

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 29, Number 5

May 2013



Prez Sez

The blank, blank people in Washington are at it again. From The ARRL Letter for April 18, 2013 we get the following paragraph:

FCC Again Denies ARRL's Petition in BPL Proceeding "In the BPL Second Order, the FCC specifically further explained its rationale for retaining the 40-dB-per-decade extrapolation factor for calculating signal decay of BPL at increasing distances perpendicular to the power line at frequencies below 30 MHz, modified the rules to increase the required "notch filtering" capability for systems operating below 30 MHz from 20 dB to 25 dB, established a new alternative procedure for determining site-specific extrapolation factors and adopted a definition for the "slant-range distance" used in the BPL measurement guidelines to further clarify its application. The FCC noted in its MO&O that as a part of the BPL Second Order, it had also rejected the "ARRL's newly raised request for mandatory notching of all amateur bands at notch depths of at least 35 dB, and found no basis that would warrant modification of the Access BPL rules or otherwise provide additional protection for the Amateur Radio Service."

That's a lot of legal speak for "we Amateurs got screwed again." It also portends other bad things for hams but first the BPL update. BPL is the residue of another we-can-get-something-for-nothing scheme. Participating power companies, mostly municipal owned, thinking because the poles and wires are already there, thought they could provide internet service to their residents without major investments in infrastructure. To do this they needed to find someone that was really stupid and didn't know anything about power lines or radio propagation. Unfortunately it wasn't hard to find the willing.

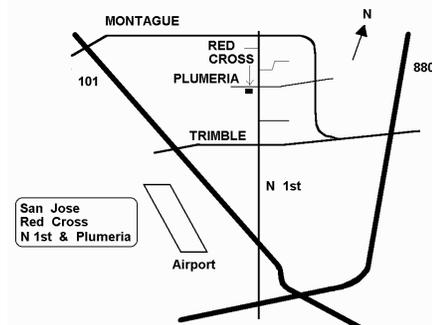
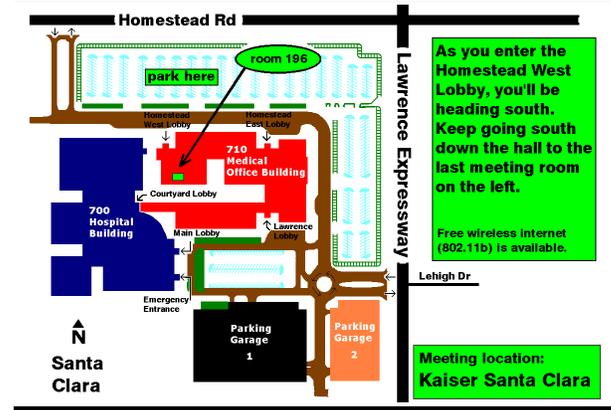
One of the major problems to the ham can be seen by any ham that has ever put up a HF antenna. Power lines and their support structures are lookalike HF antennas. With a good antenna you can be heard around the world. QRP proves it doesn't take much power. What may not be obvious is BPL occupies the whole spectrum from near DC upwards to 30 and sometimes 50 MHz. Whatever propagation that favors amateur radio also favors BPL interference. One would think BPL interference would not be allowed since the FCC's own rules clearly state unlicensed emitters may not generate harmful interference to licensed receivers. BPL is not licensed. The interference can render signals below S9 useless. Clearly, the FCC decision makers have never endured BPL interference because they have taken poetic license with the term 'harmful interference'. There are few alternatives since the BPL spectrum varies continuously and neither noise blankers, notch filters, or bandpass filters work very well on BPL

Calendar

- 5/11 DeAnza electronic flea market
- 5/13 SCCARA General Meeting
- 5/20 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting

- Day: Monday, May 13, 2013
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Rm 196
- Featuring: {to be announced}



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

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

Web page: <http://www.qsl.net/sccara>. (Webmaster: Wally Britten, KA6YMD, 408-293-3847, ka6ymd@arrl.net)

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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: 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

interference.

The ARRL sued the FCC over BPL and won many of its arguments. However the court did uphold the FCC's right to make and enforce its own regulations. Underlying the League's arguments is the concept normally practiced by the FCC called 'Good Engineering Practice' or simply good science. What makes this whole issue so egregious is the un-redacted documents opened up by the League's suit revealed the FCC's own engineers told the commission their BPL ruling did not follow good engineering practice. Who are you going to believe, the FCC Commission or the FCC Engineers?

Lest you think the FCC can be sued into accepting good science you have no further to look than to the US Supreme court ruling that said the EPA could define carbon dioxide as a pollutant. This is a great example of what is known as junk science. Carbon dioxide is an essential part of the world's food chain and the world would starve to death if all carbon dioxide were removed from the atmosphere. So much for being a pollutant and so much for thinking that you can force any governmental agency into accepting proper science.

What will it take to convince the government? Don't hold your breath. In the book "Silent Spring" published in 1962 by Rachel Carson she asserted that DDT was causing the vast decline of many of the world's bird species. The book was also widely credited with helping launch the contemporary American environmental movement. The book totally ignored the National Audubon Society's figures which did not support her claim. In 1972 Silent Spring facilitated the ban of the pesticide DDT in 1972 within the United States. The US pushed the ban worldwide by refusing to give aid to countries that used DDT.

Today the book has been completely debunked By Henry I. Miller and Gregory Conko and their book "Rachel Carson's Deadly Fantasies." The book calls her deadly because an estimated 50 million children have died from malaria since DDT was banded at a time when the mosquito that carries malaria was almost wiped out. Today Bill Gates is donating \$10 million to buy mosquito netting to save African children from malaria yet the US ban of DDT is with us for the foreseeable future.

Lest you think I have strayed far from Amateur radio remember that junk science is being used today in some places to ban cell phones and cell phone towers. Church members are being alarmed about cell phone towers installed in church steeples. Remember the average cell phone puts out less than 100 mW and the average cell tower less than 20 Watts. That's low power. What happens when your neighbor sues because he thinks your kilowatt HF rig is making him sick? Don't think junk science and greedy lawyers can't make it happen.

One more: The so called smart grid calls for solar panels on all houses. Think about all the RFI that will generate. Your power bills are being pushed up every day by junk science as well.

What can be done about junk science? Speak up whenever to hear it preached. Tell your politicians you don't appreciate them wasting money on initiatives founded in junk science. Vote down all the 'save the polar bear' propositions. The polar bears, the whales, etc. are doing fine thank you. While you are at it, ask your politicians why the billions in water bonds are not being spent on water.

Finally, I do see a light at the end of the tunnel. BPL does not work even though a lot of money has been spent trying. I think it will eventually fail because it is a bad idea founded on junk science. I think the high speed rail will fail as well but not before we waste tens of billions of dollars. Be active. Be aware and talk

to your politicians before the power hungry come for our radios.

73, Fred, AE6QL



SCCARA's Turn

De Anza Electronic Flea Market

SCCARA is sponsoring the electronics flea market at De Anza College on July 13. If you haven't been part of this noble event consider signing up for a shift helping at the food booth, gate, or with the set-up or tear-down team. This is the premier event that generates funds to sustain our club. Some of the funds are used to update our repeater, enhance our HF station at the Red Cross and replace aging hardware on the antenna trailer. A sign up sheet will be circulated at the May and June club meetings. SCCARA will have a free table for members to sell their own items. Reserve the date on your calendar and come join the fun.

Lou WA6QYS

NoARY BBS

This July the 2 m user channel of N0ARY BBS will move from 144.93 MHz to 145.09 MHz.

The BBS powers that be (what's left of them) decided that since there are fewer regular full service packet BBSs now than ever before, there really isn't a need for all 2 m channels allocated to BBS. There currently are four user channels in the 2 M band, and three BBSs in Northern CA plus one in Reno. (There are also some emergency BBSs linked to the network, but they have their own channels.) They're far enough apart and there are few enough users that all can be on the same 2 m user channel without really bothering each other. So it was decided we can easily share 145.09 MHz.

Two are already on 145.09 MHz. N0ARY is the only one in Northern CA on 144.93 and N6RME in Diamond Springs (east of Sacramento) is the only one on 145.07. Having only one BBS on a channel over such a large region doesn't make sense, that's why the move.

Note: This only is happening in the 2 m band. If you use N0ARY's 9600 baud port on 433.37 MHz, there is no change.

73, Gary WB6YRU

Repeater Report

After more than a year, the replacement repeater has landed and established itself as working. Thanks to Don (AE6PM) and John (NU6P) the controller, transceiver, power supply and tuning cavities were interconnected and tuned to perfection. The final step was getting them to their final site which was done by Lou (W6QYS) and Gregg (KF6FNA). This required Lou's Chevy Astro Van to climb a tricky stretch of unpaved road to the back of a garage, Lou having made some previous trial runs. Everything went well. The cabinet was unloaded, carefully moved to the back wall of the garage where an electrical outlet was waiting for its

arrival.

Gregg provided the hardware to strap the cabinet to the wall to ensure earthquake survival. An android phone with the "BUBBLE" app was used to align things vertically and horizontally. The coax from a previously installed antenna was connected, the power cord plugged in and a nervous flipping of switches that caused indicator lights to go on. Lou made the first contact, albeit from five feet away. There was much back slapping as the repeater did its BEEP and KERCHUNK.. Then Don gave it a try from the opposite side of the valley with equal success. The repeater has now begun its shakedown. Will keep you posted. Goetz K. Brandt

Field Day Preparation

It's time again to go through the SCCARA antenna trailer in preparation for FIELD DAY. If you would like to volunteer to help out please contact Clark Murphy ke6kxo at (408)262-9334 or Gregg Lane kf6fna at (408)393-5607. We are hoping to move the trailer to Clark's home, 1425 State St., Alviso, by Saturday, 5/03/2013. Some of the tasks include checking the crank-up tower's steel raising cables, checking tower antenna rotors and controllers (one rotor failed last year), and checking coax, cables, extension cords, and guy lines.

73 Gregg KF6FNA

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 4, 2013

FCC SEEKS TO REASSESS RF EXPOSURE LIMITS

On March 27, the FCC released a First Report and Order, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and a Notice of Inquiry (ET Docket Nos. 13-84 and 03-137). The documents seek to reassess the FCC's RF exposure limits and policies, as well as to propose changes to the FCC's rules regarding human exposure to RF electromagnetic fields. These proposed changes would affect the Amateur Radio Service (Part 97) rules.

In its Notice of Inquiry, the FCC included clarifications related to the application of occupational exposure limits for devices and at fixed transmitter sites. The FCC noted that it "should be helpful to licensees to codify our earlier adopted policy with regard the use of occupational/controlled limits at Amateur Radio stations." This policy was first established in the RF Report and Order of 1996, but it was not incorporated in the rules at that time. It allows amateur stations to be evaluated "with respect to occupational/controlled exposure limits, as long as appropriate training and information has been provided to the amateur licensee and members of his or her immediate household. Other nearby persons who are not members of the amateur licensee's household must be evaluated with respect to the general population/uncontrolled exposure limits."

"The ARRL has an RF Safety Committee, consisting of experts in the field," explained ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ; "The committee members, as well as Board members and staff are reviewing the lengthy document and will formulate a response." Read more at www.arrl.org/news/fcc-seeks-to-reassess-rf-exposure-limits.

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 18, 2013

FCC AGAIN DENIES ARRL'S PETITION IN BPL PROCEEDING

On April 16, the FCC issued a Second Memorandum Opinion and Order, denying the ARRL's December 2011 Petition for Reconsideration that sought reconsideration of the FCC's Second Report and Order, "fundamentally affirm[ing]" its rules for Access Broadband over Power Line (Access BPL) systems. In denying the ARRL's Petition, the FCC noted that the Petition "[did] not raise new arguments based on new information in the record or on the Commission's new analysis of limited points as directed by the Court, nor does it demonstrate any errors or omissions in the Commission's previous decisions," and that its previous rulings "strike an appropriate balance between the dual objectives of providing for Access BPL technology -- which has potential applications for broadband and Smart Grid uses -- while protecting incumbent radio services against harmful interference."

The ARRL made 14 principal points in its Petition, each of which was aimed at urging the FCC to enact additional rules that would permit BPL systems to operate without the severe interference potential inherent in BPL technology. The ARRL argued that the current rules do not address this severe interference potential, which was manifested in every deployment of BPL in which the safeguards urged by the ARRL were absent. The FCC dismissed all of the ARRL's arguments, claiming that the ARRL "did not submit any new information," made "no new argument" or that it had, in the Commission's view, failed to make its point.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said that full time, mandatory notching of amateur bands to a notch depth not less than 25 dB was "the least that the FCC should have required in its rules, because interference prevention is possible; post-hoc remediation is not. In this instance, the FCC has not acted responsibly in its stewardship of the MF and HF radio spectrum. The ARRL will continue to vigilantly guard against the abuse and pollution of the radio spectrum in the use of BPL technology on a case-by-case basis as necessary, wherever necessary." Read more at www.arrl.org/news/fcc-again-denies-arrl-s-em-petition-em-in-bpl-proceeding.

Pow Wow

SCCARA at Stanford Pow Wow

Mark your calendars for May 10th, 11th and 12th, Mother's Day weekend when SCCARA will have its HF station operating at the annual Stanford American Indian Pow Wow. We will be set up near the northeast corner of the Pow Wow grounds. This is the same place we have operated from in previous years. Come and participate in this club activity. We will be setting up various antennas and radios. You will be able to operate all the HF bands using the club call, W6UW. With the help of control operators. Join us Friday afternoon to install the antennas and set up the stations. Come and operate Friday evening and Saturday. Talk-in on the SCCARA repeater 146.985- PL 114.8.

Lou WA6QYS

Radio lending program

In last month's *Prez Sez* column, Fred proposed that SCCARA start a radio lending program.

We aren't the first to have something like that. The San Jose Astronomical Association. (www.sjaa.net) has a program very

much like this but with telescopes. They are lent out like library books free to members. You sign up for one of your choosing and get it when it becomes available. You then may keep it for a month, or longer if no one else is waiting for it. It's a popular program especially with new members and it attracts new people to become members.

But the devil is in the details—it will take some work and has its problems. There needs to be a property manager who oversees the program and who will instruct the borrowers on the proper use and care of the equipment. There will be maintenance. A sign-out form and agreement will need to be drafted. And there must be policies for dealing with the occasional problem such as broken or lost items, not being properly cared for, or even borrowers who leave with the goods.

If the borrower/renter needs a radio, they probably will also need an antenna... and support hardware, coax, SWR meter, power supply, etc. Do we include that stuff too? If we don't, what is the borrower supposed to do about those things?

Now, Fred mentioned renting. That won't be as popular as free lending to members (as in the SJAA program).

If we did free lending for members, we'd get more members and therefore more money in the form of dues, but that may not cover the costs of the program. Even if the radios are donated, there will be costs such as maintenance, storage, additional needed accessories, etc.

If the equipment is rented, that money could help offset the costs. If we need a storage locker, that could turn into a loss if we aren't able to keep much of it rented out.

There is another option to consider... Instead of renting or lending, we could simply make radios available for purchase. The price could be set low for beginners, and extremely low for certain members who "qualify" (whatever we decide that to mean). We wouldn't need the storage and general maintenance and management that a lending program would require. If the radios are donated and don't need significant repair or accessories, there would be little financial burden to the club.

73, Gary WB6YRU

S meter

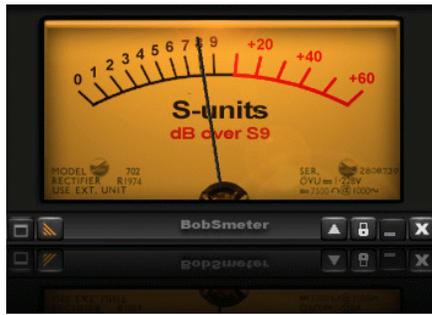
In Goetz's recent article on NVIS, he mentioned that a change made to his antenna resulted in him getting a signal report of "two extra dog biscuits on the S meter." That means 2 dB (dog biscuits). Presumably the guy meant two S units.

Some people may assume their S meter shows dB. It's an easy assumption to make since the upper scale shows dB in increments of 10. Alas, such is not the case. Each S unit represents a doubling of the received voltage, that's 6 dB per S unit. It stops at S 9. The scale *above* S 9 is given in increments of 10 dB. Two scales on the same meter... Wonderful, no?

As if that's not enough, this is assuming you have a good calibrated S meter. Most are pitifully inaccurate. I did a test with my IC-W32A handheld and found its S meter (if you can call it that), is just a little better than worthless. With an input signal of less than 0.6 μ V, there was no reading. At 0.65 μ V it read S 3. At 0.83 μ V it read S 5. At 1.1 μ V it read S 7. That's nothing like a voltage doubling per S unit. And anything above 5 μ V is full scale.

It isn't just the IC-W32A, most radios with LCD S meters are similarly poor. It appears, the scale they use has four units: weak, OK, good, and don't worry about it. And even that much is approximate.

If you have a good meter that looks more like this:



it will only give approximate S unit readings unless it can be and has been calibrated.

What if you want accuracy?

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 1 agreed on a technical recommendation for S Meter calibration for HF and VHF/UHF transceivers in 1981.

That technical recommendation defines S 9 for the HF bands to be a receiver input power of -73 dBm. That's 50 μ V at the receiver's antenna input having an impedance of 50 Ohms.

For VHF /UHF bands the recommendation defines S 9 to be a receiver input power of -93 dBm. That's 5 μ V with an input impedance of 50 ohms.

A difference of one S-unit corresponds to 6 decibels (dB), equivalent to doubling the voltage. Signals stronger than S 9 are given with an additional dB rating, thus "S 9 + 20 dB," or, verbally, "20 decibels over S 9" or simply "20 over 9."

The unit dBm is power with 600 Ohm impedance, not 50 Ohms. The dBm unit is often used to specify receiver sensitivity or received signal strength out in the field. For example, NARCC talks about keeping repeaters that are on the same frequency far enough apart so the signal from one as received at the other will not exceed some level. That level is specified in dBm.

So, *officially*, here are the two S meter charts in all their glory:

Received signal for frequencies **below** 30 MHz:

S unit	Voltage	Relative dB	Received power
S1	0.20 μ V	-48 dB	-121 dBm
S2	0.39 μ V	-42 dB	-115 dBm
S3	0.78 μ V	-36 dB	-109 dBm
S4	1.6 μ V	-30 dB	-103 dBm
S5	3.1 μ V	-24 dB	-97 dBm
S6	6.3 μ V	-18 dB	-91 dBm
S7	13 μ V	-12 dB	-85 dBm
S8	25 μ V	-6 dB	-79 dBm
S9	50 μ V	0 dB	-73 dBm
S9+10	160 μ V	10 dB	-63 dBm
S9+20	500 μ V	20 dB	-53 dBm
S9+30	1.6 mV	30 dB	-43 dBm
S9+40	5.0 mV	40 dB	-33 dBm
S9+50	16 mV	50 dB	-23 dBm
S9+60	50 mV	60 dB	-13 dBm

Received signal for frequencies **above** 30 MHz:

S unit	Voltage	Relative dB	Received power
S1	20 nV	-48 dB	-141 dBm
S2	39 nV	-42 dB	-135 dBm
S3	78 nV	-36 dB	-129 dBm
S4	16 nV	-30 dB	-123 dBm
S5	31 nV	-24 dB	-117 dBm
S6	63 nV	-18 dB	-111 dBm
S7	1.3 μ V	-12 dB	-105 dBm
S8	2.5 μ V	-6 dB	-99 dBm
S9	5.0 μ V	0 dB	-93 dBm

S9+10	16 μ V	10 dB	-83 dBm
S9+20	50 μ V	20 dB	-73 dBm
S9+30	160 μ V	30 dB	-63 dBm
S9+40	500 μ V	40 dB	-53 dBm
S9+50	1.6 mV	50 dB	-43 dBm
S9+60	5.0 mV	60 dB	-33 dBm

And *unofficially*... your actual mileage *may* vary.

Even if your S meter doesn't correctly show true S units, at least it should be consistent between readings (for whatever unit it really is showing).

So Goetz's NVIS antenna probably did significantly better than he thought.

73, Gary WB6YRU

April SCCARA meeting

Our speaker for April was Tom Schiller, formerly of Force 12 Antennas and now himself as N6BT Antennas.



After establishing himself with a history of some of his outrageous DXpeditions and their record setting successes, he began seriously discussing antenna design. He explained how his designs make use of computer modeling, sophisticated construction techniques, ideal tower deployment and extensive fine tuning only to be sent to an unknown environment to become an ALIEN antenna. His message was simple enough. The conditions at his factory are seldom duplicated at the installation site. The extent to which surrounding objects couple with an antenna and deteriorate their performance is not generally appreciated. He suggested taking SWR readings

while rotating your beam and be amazed. For those who missed his presentation, his book "ARRAY OF LIGHT," which gets consistently good reviews, would be a good place to find out what you missed.

Goetz K. Brandt

Tax Collectors

Heading west on Highway 17 my rear view mirror filled up with the flashing lights of a CHP patrol car. I had just changed lanes for my Camden Avenue exit, but couldn't imagine what I had done wrong. After coming to a stop, the officer announced, through the passenger side window of my car, that my ham antenna was blocking full view of my license plate. I had to find my insurance paper, my registration and my driver's license which all went back to his car for perusal. It took 15 minutes for his computer to give me a clean bill of health. I was given a "fixit" ticket which from years past seemed simple enough. After thirteen years of use I removed the antenna, went down to the CHP office where a delightful lady signed my ticket. She explained that I could put the ticket and a \$25 check into an envelope and the mail would take care of the rest. I don't now about you, but a fine for a fixit ticket? Think of all the taillight, headlight and cracked windshield tickets that must be issued. Where does all the money go?

Goetz K. Brandt

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, April 8, 2013



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

The SCCARA General Membership Meeting was called to order by Fred Townsend AE6QL at 19:30.

Introductions of members and quite a few guests were made.

Announcements:

Fred (AE6QL) reported that Clark (KE6KXO) is in the ICU Step-down unit at Kaiser hospital, and someone will check after the meeting if he would like visitors.

Don (AE6PM) announced the new repeater has been installed, is functioning, and is operable on backup power. To access the new repeater, change your PL code to 107.2, and disable the tone decode on receive. Only the old repeater has the club meeting announcements.

Don (K6PBQ) listed equipment his neighbor has for sale: an AR270 B 2m 440 vertical antenna + mast + tripod, a Kenwood TR-7625 transceiver, and a microphone (not with the radio). See him for details.

Lou (WA6QYS) announced that this Saturday (4/13), the Red Cross is hosting the electronic flea market at De Anza, and we should come help them out. Also, April 27 is the SVECS Quarterly breakfast: there will be further information next Monday or on the net.

Fred (AE6QL) had a suggestion for people at the flea market: A HT with a flexible antenna is ok, but attaching either a long stiff antenna or coax (for mobile use), can damage the HT connector, which can cost \$100 to get fixed. He showed an adaptor that the flea market vendor with yellow bins (next to the SVECS booth) has for \$2, and urged people to be kind to their HTs. Joe (KJ6WYO) also showed how he provides strain relief by clamping the antenna to the side of his HT. Fred suggested a ninety-degree connector on the HT, and Gregg (KF6FNA) mentioned HRO carries an HT adaptor consisting of the 90-degree connector and 4 feet of light coax with a UHF connector on the end. Fred also showed another flea market acquisition: a light pair of head phones suitable for contesting or Field Day. He noted there are 4 types of plugs (all 4 combinations of 1/4 and 1/8 inch diameter, and monaural and stereo). He had a sheet with an internet special on Sennheiser headphones.

John (W6JPP) introduced our evening's speaker: Tom Schiller N6BT, former owner of Force 12 Antennas and current owner of Next Generation Antennas. He gave a brief history of his antenna businesses, and discussed in depth proximity effects of antennas to their environment, and interactions between antennas. He also shared some DXpedition stories, and the latest updates on lightbulb antennas.

The meeting broke for refreshments at 21:10, and Tom answered questions afterwards.

Viki Moldenhauer, Secretary KI6WDS

Board Meeting, April 15, 2013



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

The SCCARA Board Meeting was called to order by Fred Townsend (AE6QL) at 19:50.

Attendance:

President: Fred Townsend AE6QL; Secretary: Viki Moldenhauer KI6WDS; Treasurer: Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Trustee: Don Village K6PBQ; Past President: Don Steinbach AE6PM; Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS; Gregg Lane KF6FNA; ; Wally Britten KA6YMD; Absences (excused): Vice President John Parks W6JPP, Directors Clark Murphy KE6KXO, Gary Mitchell WB6YRU. Visitors: David Paul AE6MV, Gwen Steirer KF6OTD;

Announcements:

The MS Walk will be April 27, as will the SVECS Quarterly Breakfast, and the Sonoma Hamfest (details at www.vomarc.org/events.html). SCCARA Field Day is June 21st to 23rd at Mt. Madonna. Pacificon (Pacific Division) is October 11-13 2013, at the Marriott Santa Clara. There have been requests for the repeater on Apr 27 for the March of Dimes walk, and on May 15 for the Golden Guardian, a CA state-wide exercise. The Visalia DX Convention is April 19-21.

Officers' Reports:

Secretary's Report: Viki (KI6WDS) read corrections to the previous minutes: in the Feb 18 Board Meeting minutes, the 1.2 m port is installed, not the 2 m; regarding the web page, the .org and .com extensions are not forwarding to the main website, so the website will be left as qsl.net. In the Mar 18 Board Meeting minutes typos were corrected. The minutes were approved as corrected. Lou (WA6QYS) requested Viki check if Charles Bilek was in the database.

Treasurer's Report: Goetz (K6GKB) had emailed in his report: checking=\$2001.68, savings=\$500.07, cash=\$295.99, total=\$2797.74. There were disbursement requests from Bob (N3FAW) for 68.03 for the laptop for the club RTTY station, and from Don (AE6PM) for 56.24 for 2 coax cables and one BNC-to-UHF adaptor. Viki moved to fulfill these reimbursement requests, Wally (KA6YMD) seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Trustee's Report: Don (K6PBQ) will have the station open on the last Saturday (Apr 27) but not until after 1pm, since he is at the MS walk until it is over. The SVECs breakfast and NARCC meetings are also the same day. Wally KA6YMD has a proxy for someone to go to the NARCC meeting: our position is against going to 12.5 KHz, since if it isn't a multiple of 5 KHz, a lot of people will have to replace equipment. Wally was committed to the MS Walk for net control and equipment; Fred and Wally and Don AE6PM will take the discussion offline to cover the NARCC meeting.

Regarding the property list Gary had distributed, Fred suggested radios for rental be broken out to a separate section. Discussion of club radio rentals included having a time limit, membership required, cost to rent, required use at Red Cross station and assistance setting up at a home station.

Vice President's Report: Fred (AE6QL) in John (W6JPP)'s absence reported that NOAA pulled their travel budget, so the May speaker Matt Mehle will send a video presentation over the internet with GoToMeeting, and will call in for live questions. Fred will work with Matt to get the presentation on DVD in case the hospital bandwidth is not high enough. Gregg (KF6FNA) will get info to Fred about Don Anastasia's satellite presentation.

Fred also reported the Valley Christian High School Field Day coordination is TBD, and that John had contacted a satellite group who will join us for Field Day.

President's Report: Fred (AE6QL) discussed Field Day programs at the GOTA station. Black drape will be used to create a theater area (hopefully adjacent to the GOTA station) for the video projector. Three major sections are envisioned with separate playlists that can be started from the computer: What is Amateur Radio, What is Field Day, and Operation with the K3/P3. We still want a separate powerpoint presentation. We also discussed a video reenactment of an exchange to assist people wanting to operate. Don Apte will do a presentation or make his studio available. Fred is also still working on bringing in youth groups. So far no one has responded.

Fred mentioned Chris Swarouth has requested use of the repeater for the Golden Guardian exercise on May 15. Also the March of Dimes requested the repeater on Apr 27: there is no conflict with the MS Walk. Lou WA6QYS will forward permission to the organizer.

Standing Committee Reports:

Newsletter: Gary (WB6YRU) emailed in a message to the Board. He has come up with a report of newsletter costs for 2012.

BBS: Gary's message reported that the 2 M user port will change in July from 144.93 MHz to 145.09 MHz; other ports remain unchanged. He will have a article in the SCCARA-gram describing this.

Gary also submitted a new property list for review. Fred will request Gary put item numbers for ease of discussion next time.

Repeater: Wally (KA6YMD) had nothing new to report.

Webpage: Wally (KA6YMD) had nothing new to report.

Special Committee Reports:

Field Day: Gregg (KF6FNA) named chairmen for Field Day: Fred AE6QL) - education and GOTA; Viki (KI6WDS) GOTA and solar; Don (K6PBQ) and Lou (WA6QYS) - CW; John (W6JPP) - satellite coordination; Wally (KA6YMD) - PIO; Don (K6PBQ) breakfast, although he will be leaving early in the afternoon. People are still needed to organize Voice and 2m stations. For the next meeting, Gregg will generate a document of who is doing what when, with blanks for where people are needed.

In light of the PARA tower incident, where the cable rusted from the inside out, replacing the cable on our tower was discussed. The manufacturer recommends changing the cable every 10 years. Gregg will get information on the cable needed.

Gregg reported that Clark OK'd using his yard for a trailer work party in May. Gregg would like a poll of who will attend. Gregg appointed Goetz to organize the rotors.

New repeater: The new repeater is now at the new location, with brackets for earthquakes. Don brought an S-meter and schematics for the receiver signal strength indicator.

Red Cross antennas: Lou and Gregg have talked to George Williams (N6NKT); the Red Cross's projects are being delayed. Lou and Gregg identified a location in a planter for the 55 foot self-supporting tubular crank-up, but this will need permits and engineering approval from the city, and inspections. Questions like who pays for the concrete need to be answered. A 30-foot telescoping mast was also discussed: George is ok but it needs 3 sets of guy wires. Also the Red Cross is re-roofing the building in the next year: everything up there needs to come down, then be put back up.

Old Business:

The SCCARA flea market is in JULY: ASVARO says the club hosting the flea market (in particular the food booth) needs to have a resale license; Goetz will check with the Board of equalization to get the requirements, and also will ask the treasurer of PARA what they are doing.

New Business: None:

Fred (AE6QL) adjourned the meeting at 21:09.

The meeting was un-adjourned at 21:13, for Lou to announce the club presence at the Stanford Powow on May 10-12, to publicize Ham Radio to the First Nations. Don (K6PBQ) approved using the club call for the event, and he will provide log sheets.

The meeting was re-adjourned at 21:15.

Viki Moldenhauer, Secretary KI6WDS

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====
Date: 19 Dec 2012 23:55
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: Jokes 19/12

Taxman

The stockbroker received notice from the IRS that he was being audited. He showed up at the appointed time and place with all his financial records,

Then sat for what seemed like hours as the accountant pored over them. Finally the IRS agent looked up and commented, "You must have been a tremendous fan of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle." "Why would you say that?" wondered the broker. "Because you've made more brilliant deductions on your last three returns than Sherlock Holmes made in his entire career..."

Book Titles

- "The Human Brain" by Sara Bellum
- "Please Don't Hurt Me" by I. Bruce Easily
- "Life Through the Eyes of a Drunk" by Al Coholic
- "Race to the Outhouse" by Will E. Makit (illustrated by Betty Wont)
- "The Proper Use of Sunscreens" by Justin Casey Burns
- "How To Cure Scratching" by Ivan Awfulich
- "Discount Alternatives" by Robin Stuff
- "How To Save Time" by Terry A. While

=====
Date: 17 Dec 2012 23:55
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: Jokes 17/12

Airline Ticket

A customer called the airline's reservation office to pay for his ticket with a credit card. The reservation specialist asked him "Would you please spell the name as it appears on the card sir?"

The customer carefully replied "V-I-S-A."

Zoo Trip

Little Johnny wanted to go to the zoo and pestered his parents for days. Finally his mother talked his reluctant father into taking him.

"So how was it?" his mother asked when they returned home. "Did you and your father have a good time?"

"Yeah Daddy especially liked it " exclaimed Little Johnny excitedly, "especially when one of the animals came home

at 30 to 1!"

Bad Resume Examples

These are real examples from real resumes:

Reasons For Leaving Last Job

- Responsibility makes me nervous.
- They insisted that all employees get to work by 8:45 every morning. Couldn't work under those conditions.
- Was met with a string of broken promises and lies as well as cockroaches.
- I was working for my mom until she decided to move.
- The company made me a scapegoat -- just like my three previous employers.

Job Responsibilities

- While I am open to the initial nature of an assignment I am decidedly disposed that it be so oriented as to at least partially incorporate the experience enjoyed heretofore and that it be configured so as to ultimately lead to the application of more rarefied facets of financial management as the major sphere of responsibility.
- I was proud to win the Gregg Typing Award.

Special Requests and Job Objectives

- Please call me after 5:30 because I am self-employed and my employer does not know I am looking for another job.
- My goal is to be a meteorologist. But since I have no training in meteorology I suppose I should try stock brokerage.
- I procrastinate -- especially when the task is unpleasant.

Physical Disabilities

- Minor allergies to house cats and Mongolian sheep.

Personal Interests

- Donating blood. 14 gallons so far.

Small Typos That Can Change the Meaning

- Education: College August 1880-May 1984.
- Work Experience: Dealing with customers' conflicts that arouse.
- Develop and recommend an annual operating expense fudget.
- I'm a rabid typist.
- Instrumental in ruining entire operation for a Midwest chain operation.

=====
Date: 21 May 2010 11:55

From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Dangerous Dog

Upon entering the little country store, the stranger noticed a sign saying DANGER! BEWARE OF DOG! posted on the glass door. Inside he noticed a harmless old hound dog asleep on the floor beside the cash register.

He asked the store manager, "Is THAT the dog folks are supposed to beware of?"

"Yep, that's him," he replied.

The stranger couldn't help but be amused. "That certainly doesn't look like a dangerous dog to me. Why in the world would you post that sign?"

"Because", the owner replied, "before I posted that sign, people kept tripping over him."

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

A report on the SCCARA-GRAM costs for 2012 was given to the board. The minutes of the last board meeting mention that fact, but for some reason the report itself wasn't included. Normally I wouldn't worry about publishing it, but some of the membership can help. So, here it is:

SCCARA-GRAM costs for 2012

Copying: \$1225.82 (\$2.554 average for one newsletter)
Postage: \$137.28
Total: \$1363.10

480 newsletters were printed, 40 each month.
312 newsletters were mailed, 26 each month.
168 were handed out, 14 each month (a couple for the archives).

For each address receiving the mailed paper newsletter:

Postage: \$5.28
Newsletter: \$30.65
Total cost: \$35.93

There were 26, that's a total of: \$934.18

For each electronic newsletter:

Total cost: \$0

The dues were \$20 regardless. So the club effectively gave a \$16 subsidy to those who want the mailed paper newsletter.

Lou's article (above) asks for volunteers to help SCCARA with our annual turn hosting the electronic flea market. This is how we make up the difference. So if you are able to help out, please do.

If you get the paper newsletter mailed and you could download the electronic version, that would be an enormous help. You can change that option at any time, just use a SCCARA membership form, fill in your name, call, e-mail address, and check the box for electronic delivery. When the electronic version is ready, you'll receive an e-mail notice with a link to the PDF file. That link merely points to the file on our web site, so you can also get it just by visiting the SCCARA web site. (The new issue is usually ready one week prior to the general meeting.)

We can also reduce the number of printed copies available to be handed out. That will have a smaller effect, but I'll work on that.

Now, some of you may be thinking that we could reduce the printed newsletter cost by cutting down on the number of color pages, and that's absolutely correct. However, I get the most complements on the newsletter when it has a lot of color photos. Obviously it isn't me, it's the color photos that are responsible. And I've been told many times that people like color. So, in our efforts to cut costs, let's be careful not to cut quality.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor



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.