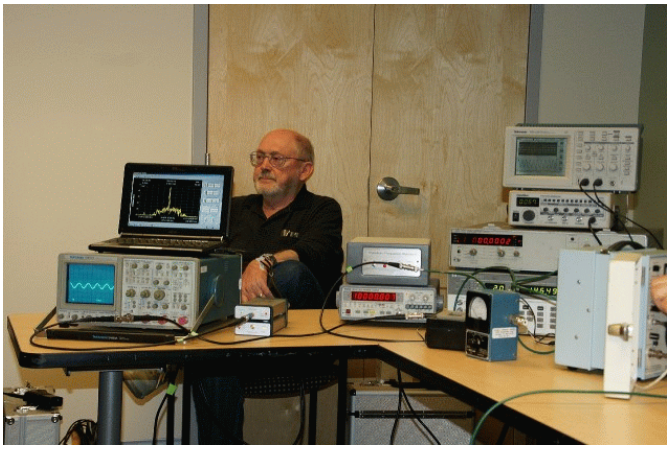
February Meeting

Our speaker for February was Bruce Jahn. His introduction included a Bio that stretched back to his days at Livermore Labs when he was part of a bomb disposal team that was on call to defuse nuclear explosives. During this time he often needed portable power and so he designed a hand carry lead acid battery pack that met his needs. Others who saw his creation asked for duplicates and the rest is history.

Over time the product morphed into ever better packaging and more features. Bruce was introduced to Anderson Power Pole connectors by the ham community and this became part of the package. The final breakthrough was the replacement of lead acid batteries with Lithium Iron Phosphate batteries. He now offers battery packs with extremely high power densities, forever shelf life and feather light portability. All this in a tough leather package that can take all the abuse you can dish out.

For those who missed the presentation, his web page is: WWW.daysaver.com

February's meeting also offered radio testing for anyone who wanted it. Don AE6PM, Gary WB6YRU and Don KK6MX brought in the equipment which consisted of spectrum analyzers, oscilloscopes, frequency counters, frequency standards, deviation meters, a service monitor, RF watt meters and Dummy loads. A box full of cables and adaptors allowed anyone to have their radio checked for channel accuracy and actual power output.



Don AE6PM with a scope and spectrum analyzer

Gregg KF6FNA and Gary WB6YRU checking FM deviation

Don KK6MX with a spectrum analyzer and service monitor

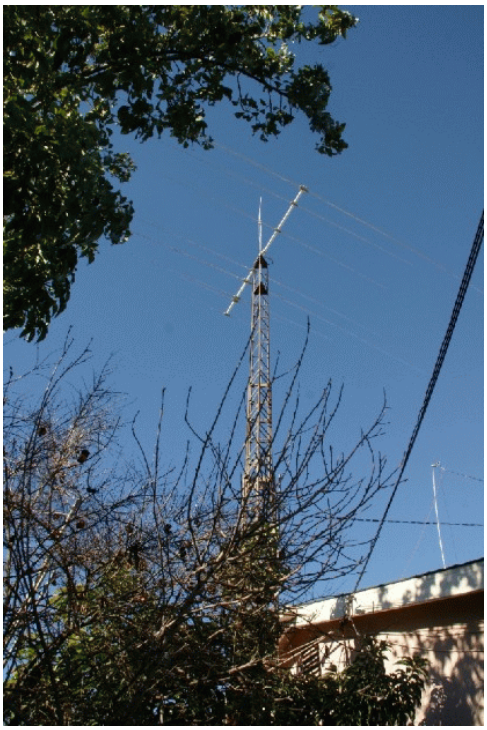
If you missed this opportunity to see what your money bought, wait a year and it will happen again.

Goetz K. Brandt, K6GKB

Work in Progress

Everyone might remember the trip to Atascadero to find Tom Schiller's N6BT factory where John W6JPP picked up a pre-release version of a new four band antenna. The demonstration unit was snapped up by John at Pacificon and only needed to be picked up at the source. That was back in December, but medical issues and bad weather kept the antenna grounded. Imagine my surprise when a QST was broadcast over our 2 meter club frequency announcing an antenna party at John's house. I signed up as did Gregg KF6FNA, Clark KE6KXO, Lou WA6QYS and Larry W2QOV. Ryan N6BRN, a commercial tower climber, was

able to add professional help. John has a 55 foot three section tower that already had a Cushcraft A3S on top where the new DXr-4 was going to go. Step 1 was the removal of the old antenna, a job Ryan did with great ease. Once disassembled and lowered to the ground, the new antenna was assembled on John's roof, there being insufficient room anywhere at ground level. In addition to the nuts, bolts and U-clamps, pop riveting was needed to assemble the telescoping beam elements. Then up it went on a new mast which mated with the existing rotator. Half way up the mast was the new beam and way up at the top was a two meter vertical. All elegantly done. Finally, John did his organ grinder imitation and after forever the antenna was up at a conservative 45 feet. A quick check with an MFJ antenna analyzer proved that it was ready for operation as well as being beautiful up there, of course only to a trained eye.



Again, members may remember that Larry had fallen in love with an antenna tower that sadly belonged to someone else. Negotiations resulted in the owner giving it to Larry outright, simply remove it completely. Larry cleverly scheduled this take down for the day after John's antenna party. I suppose the thinking was that all the teamwork developed the day before would cascade forward. And so it did! Same cast of characters, only Ryan not needed this time. This tower is a Rohn G3 triangular tower in three sections for a total of thirty feet plus a mast bearing. It sits on a hinged base plate that allows it to tilt over. It was stabilized by an attachment to the fascia board on the gabled roof. Once disconnected, it only remained to tip it over until it was parallel with the ground. Lou and Gregg were on the roof, each belaying ropes attached to the tower. Clark was in the back yard at a considerable distance with his own rope to the tower. The owner and I had long poles with forks on the end which we engaged the tower a third of the way up. With everyone braced for disaster, John orchestrated the lowering which went flawlessly. When it was all over, everyone wondered who had the bulk of the load as most were not stressed in the least. Turns out the tower weighed a fraction of what we imagined. The sections came apart with ease, they fit in the back of John's truck and off they went to Larry's house.

My restoration of a TH6-DXX antenna is coming along well. Although cosmetic only, I am cleaning everything to look as new. Turns out the electrical characteristics are not affected by corrosion of the boom and elements, but I want them to shine when I raise them up on my tower. My latest setup to clean the tubing consists of a 2 inch by ten foot section of PVC pipe. I glued an end cap onto this pipe and filled it with phosphoric acid. The cheapest source for Phosphoric Acid was a paint store where it is sold as rust remover. My ten foot section of pipe required considerably less than a gallon. I attach a string to the elements and down the pipe they go. After about two hours, they come out, get rinsed and are ready for a quick sanding with strip sand paper. Although everyone says steel wool is a no-no, I finish with steel wool and they shine like chrome. Once all the elements are clean, the antenna will be reassembled. Will keep you posted.

Goetz K. Brandt, K6GKB

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, February 7, 2013

IARU REGION 2 SEEKS INPUT ON HF BAND PLAN

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 2 conference will be held later this year in Mexico. The Region 2 conference -- held every three years -- is attended by delegations from the national Amateur Radio societies in the western hemisphere that are members of the IARU. The ARRL is the IARU Member Society for the US.

One of the topics on the conference agenda will be the Region 2 HF band plan. This band plan is "harmonized" with -- spectrum management-speak for "very similar to" -- the IARU Region 1 and Region 3 band plans. Many hams in the US may not know there

is such a thing as a Region 2 band plan. Other American hams have heard of it but may not know how -- if at all -- this band plan affects them. Read more at www.arrl.org/news/iaru-region-2-seeks-input-on-hf-band-plan.

ITU OFFERING FREE DOWNLOAD OF 2012 INTERNATIONAL RADIO REGULATIONS

The International Telecommunication Union is offering an electronic version of the 2012 International Radio Regulations (www.itu.int/pub/R-REG-RR-2012) at no charge. These regulations incorporate the decisions of the World Radiocommunication Conferences of 1995 (WRC-95), 1997 (WRC-97), 2000 (WRC-2000), 2003 (WRC-03), 2007 (WRC-07) and 2012 (WRC-12), including all Appendices, Resolutions, Recommendations and ITU-R Recommendations incorporated by reference.

While Article 25 of the International Radio Regulations defines the Amateur Radio Service, the regulations as a whole define the allocation of different frequency bands to different radio services, as well as the mandatory technical parameters to be observed by radio stations, procedures for the coordination and notification of frequency assignments made to radio stations by national governments and other procedures and operational provisions.

The free download -- as well as paper copies and a DVD -- are available in English, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, French and Russian. While the electronic version is available at no charge, the individual paper versions and the DVD containing versions in all six languages cost CHF 398 (approximately $438 USD). The free download is available through mid-2014.

From *The ARRL Letter*, February 14, 2013

FCC ADOPTS SWEEPING CHANGES TO EXPERIMENTAL RADIO SERVICE

In a Report & Order (R&O) -- FCC 13-15 -- released February 4, the FCC adopted numerous changes to its Experimental Radio Service (Part 5), revising and streamlining its rules. With the new rules, the FCC states that the Experimental Radio Service will have "a more flexible framework to keep pace with the speed of modern technological change, while continuing to provide an environment where creativity can thrive." The new rules will become effective 30 days after being published in the Federal Register. No date has yet been set for publication.

The FCC's rules contain numerous provisions for experimentation and development of new radio equipment and techniques. The R&O noted that the Experimental Radio Service rules "prescribe the manner in which the radio spectrum may be made available to manufacturers, inventors, entrepreneurs and students to experiment with new radio technologies, equipment designs, characteristics of radio wave propagation, or service concepts related to the use of the radio spectrum. To encourage innovation, the Part 5 rules provide flexibility regarding allowable frequency range, power and emissions. In exchange for this flexibility, experimental operations are not protected from harmful interference from allocated services, and Experimental Radio Service licensees must not cause harmful interference to stations of authorized services, including secondary services."

To accomplish this transition, the FCC -- through the R&O -- is creating three new types of Experimental Radio Service licenses: the Program License, the Medical Testing License and the Compliance Testing License. According to the FCC, this new license structure will "benefit the development of new technologies, expedite their introduction to the marketplace and unleash the full power of innovators to keep the United States at the forefront of the communications industry. Our actions also modify the market trial rules to eliminate confusion and more clearly articulate our policies with respect to marketing products prior to equipment certification. We believe that these actions will remove regulatory barriers to experimentation, thereby permitting institutions to move from concept to experimentation to finished product more rapidly and to more quickly implement creative problem-solving methodologies." Read more at www.arrl.org/news/fcc-adopts-sweeping-changes-to-experimental-radio-service.

From *The ARRL Letter*, February 21, 2013

AMERICAN RED CROSS TO PHASE OUT EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION RESPONSE VEHICLES

The American Red Cross has made the decision to phase out and decommission its Emergency Communication Response Vehicles (ECRVs) due to changes in technology, as well as a new satellite system and other factors regarding the vehicle fleet. "Retrofitting the decade-old vehicles with new equipment is not a good use of donated funds, as the long-term strategy is to move to more portable systems," American Red Cross Disaster Services Technology Manager Keith Robertory, KG4UIR, told the ARRL. "This is consistent with the trends in the telecom and technology industries."

The American Red Cross will be removing the Amateur Radios from the ECRVs as part of the decommissioning process. These radios will either become part of the deployable inventory or provided to the local American Red Cross chapter to build local capacity. Robertory explained that from a radio perspective, the American Red Cross has a variety of different kits for amateur, business and public safety bands covering HF, VHF and UHF with portable radios, mobile units and base stations: "Two-way radio remains a valuable tool, providing communications in the initial days or weeks of a disaster, until normal communications is restored. Each American Red Cross chapter should continue with -- and improve -- the relationship with their local Amateur Radio operators. In a disaster, Amateur Radio will be the fastest deployed radio network because operators already live in the impacted communities." Read more at www.arrl.org/news/american-red-cross-to-phase-out-emergency-communication-response-vehicles.

AMATEUR-CREATED "VARICODE" ADOPTED AS ITU RECOMMENDATION

On Tuesday, February 19, Fran?is Rancy -- Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union -- announced the simultaneous adoption and approval by correspondence of a new Recommendation entitled Telegraphic Alphabet for Data Communication by Phase Shift Keying at 31 Baud in the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services.

The alphabet -- commonly called "Varicode" because the more frequently used characters (in the English language) occupy fewer bits -- was developed by Peter Martinez, G3PLX, in the 1990s. Martinez was awarded the ARRL Technical Innovation Award for the year 2000 by the ARRL Board of Directors for his development of PSK31, which uses Varicode for transmission efficiency in much the same way as the Morse code. In ITU parlance, it now becomes Recommendation ITU-R M.2034.

Adoption of the Recommendation is the culmination of work conducted in ITU-R Study Group 5 and its Working Party 5A during 2011 and 2012. Working Party 5A is responsible for studies of techniques and frequency usage in the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services, as well as certain aspects of the land mobile and fixed services. Read more at www.arrl.org/news/amateur-created-varicode-adopted-as-itu-recommendation.

AUSTRALIAN AMATEURS MAY LOSE 2300-2302 MHZ

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA <http://www.acma.gov.au/>) -- that country's equivalent to the FCC -- has proposed changes to spectrum usage in the 2300-2302 MHz band that will make it off-limits to Australian amateurs as of 2015. The ACMA wants to re-allocate the spectrum to LTE (Long-Term Evolution) wireless data systems, the kind popularly used for mobile broadband applications. The proposed change would give LTE services 100 MHz between 2300 and 2400 MHz.

According to the Wireless Institute of Australia (www.wia.org.au/), this secondary Amateur Radio allocation is the only viable option for Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) contacts between Australia and IARU Region 2 (where the EME activity is on 2304 MHz) or Region 1 (which uses 2320 MHz). If the reallocation goes through, Australian EME activity would then be confined to 2400 MHz and above, where ISM and Wi-Fi equipment are likely to cause interference.

"Amateurs in the United States are in no immediate danger of losing 2300-2305 MHz because the use of the 2300-2400 MHz band by various radio services in this country is quite different from most of the world," explained ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "Unfortunately, our colleagues in many other countries are facing the same challenge as in Australia, as the pressure grows for commercial mobile broadband services." -- Thanks to Phil Wait, VK2ASD, and the Wireless Institute of Australia for the information

Lee's Kitchen

Greg (KF6FNA) gave the rat pack yet another reason to assemble at Lee's Kitchen for dinner. It was his birthday and we did our best to convince him, that like a fine wine, age brings out the best in life. With that as a start, the liar's club went on to best each other in all categories.

Everyone was spared the embarrassment of being the first to depart when the lights went out and we were thrown into total darkness. Luckily we had all paid our bills, so slipping out into the void went quite well. Although the entire neighborhood was inky black, the traffic lights were still working and everyone managed to get home.

Goetz K. Brandt

Brunhilde

I am the owner of an Android Smart Phone and one of its APPS is the entire function provided by GARMIN or TOM TOM. My phone actually has a satellite GPS receiver built in which makes use of GOOGLE maps and provides route planning with driving directions from a female voice I call Brunhilde. Not only does she give me street by street directions to my destination, but when I arrive, she shows me a picture of the address.

Unfortunately, there is one downside for someone like me with bad hearing. You simply can't turn up the volume enough to hear her commands. Imagine my delight when an inspiration from above provided the answer to my problem. There is a phone jack on my Android phone meant for listening to music with ear buds or headphones. I have a car radio with a tape deck into which I have inserted a cassette adaptor that allows external input to my radio. I use this to provide audio for my ICOM HF mobile rig. It didn't take much imagination to realize that the same 4mm cassette adaptor jack could plug into my phone. Now Brunhilde barks at me through the car stereo system with any volume I choose. Heck, with the windows down, I could guide a convoy through downtown Los Angeles.

Goetz K. Brandt

Mt. Umunhum

The Three Amigos, Greg KF6FNA, Clark KE6KXO and I K6GKB tagged along as Gary WB6YRU made a service call to the club BBS site atop Mt. Umunhum . The visit required coordination with Bob Arasmith N0ARY, the key keeper, who was able to open the many locked gates that prevent access to the site. A three car caravan headed up the mountain, Bob in the lead opening gates, The Three Amigos in hot pursuit and Gary bringing up the rear closing gates behind us. The road, once maintained with government money, has long ago deteriorated into a potholed, rock slide infested mess. It wanders from one ridge to another in its search of the top of the mountain. It was an empowering feeling passing all the warning signs that denied further progress along the road.

The radio site, looking toward the east

At the summit is the remnant of a military barracks which must have serviced the missing radar site. All that remains are concrete pads and strange looking frameworks, the building material long gone. The area has the look of a graveyard of previous activity.

What you see now is a forest of antenna towers, large and small, covered with every kind of antenna, dishes, verticals, beams, wires, you name it. Sprinkled around are communications huts that were once mounted on 6X6 trucks. Coax cable everywhere, snaking across the ground and disappearing into these huts. In addition there are shipping containers all over the place. Some of the commercial installations have additional fences and their own emergency power generators fueled by huge Propane tanks. The general impression is one of organized chaos.

Gary immediately went to work replacing the TNC associated with our BBS. I believe he was successful, although I hope my following the entire signal path he traced out through a jungle of equipment and finally emerging at an external antenna was not part of the debugging. It seemed to me that there was enough wire to circle the earth several times! Needless to say, I got lost at the second or third connection.

I was however successful in deploying my NVIS antenna for the Icom 706 in my Camry. You might remember that I add 30 feet of wire to the whip on the back of the car, pull it horizontally across the ground and in this case tied it off on a scraggly tree. Supposedly, straight-up, straight-down with a radius of reception about 200 miles. I made contact with Ron (KN6U) in Clear Lake who was operating remotely from his garden. Seems he modified a headset/boom mike cordless phone to operate VOX with his radio. He sounded perfectly clear and he said the same for my signal.

Bob N0ARY doing some maintenance of his own.

After some sight seeing across the several knobs that make up Mt. Umunhum we headed back down. The whole morning took place in sparkling bright sunshine with brilliant blue skies that high altitudes provide. The entire bay area was socked in tight with fog which looked like a great frozen lake from above. All the tall peaks, Mt. Hamilton, Mission peak, Mt. Diablo and even Mt. Tamalpais were sticking their heads out of the sand.

We all reassembled at the Malibu Grill & Barbeque for a late lunch and congratulated ourselves on a day well spent.

Goetz K. Brandt

Meeting Minutes

{No minutes were received by the deadline. Presumably we'll double up on this in the next edition. – Editor}

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 N0ARY
e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com

N0ARY BBS

Strictly speaking, this won't be noticed by users, but the N0ARY BBS is actively forwarding with the local emergency BBS network on its 1.25 M port. That port was down for a while due to a transmitter failure, but the old radio has been replaced and that port is back in operation.

At the same time, more work was done on the 6 M port. Some of you may have heard that we've been trying to establish a RF link to N6RME BBS on the other side of Sacramento. The link wasn't working at 9600 baud. We dropped it down to 1200 baud. The signal is better, it can be heard sometimes, but it's quite weak and the link still is not working yet. More gain is needed at both ends. (Maybe this is a candidate for the Work in Progress column!

During this maintenance run up to the site, I wasn't alone. SCCARA's "three amigos" (as Goetz calls them) tagged along. Well, I'm never alone there, this time Bob Arasmith, N0ARY escorted us up. Goetz's wrote a colorful article on their experience. (see the *Mt. Umunhum* column).

Gary WB6YRU, BBS sysop

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

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Date: 21 May 2010 11:51
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Golf Club Sign

Here is an actual sign posted at a golf club in Scottsdale, Arizona:

1. BACK STRAIGHT, KNEES BENT, FEET SHOULDER WIDTH APART.
2. FORM A LOOSE GRIP.
3. KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN!
4. AVOID A QUICK BACK SWING.
5. STAY OUT OF THE WATER.
6. TRY NOT TO HIT ANYONE.
7. IF YOU ARE TAKING TOO LONG, LET OTHERS GO AHEAD OF YOU.
8. DON'T STAND DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF OTHERS.
9. QUIET PLEASE... WHILE OTHERS ARE PREPARING.
10. DON'T TAKE EXTRA STROKES.

WELL DONE. NOW, FLUSH THE URINAL, GO OUTSIDE, & TEE OFF.

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Date: 22 Dec 2012 11:59
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: Jokes 22/11

Subject: School Children Writing About The Sea

>.. This is a picture of an octopus. It has eight testicles. (Kelly age 6)

>.. Oysters' balls are called pearls. (James age 6)

>.. If you are surrounded by sea you are an Island .. If you don't have sea all round you, you are incontinent. (Wayne age 7)

>.. Sharks are ugly and mean, and have big teeth, just like Emily Richardson. She's not my friend no more. (Kylie age 6)

>.. A dolphin breathes through an arsehole on the top of its head. (Billy age 8)

>.. My dad goes out in his boat, and comes back with crabs. (Emily Burniston age 5)

>.. When ships had sails, they used to use the trade winds to cross the ocean. Sometimes, when the wind didn't blow, the sailors would whistle to make the wind come. My brother said they would be better off eating beans. (William age 7)

>.. I like mermaids. They are beautiful, and I like their shiny tails. How do mermaids get pregnant? (Helen age 6)

>.. I'm not going to write about the sea. My baby brother is always screaming and being sick, my Dad keeps shouting at my Mum, and my big sister has just got pregnant, so I can't think what to write. (Amy age 6)

>.. Some fish are dangerous. Jellyfish can sting. Electric eels can give you a shock. They have to live in caves under

the sea where I think they have to plug themselves into chargers. (Christopher age 7)

>.. When you go swimming in the sea, it is very cold, and it makes my willy small. (Kevin age 6)

>. Divers have to be safe when they go under the water. Two divers can't go down alone, so they have to go down on each other. (Becky age 8)

>.. On holiday my Mum went water skiing. She fell off when she was going very fast. She says she won't do it again because water shot up her fanny (Julie age 7)

A new pastor was visiting in the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door. Therefore, he took out a business card and wrote "Revelation 3:20" on the back of it and stuck it in the door.

When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, "Genesis 3:10." Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter.

Revelation 3:20 begins "Behold, I stand at the door and knock."

Genesis 3:10 reads, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked."

The Funny Side of Marriage

* One woman said to another, "Aren't you wearing your wedding ring on the wrong finger?" The other replied, "Well, yes, but I married the wrong man."

* Getting married is very much like going out to a restaurant with friends. You order what you want, then when you see what the other fellow has, you wish you had ordered that.

* Marriage is an institution in which a man loses his bachelor's' degree and the woman gets her master's.

* Young Son: Is it true, Dad, I heard that in some parts of Africa a man doesn't know his wife until he marries her? Dad: That happens in most countries, son.

* A man once said, "I never knew what real happiness was until I got married; and then it was too late."

* A man took out a classified ad saying "Wife wanted". The next day he received a hundred responses saying "You can have mine."

* Some men define marriage as a very expensive way to get your laundry done free.

* And some learn that the most effective way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once.

* When a man opens the door of his car for his wife, you know that either the wife is new - or the car is.

* Husband: "You know, I was a fool when I married you." wife: "Yes, dear, but I was in love and didn't care!"

Treasurer's Treatise

Cash Flow

	12/31/2011	12/31/2012
INCOME		
Auction	230.00	0.00
Club Badges	17.50	3.50
Club Dues	1250.00	1066.00
Donation	15.11	0.00
Flea Market	2,841.15	3,164.43
Holiday Luncheon	707.00	784.00
Interest	0.34	0.00
Sale Of Assets	0.00	75.00
TOTAL INCOME	5061.10	5,092.93
EXPENSES		
AMSAT	80.00	80.00
BBS	478.86	100.70
Business Cards	151.34	43.73
Club Inc. renewal	20.00	0.00
Club Station	0.00	101.09
Equipment	0.00	2797.38
Field Day	1,229.21	417.38
Flea Market	1,625.00	1625.00
Holiday Luncheon	735.15	733.74
Insurance	200.00	200.00
Misc	79.64	0.00
Office Supply	0.00	21.89
PO Box	62.00	70.00
Postage	9.70	15.40
SCCARA-GRAM	1,586.97	1363.10
Stanford Pow Wow	40.00	0.00
Tax	50.00	0.00
Trailer Registration	10.00	0.00
Welcome Package	0.00	55.35
TOTAL EXPENSES	6357.87	7,624.76
TOTAL CASH FLOW	-1,296.77	-2,531.83

Account Balances

	12/31/2011	12/31/2012
Checking	7,017.70	4,154.67
Savings	500.07	500.07
Cash	82.45	403.65
TOTAL ACCOUNTS	7,600.22	5,058.39

Goetz, K6GKB, Treasurer

Newsletter Notes

On the *Mt. Umunhum* column, just one note of clarification: The site isn't actually on the old ex-military base. We pass through the base, the radio site is on a ridge just beyond the old base boundary. That old base will eventually be completely removed, the peak restored to its natural state, and turned into a park. Of course, that time line is in government years.

Please remember that we need input for the *Work in Progress* column started by Goetz last year. It would be nice to hear about the projects club members are doing. Some times we have a "member's night" when we go around the room showing off things we bought or built. This is the newsletter version of the same thing. Send your submissions to Goetz at goetz@ix.netcom.com.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

SCCARA
Santa **C**lara **C**ounty **A**mateur **R**adio **A**ssociation
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 (costs the club about $35/year) ☐ internet

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

Rev. 4/2/2012