

# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 29, Number 8

August 2013



## Prez Sez

First, I want to announce the results of Field Day. We made about 1700 points whereas last year it was about 2200 points. Sounds worse but I think it was better. I'll tell you why down the page.

The use of the Internet is highly encouraged for FD entries. It's an easy sell for me since I have been an early adopter of e-mail. It saves trees, time, and money. The trouble is you only get the 50 bonus points if you use their web application for entry. Here is the rub. Even when you use the web app you still have to e-mail in the eighteen pages of supporting documentation. Even worse their web app usually doesn't work!

Every year I prepare a full 20 page e-mail entry and then try the web app. When the web app fails I email in the full entry claiming my 50 points for trying their app. Last year I sent off a three page complaint and copied our director. I got a defensive reply from the League that implied it was my fault. I was going to counter reply saying, "Look here I invented the Internet and it isn't supposed to work this way." I guess you know where that got Al Gore so I gave it up.

Maybe I was heard. This year there was a brand new app that worked like an app should. It accepts the entry, notes the time, cross checks the information, and emails a receipt. What a great idea. I wish I thought of that. Well I did but it fell on deaf ears until this year. Congratulations ARRL. Now if they could just write some decent instructions on how to use the app with maybe an outline of the whole process including a check list.

I suggested to Gregg that a KISS antenna plan would be appropriate for FD. One of the many problems with antennas is that in a small area there is no way from keeping the antennas from interfering with each other. This leads to what is called RFI, Radio Frequency Interference. It's miserable for any operator but becomes totally baffling to the GOTA operator. Any antenna plan needs to keep the potential for RFI in mind. One of the most common antennas is the dipole. It is a resonate antenna that presents approximately 62 Ohms at the feed point over a fairly narrow range of frequencies. That presents a reasonable match for either 50 or 75 Ohm coax. It's not elegant but s it's cheap and easy to assemble. A forty meter dipole can be used at 15 meters but that's about all the multi-banding you can do.

For multiband operation you can use a fan dipole which is really a collection of dipoles using a common feed line. They are difficult to tune and are easily disturbed by wind.

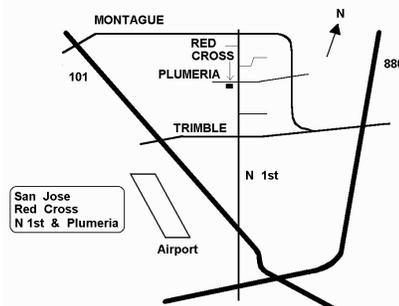
The club has two beams for 10, 15, and 20 meters. The antennas work well but the traps consume power and the tri-banders must be placed on separate platforms or towers. They are also directional so they must be rotated. Even with rotation you always miss signals off the side of a Yagi.

## Calendar

- 8/10 DeAnza electronic flea market
- 8/12 SCCARA General Meeting
- 8/17 SCCARA Picnic Marry Gomez Park
- 8/19 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

## General Meeting

- Day: Monday, August 12, 2013  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Rm 196  
Featuring: Rich Harrington KN6FW on satellite communications.



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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

Several years ago I obtained a Windom antenna for the club. Like a dipole it is a wire antenna but that's about all they have in common. The Windom is OCF, meaning it is not fed in the middle of the wire. Rather one leg is twice the length of the other so the feed point is off center. The Windom is non-resonate so it covers a lot of bands. Our Buxxcom Windom is rated for 80 through 6 meters. Being non-resonate it is less susceptible to RFI but does require either a 4:1 or 6:1 balun. Strangely it is also omnidirectional so you don't miss the signals off the ends. The Windom does require an antenna tuner.

This year, excepting VHF, we used the tri-band beam and a Windom for phone stations and a vertical for CW-digital. RFI was at a minimum because everyone was on a different band at any one time.

I think the GOTA station had more operators than any other station and most were women. It was certainly nice to see long time members like former president Barbara, KD6QEI making contacts. Lest we forget there was also Debbi working the phone station too. This alone I think makes this one of the most successful Field Days in recent memory.



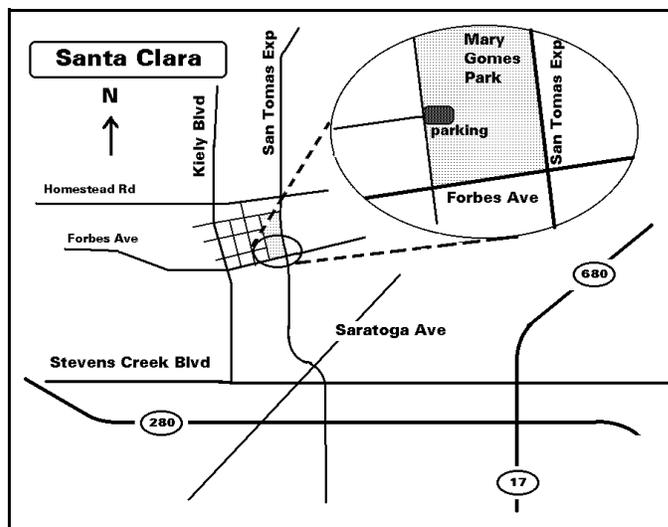
73, Fred, AE6QL

**Picnic Time**

The SCCARA picnic this year will be on Saturday August 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am until 4:00pm or so, at Mary Gomez park in Santa Clara. Its located at the north west corner of San Tomas Expressway and Forbes. Enter from the west side go west on Forbes north on Bucher. Then right into the small parking lot(see the map below).

We will have a HF radio set-up for a miniature field day. Edward, Sheryl, Gwen, and Lou will be running our Bingo Game. Please bring a gift or two for prizes.

The club will provide sodas, plates, utensils, condiments, and charcoal. SCCARA does have some hot dogs and hot links. Please bring your own meat if you want and a dish to share.



73, Don Village K6PBQ

# SCCARA's flea market

Our club's sponsorship of the Electronics Flea Market at De Anza College was a huge success. The membership, realizing that this was the premier fund raising event....correction, the only fund raising event for the club, gave selflessly of their time. A big thank you to all who came at 0400 in the morning, the ones that stayed past 1400 helping with the clean up and of course the ones that were there in between. The proceeds from the vendors was \$2850, the profit from the food sales was in excess of \$600 and we garnered \$262 from our electronics sales table. It was a welcome infusion of money into our coffers.

The event did not come off as smoothly as before. After having placed our 32 dozen donut order earlier in the week, I received a call from the baker at 10:30 PM Friday (the night before the Flea Market) that he was experiencing a power outage. When asked the obvious, he said, "No power, no donuts." Gwen and I went to investigate and found a PG&E truck leaving the shopping center as we approached. Instead of dark buildings we expected, we saw the bright storefronts and yes, hallelujah, even at the Donut Store. There had been an interruption of electric service in excess of 2 hours. We checked with the baker and he reassured us that the donuts would be ready. Gwen then canceled the emergency donut order of 10 dozen she had managed to make elsewhere. It sure was an exciting night.

Thanks to all the volunteers who came together for SCCARA and made the Flea Market a success. Next year we will host the Flea Market in August.

73, Lou WA6QYS

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## NOARY BBS

Just a quick reminder that this is the month when the BBS's 2 m user port switches to 145.09 MHz. Exactly when is hard to say, it depends on when I can get up to the site. Just continue using the old frequency, 144.93 MHz. When you can't connect, then use 145.09 MHz.

73, Gary WB6YRU

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## Field Day 2013

I would like to thank all of the people WHO helped make Field Day a success this year. Planning and preparation started long before June. Lou (WA6QYS) and Gwen (KF6OTD) planned menus and braved Costco crowds in order to fill ice chests with food and drink. Don (K6PBQ) planned and purchased food for the great breakfast that he cooked. As mentioned in a precious article, the antenna trailer and equipment were inspected and new steel cables installed on the crank up towers with the help of Dennis (KJ6ZZJ), Lou (WA6QYS), John (W6JPP) and Clark (KE6KXO). The CW station had RTTY and PSK31 thanks to Bob (N3FAW) and used an antenna loaned to SCCARA by Lou. The UHF/VHF station, run by Lloyd (KD6FJI) had a beam this year provided by John (W6JPP) as well as the usual vertical.

Viki (KI6WDS) ran the hugely successful GOTA station and also provided the solar power for extra points. Fred (AE6QL) provided his Elecraft K3 and Panadapter for use at the GOTA station. Wally (KA6YMD) and Barbara (KD6QUI) spent the night on Friday to help watch SCCARA's equipment as well as setting up the information booth and First Aid station. Terese Nemeth provided publicity through radio station KKUP.

This year we had extra power for a coffee pot and a

microwave oven thanks to the donated use of a 20kw generator by Dennis (KJ6ZZJ). Rusty (KI6ZSK) provide is much needed PU truck for moving equipment. Bill (AG6EM) made sure the UHF/VHF station had a working beam this year. Gary (WB6YRU) was invaluable using his experience of many past Field Days to help organize and direct the set-up volunteers.

Clark (KE6KXO) provided a BBQ, and food cooked by John (AJ6BC) was delivered to the radio operators by his daughter Johnali (who also did well as a GOTA operator.)

Field Day was successful due to the help and participation of all involved.

### FIELD DAY ANTENNAS

This year, due to flooding of the Field Day site, we down sized our antenna farm. Thanks to the help and experience of the set-up crews, all antennas went up without a hitch.



The CW/Digital HF station used an antenna provided by Lou (WA6QYS). It was a Butternut Vertical (10-80m). It was set up to the east of the CW station in a landscaped area with about 35' clearance from surrounding chain link fences and overhead phone lines. Connection to the station was made with approximately 100' of coax. Since this antenna is usually in Lou's backyard with the radials buried in the lawn, we had a radial cutting party at Clark's house and cut 4 new radials per band from

a reel of #18 copper wire bought at Weird Stuff.

The GOTA station shared two antennas with the HF Phone station. A Mosley Jr. 10/15/20m beam was set on the 55' antenna trailer tower. It was only raised to 45' due to strong winds. We had a horizontal clearance of 35' to a chain link fence, and about 30' clearance to the end of a windom wire antenna. There was also a 2m/440 beam 30' below the Mosley.



The other antenna that the GOTA station shared with the

HF Phone station was a Windom (10-80m) . Fred (AE6QL) used his tennis ball launcher to suspend the western end of the antenna from a palm tree. The balun of the antenna was supported by a fiberglass mast set in a drive-on base, using the generator trailer to secure the mount. The eastern end of the antenna was suspended from a mast secured to the "TAJ MAHOL" porta poti.

The Mosley beam was the better antenna for 10/15/20m . The Windom had the advantage of adding 40/80m, but had a higher noise level, possibly due to being run above the generator at 35' above grade.



The UHF/VHF station had a cushcraft 2m/440 vertical mounted on the mast above the Mosley beam at 48'. We also used the front leveling jack of the antenna trailer to secure a drive on base so that we could set a 2m/440 beam at 15' with a TV rotor. This provided

30' distance from the Mosley Jr. If the wind had died down, we could have raised both the mosley and 2m/440 beams for better results.

For satellite communication an arrow 2m/440 hand held beam was used. The beam was rotated along it's axis when in use to try and match the constantly changing polarization of the satellite antenna.

Hopefully next year we will be able to put up at least 2 HF beams and another wire antenna for 40/80m. If you would like to help with the antenna farm design for next year's Field Day, let one of the board members know at a SCCARA meeting.

73, Gregg KF6FNA

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## ARRL News

From *the ARRL Letter*, July 11, 2013

### ARRL TO FCC: CHANGES TO ENCRYPTION RULES NOT NECESSARY

The ARRL is calling on the FCC to deny a Petition for Rule Making (RM-11699) seeking to permit the encryption of certain amateur communications during emergency operations or related training exercises. Don Rolph, AB1PH, of East Walpole, Massachusetts, petitioned the Commission in March to suggest an additional exception to 97.113, which currently prohibits "messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning."

"While Mr Rolph has concisely stated his argument, it is ARRL's considered view that there is no factual or legal basis for the assumption that encryption of transmissions...is necessary in order to continue and enhance the utility of Amateur Radio emergency and disaster relief communications," the League said in its comments filed July 8 with the FCC. The ARRL also turned away Rolph's assertion that the current prohibition in 97.113 "has impacted the relationship of Amateur Radio volunteers and served agencies and significantly limited the effectiveness of amateurs in supporting emergency communications." The League said it's unaware of any evidence that served agencies have been reluctant to utilize Amateur Radio as part of their emergency or disaster relief communications plans because of the encryption restrictions in Part 97. The Amateur Service rule is based on a similar prohibition in international telecommunication law, the ARRL noted.

The League characterized as "erroneous" and "unfounded" Rolph's assumption that encryption of certain information may be required under the provisions of HIPAA -- the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. The League also said it was unaware of any instance in which state statutes have been cited by any served agency or group as a reason not to employ Amateur Radio for emergency communication.

Radio amateurs, the ARRL countered, are not "covered entities" under HIPAA, which applies only to health care providers, health plans and health care clearinghouses. And, the League added, there is no expectation of privacy in Amateur Radio communications.

More than 200 comments were filed on RM-11699, most of them tending to support the ARRL's arguments.

### CQ WORLD WIDE DX CONTEST RULES GET COMPLETE REWRITE

The sponsor of the CQ World Wide DX Contest, arguably the premier events of the contest season, has completely rewritten the contest

The CQ WW SSB takes place October 26-27, the CW event November 23-24.

rules, effective with this fall's SSB and CW weekends (RTTY is not affected). "The CQ WW DX Contest rules have evolved for over 50 years," said Contest Manager Randy Thompson, K5ZD, in announcing the updates July 1.

"Changes in technology, operating practices and enforcement efforts caused the rules to become increasingly complex." The primary goal of the rewrite, he said, was "to make the rules simpler and easier to understand." The rewrite already has generated considerable online discussion.

One change offers a "Classic Overlay" category for single-operator, all-band entries. "The Classic Overlay category is intended for the radio purists who want to participate in the most traditional way," Thompson explained. Entrants will use a single radio and operate without outside assistance, and only the first 24 hours of actual operating time will count toward the operator's score. Also new is a "Rookie Overlay" category for operators licensed 3 years or less. The CQ WW is doing away with the "Xtreme Contesting" and "Team Competition" categories, and "Checklog" is now listed as a noncompetitive entry category.

The rewrite creates two categories of Club Competition -- US and DX. Entrants must log contacts as they occur and may not edit their logs after the contest ends. The updated rules also address "unsportsmanlike conduct," such as having an excessive bandwidth, and disqualifications. "Red and Yellow cards have been removed in favor of one action -- disqualification," Thompson noted.

### CANADA SEEKS NEW 472-479 KHZ HAM BAND

Canada has proposed creating a new MF Amateur Radio band at 472-479 kHz. The 7 kilohertz sliver of spectrum would be available to hams on a secondary basis. The new 630 meter band was proposed in a Consultation released in June by Industry Canada, the nation's radiocommunication regulator. It proposed numerous revisions to Canada's table of allocations warranted in the wake of World Radiocommunication Conference 2012 (WRC-12). Last year the ARRL asked the FCC in 2012 to carve out the same band for US hams.

"It is good to see the progress that our neighbors to the north are making in implementing the new 472-479 kHz amateur allocation," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. "We hope the FCC will act soon on the petition that the ARRL filed on November 29, 2012, to achieve this goal for amateurs in the United States."

Newfoundland LF/MF enthusiast Joe Craig, VO1NA, says he's looking forward to making many domestic and even transatlantic contacts -- and eventually American amateurs -- on 630 meters. "I am happy to learn that we are a step closer to getting the new 472-479 kHz band," he told ARRL. Craig believes the new band will appeal to a wider group of hams than the more-demanding LF allocations. "Transatlantic QSOs, though challenging, should be fairly common using conventional CW and digital modes," he predicted. "You will probably have to homebrew your transmitter, but many new HF transceivers can receive on 472 kHz."

Last November the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (ET Docket 12-338) proposing the creation of a new LF ham band at 135.7 to 137.8 kHz. Canadian hams already have such an allocation.

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From *the ARRL Letter*, July 18, 2013

### HAARP FACILITY SHUTS DOWN

The High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) -- a subject of fascination for many hams and the target of conspiracy theorists and anti-government activists -- has closed down. HAARP's program manager, Dr James Keeney at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico, told ARRL that the sprawling 35-acre ionospheric research facility in remote Gakona, Alaska, has been shuttered since early May.

"It comes down to money," Keeney said. "We don't have any." Keeney said no one is on site, access roads are blocked, buildings are chained and the power turned off. HAARP's website through the University of Alaska no longer is available; Keeney said the program can't afford to pay for the service. "Everything is in secure mode," he said, adding that it will stay that way at least for another 4 to 6 weeks.

HAARP put the world on notice two years ago that it would be shutting down and did not submit a budget request for FY 15, Keeney said, "but no one paid any attention." Now, he says, they're complaining. Keeney says he's already had inquiries from Congress, and universities that depended upon HAARP research grants also are upset. The only bright spot on HAARP's horizon right now is that the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is expected on site as a client to finish up some research this fall and winter.

The proximate cause of HAARP's early May shutdown was less fiscal than environmental, Keeney said. As he explained it, the diesel generators on site no longer pass Clean Air Act muster. Replacing them to meet EPA standards will run \$800,000.

Jointly funded by the US Air Force Research Laboratory and the US Naval Research Laboratory, HAARP is best known for its 3.6 MW HF (approximately 3 to 10 MHz) ionospheric research instrument (IRI), feeding an extensive system of 180 antenna elements and used to "excite" sections of the ionosphere. Other onsite equipment is used to evaluate the effects.

Larry Ledlow, N1TX, of Fairbanks, Alaska, said HAARP ionosonde and riometer data have been "invaluable, especially being more or less local, to understand current conditions in the

high latitudes." He said data from other sites "simply do not accurately reflect the unique propagation we endure here."

To fill the gap, Ledlow said, several members of the Arctic Amateur Radio Club -- including Eric Nichols, KL7AJ, author of Radio Science for the Radio Amateur and articles in QST -- have discussed building their own instruments. "It's all very preliminary," he said, "but we really feel the pinch losing HAARP." Nichols, of North Pole, Alaska, has conducted experiments at HAARP. He called the shutdown "a great loss to interior Alaska hams and many others."

HAARP is home to the most powerful radio transmitter in the world. (US Navy photo)

The ultra-high power facility long has intrigued hams, even outside of Alaska. In 1997, HAARP transmitted test signals on HF (3.4 MHz and 6.99 MHz) and solicited reports from hams and short-wave listeners in the "Lower 48" to determine how well the HAARP transmissions could be heard to the south. In 2007 HAARP succeeded in bouncing a 40 meter signal off the moon. Earlier this year, HAARP scientists successfully produced a sustained high-density plasma cloud in Earth's upper atmosphere.

As things stand, the Air Force has possession for now, but if no other agency steps forward to take over HAARP, the unique facility will be dismantled, Keeney said.

Splashy web postings abound, blaming HAARP for controlling the weather -- most recently in the case of Hurricane Sandy and the spate of tornados -- and for causing other natural disasters. Quipped Keeney, "If I actually could affect the weather, I'd keep it open."

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## Field Day 2013!

After much angst and deliberation, Field Day was again held in Alviso. This year our site was partially underwater, so some site redesign for antenna layout was required. Gregg KF6FNA can do this on the fly now, so I understand he'll cover that in another article. I'll give an overview of the weekend's events, as seen from the perspective of the GOTA station organizer.



Our erstwhile Stink Island antenna site, still underwater this year

Sometime on Friday morning, people gathered at Clark's KE6KXO house to load up the trailer. (I had been told to be in for work in the afternoon, but after I got in I was told the meeting was postponed, so I high-tailed it to Clark's just after 1pm). It had just been discovered that the rotor controller cables had pulled out of the rotor base, evidently during the tower cable replacement. While raising the sections to while replacing the cables, a connector in the controller cable got caught on a tower section and pulled the fitting out of the bottom of the rotor; the controller cable was stronger than the terminal block in the bottom of the rotor. Next time, and definitely before the trailer leaves Clark's yard, we should test the rotor while the tower is down and we can use Clark's 120V to power the controller. In the event, the rotor was removed before transporting the trailer to the site, so the rest of set-up could proceed in parallel with finding a new rotor or replacing this one.

crank-up done to confirm the guy line lengths and anchor points. The heaviest guy lines go on the lowest section, since they are loaded up with tension first, and unloaded last.



Supervising loading the trailer at Clark's (Jerry N6SWC, Gary WB6YRU, Bob N3FAW, Clark KE6KXO)



Disassembly of the trailer begins: Gary WB6YRU, Bill AG6EM, and Lou WA6QYS



Site begins to take shape: test flight of the tower, to the right of which will be the SSB, UHF/VHF and GOTA stations: the digital station will be about where the green van is. Photo taken from where Wally's KA6YMD welcome station is.



Compressing the tower so it doesn't poke a hole in the back of the camper shell. Note the missing rotor: the connectors pulled out during an earlier work session. Lou WA6QYS, Bill AG6EM, Gregg KF6FNA.

Meanwhile, the Mosley 10-20 M Beam antenna was laid out on the pavement nearby, and the annual search for the appropriate element screws commenced. I think we need a different approach than the coffee can with accumulated hardware in. Also over the years some of the holes where the segments of the elements meet have enlarged, so different sizes of screws are needed in different places. We should revisit this. Perhaps we could standardize on screw sizes, and then store them in the element tubes. However, this year we almost followed the illustration in the antenna manual and assembly went fairly well.

After the harrowing 3-block drive to the site, the trailer was unloaded enough to free the tower, and guy lines were attached to the tower sections, so the tower could be rotated vertical and a trial



Assembling the beam: coffee can-o-parts, Viki KI6WDS, Lou WA6QYS (photo by Teresa Nemeth)

When complete, the beam was attached to the top of the tower (which was again horizontal), and which by now had a different rotor installed, and then the UHF/VHF Vertical mounted on the very top.



Attaching beam to tower; rotor replaced. Lou WA6QYS, Dennis KJ6ZZJ, Lloyd KD6FJI



Wally KA6YMD attaching vertical to top of tower

Then the tower was again rotated vertical, guy lines with pulleys attached, and the middle and upper sections were lifted (although not all the way yet, out of respect for the anticipated wind).



Beam and vertical on top of tower before extending height

This year, new member Dennis KJ6ZZJ arranged for the club to use a 20KW generator and scatter box (power distribution box) which greatly simplified operating and increased safety (no shutdowns for refueling) and allowed luxuries such as a coffeepot and microwave.



Our magnificent generator from Dennis KJ6ZZJ



And the power distribution box



Fred AE6QL got to use his pneumatic launcher to send one end of the Windom 10-80 M wire antenna over the nearby palm tree, and we put up Lou's WA6QYS vertical 10-80M HF antenna in a patch of ice plant. (See the details in Gregg's article.) I think we got all our antennas up before dark.

Fred AE6QL readies his pneumatic launcher. (photo by Teresa Nemeth)



Field Day site at dawn Saturday



On Saturday morning, Don K6PBQ showed up at 6am to organize his wonderful traditional pancake breakfast. People showed up to eat pancakes and sausages which Don produced for hours in spite of the Coleman stoves constantly flaring up like the Olympic torch. After people ate their fill and visited over breakfast, station setup resumed.

Don K6PBQ makes hot pancakes and sausages to fuel people for the day. (photo by Teresa Nemeth)

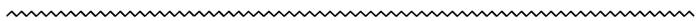


Local resident "inspects" an antenna element (I copied the call as Kee-Kee)

Wally KA6YMD, Barbara KD6QEI, Gregg KF6FNA, and Viki KI6WDS stayed overnight (I kept having to run home morning and night to medicate the cat) to keep watch over the equipment: all was quiet, and even beautiful. Other than one guy from across the street, the local residents seemed ok with us being there, and several stopped by to chat. One made a closer inspection of the guy lines and then flew off satisfied.



K3 for GOTA station during setup



Fred AE6QL brought out his K3 for the GOTA station. I was determined to have the GOTA station ready for business by the 11am start time, to make up for my delays last year, and almost succeeded. A mic setting glitch on the K3 made the transmitter appear non-operational, so a quick substitution to the FT-857 backup was made, but after helping get the other stations set up and before getting any GOTA visitors, Fred restored the right setting, and gave me a short run-through of how to operate it. Between that and the viewgraphs he had prepared, I learned enough to assist our licensed GOTA operators, although thankfully Fred was always nearby to rescue us.

The entire day is somewhat a blur for me, as Clark KE6KXO and Wally KA6YMD brought visitors over in a fairly steady stream, and sometimes too fast. The theatre would have been useful to keep people engaged and learning while waiting for a chance to operate. As it was, I felt that the time it took to explain the basic package of information was too long - other people waiting got bored or had to leave, but the time to convey the concepts couldn't really be sped up.

Gwen KF6OTD helped get the station going with a contact early in the day. We had local neighbors (Robert), returning visitors from last year (Danny KK6EYV), and new people who just stopped by (Cathy, Jeff, Jim, Shohei, Albert KK6EFO), many of whom were willing to invest the time to absorb enough new information to try getting on the air. We ended up with 13 different people making contacts, so I got a lot of practice, although possibly the later people didn't get as long a version of the basic information. Fred's idea of having a video of the introductory information seems like a really good idea.



Ben KK6CCU operates the K3 at the GOTA station Saturday evening, racing through 20 contacts (love it when the GOTA station gets the beam antenna!

Johnali, who had gotten to try a couple of contacts earlier, got to watch Ben operate and caught some of his enthusiasm, and she came back for another session. It really helped that the GOTA station had the beam antenna during this time, as many signals could be heard. By dark, the wind was the near-gale familiar from last year. We had stacked unused tables vertically on the trailer to block the wind from coming through the trailer, but forgot about *under* the trailer. Cold air off the water blew up from under the GOTA station table into the faces of the operators. Johnali and I huddled under my sleeping bag, and she toughed it out for a total of 10 contacts. Teresa also fought the cold and wind to make 12 contacts. Barb KD6QEI who has been working too much and has not been on HF at all for years came and made 24 contacts all through the night on Wally's shift.



Ah the gentle afternoon breeze arrives on Saturday (photo by Teresa Nemeth)

At some point late in the afternoon, an angel named Johnali brought food over to the people at the stations, so we didn't have to interrupt operations. So I know the barbecue was going, but I didn't really have time to visit with people while eating. Over the dinner hour, the afternoon breeze had strengthened and the canopies at the trailer actually achieved liftoff: in the sudden gusts we had people clinging onto the frames until we could tie concrete blocks and stray heavy objects to them.

About the time night fell on Saturday, Ben KK6CCU showed up, and he and operating really clicked; when he heard about the bonus points for 20 contacts, he raced through 20 contacts in the short time he had before he had to leave, which got us 40 points.



Johnali and Viki KI6WDS keeping warm at the GOTA station Saturday night



Wally KA6YMD and Barbara KD6QEI operate the GOTA station in the wee hours Sunday morning.

The K3 was the star of the weekend. I am very grateful that Fred so generously made it available for the GOTA station. Even in the little bit that I got to play with it, I used filter features to make the signal clearer and easier for people to hear. The panadaptor takes some getting used to, but it really helps find a new contact, especially when working with newcomers who aren't used to the time it can take to look for a signal, and most especially when on any other antenna than the beam. There was a marked (dare I say stunning) difference in the number of signals heard on the beam vs. the various wire antennas. I'm sure the K3 picked up signals my 857 wouldn't have. The whole experience sets up a potentially very expensive dilemma for me in the future.

As I mentioned, I was over-occupied by the GOTA station for the entire weekend. I knew other things were happening, but didn't get to go check them out:

I knew Mike N9OHW showed up and tried to work satellites with John AJ6BC, but I don't know if they made a contact from the pileups. They only had 5 watts out of the Yaesu 817. (I didn't even get to meet Mike – hi, Mike!



James AJ6BC and Mike N9OHW look for satellite contacts Saturday night with the Arrow 2M/440 handheld beam

Our Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio W6RGG and Section Manager Brandon Bianchi NI6C stopped by in the wee hours to visit, but I didn't get to chat with them; I barely got their pictures.



Fred AE6QL, Bob W6RGG, and Brieuc KG4TSR at the SSB station Saturday night



Lou WA6QYS, Brandon Bianchi NI6C, and Mike N9OHW operating at the digital station Sunday morning

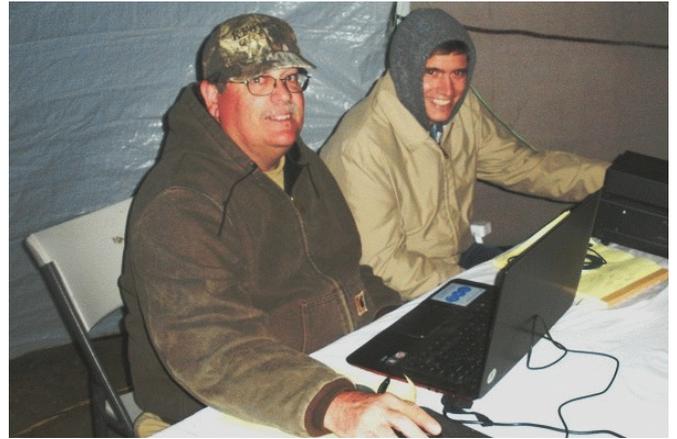
I think Mike N9OHW spent most of the night working the digital station, where Bob N3FAW had set up a RTTY and PSK31 rig, but I didn't get to watch either of them in operation. Don K6PBQ also made CW contacts at this station.

I only got a quick picture of the UHF/VHF station, which was right next to the GOTA station. The SSB station, just past the UHF/VHF station, was busy too.

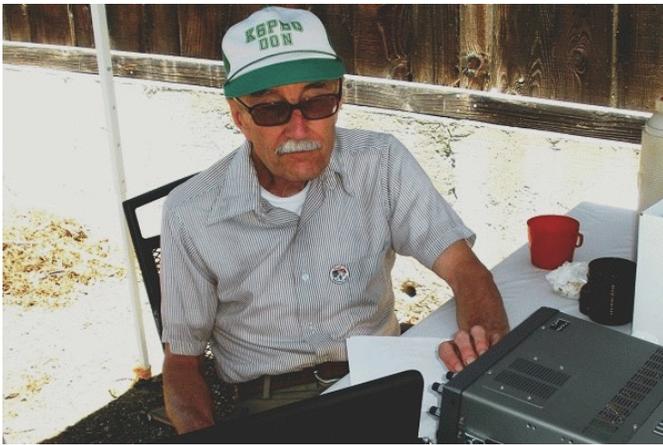
Wally had set up an information booth by his van, with a white board for station status, and ARRL and club handouts.



Bob N3FAW wraps up at the digital station Sunday morning, with Lloyd KD6FJI and an unknown-to-me visitor looking on.



Gregg KF6FNA logging and Briec KG4TSR operating at the SSB station Saturday night (photo by Teresa Nemeth)



Don K6PBQ operating at the digital/CW station (photo by Teresa Nemeth)



Our porta-palace, Wally's KA6YMD information booth, and the generator

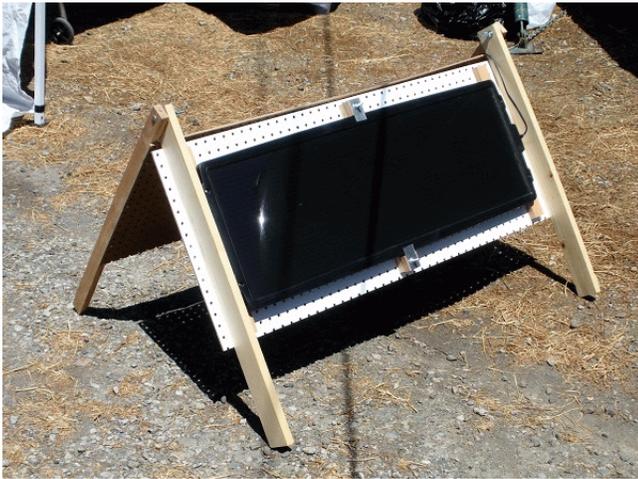


The VHF/UHF station Saturday night, (note the tables stacked vertically on the trailer to block the wind. We forgot about *under* the trailer).

We did set up the solar panel to charge up a battery, and made contacts on the SSB station running from the batter powered by the panel.

Sunday morning dawned gray and cool, and when I woke up at 6am, I found that Fred and Victor had kept the K3 warm for several hours, making CW contacts, which was a first for our GOTA station. (Thank you Fred, since I don't know code yet!

We had a few more visitors before 11 am. The neighbor who lives behind the fence along which we placed our digital station had been by to chat a few times Friday and Saturday, and on Sunday we talked him into actually making a couple contacts. At 11 am, we shut off the radios, copied the station logs to thumb drives, and started packing up the stations and taking down the antennas. More people showed up to help, which was especially appreciated, as people were pretty tired by then (and in my case, I couldn't even explain what people could do to help tear down!. After a quick meal of sandwiches and then lugging everything back over to Clark's place, the porta-palace was cabletied shut, and people dispersed just as the first drops of rain (rain! started to fall. There was general agreement that Field Day was a success.



The sun gave the solar panel a workout Saturday morning. (photo by Teresa Nemeth)

People should know that even when we drove off with the last load to Clark's, we weren't done. People still had to go to refuel the borrowed generator, return to Clark's to unpack the trailer and stow everything back in the lockers, and tow the trailer back to the storage lot. And all the people who brought equipment, coolers, etc., still had to unpack at home! (And try to get the dust and grit out of the equipment!. There is a LOT of work involved in Field Day, and having just a few more people showing up at critical times makes it a lot of fun, rather than an overload. But it is also an opportunity to learn in proportion to the commitment, and to share the excitement and what you know with visitors. Field Day is a very intense experience if you sign up for all 3 days, but I'd like to encourage club members to also come during the day of, even if just for a few minutes, to help operate one of the stations.

I'd like to thank Gregg KF6FNA for taking point on organizing this whole event, and Fred AE6QL for the use of the K3, and everyone else that helped or showed up. I enjoyed the whole weekend, and learned so much. (Although evidently not to not wait till the last minutes to write the article.)

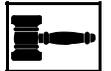
Viki KI6WDS



Starting station disassembly

## Meeting Minutes

### General Meeting, July 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 19:33.

Before the meeting, and during the introductions of members and guests, pictures from Field Day taken by Teresa Nemeth were projected.

Announcements: Fred gave a brief summary of the GOTA station statistics (13 operators, 15 CW QSO's, 79 phone QSO's; 109 QSO points). Lou WA6QYS announced that Saturday Jul 13 SCCARA is sponsoring the flea market at DeAnza. He sent around a sign-up sheet for 2-hour shifts. The club will have a table selling surplus equipment: bring along what you want to donate or sell. Lou also announced Saturday Jul 27 is the SVECS Quarterly Breakfast at the Santa Clara Senior Center at the corner of Fremont and Monroe. The cost is 5\$ at the door, there will be raffle prizes. Lou needs a head count. Breakfast is at 9, people are welcome to show up at 7:30 to help cook. The speaker will be Chris AI6CC on the care and feeding of batteries. Don K6PBQ announced Saturday Jul 27 after the breakfast, the club station will be open. Check on the 2 M repeater to make sure someone is there. Lou briefly described the club station is at the Red Cross building at the corner of North First Street and Plumeria. We have VHF/UHF and HF radios and antennas, and Bob brings RTTY equipment; the club participates in contests, and is trying for DXCC and WAS. Gregg KF6FNA thanked the people involved with Field Day; see his article. Fred played a really good slide-and-vocal send-up of "A Few of My Favorite Things About Field Day" from FARS.



Bringing down the beam: Bill AG6EM, Gregg KF6FNA, Lloyd KD6FJI, Dennis KJ6ZZJ

The evening's speaker was Alan Biocca W6AKB on Pneumatic Antenna Launching Systems. He gave a brief summary of unsafe antenna launching scenarios that led to him developing his series of launchers. His launchers consist of a pressurized chamber with a special valve to blast the projectile (a tennis ball with fishing line

attached to it). He uses computer modeling to optimize the launcher design for distance, size, and speed. He also discussed the reels and line used, and described the tennis ball preparation for use as projectiles to carry the line.

The presentation concluded at 21:00, followed by questions and answers, and people looking at the launchers Alan had brought along. There were no indoor demonstrations.

Viki Moldenhauer, Secretary KI6WDS

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## Board Meeting, July 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 19:39.

Attendance: President: Fred Townsend AE6QL; Vice President: John Parks W6JPP; Secretary: Viki Moldenhauer KI6WDS; Treasurer: Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Trustee: Don Village K6PBQ; Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Gregg Lane KF6FNA, Wally Britten KA6YMD; Clark Murphy KE6KXO.

Absences (excused): Director Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, Past President Don Steinbach AE6PM; Visitors: Gwen Steirer KF6OTD.

John W6JPP brought pizza, and Lou brought leftover donuts from the flea market.

Announcements: Fred AE6QL announced:  
SVECS Quarterly Breakfast Saturday July 27, 2013, 9am, Santa Clara Senior Center;  
SCCARA Open Station July 27, 2013, 13:00+  
SCCARA GIG (general meeting) August 12th  
SCCARA BoD August 19<sup>th</sup>  
Pacificon (Pacific Division) October 11-13 2013 Marriott Santa Clara

### Officers' Reports:

Secretary's Report: Viki KI6WDS read out the minutes from the newsletter; they stand approved as read. Dues pro-rating was discussed and the issue of previous members paying full dues late (vs. prorated dues which are only for new members) was resolved. A note needs to be added to the membership form, along the lines of "New members pay prorated dues for the year; late renewals pay full dues". New members will be welcomed by name at the BoD meetings: the most recent are Rick Schoenstein KE6PL, Tom Booth WB6SXU, Nigel Gore AF6ZF, and Phil Stewart K6PHL. Viki had sent names of non-renewed members to Goetz, he sent reminders.

Treasurer's Report: Goetz K6GKB handed out the balance sheet: checking = \$1580.41, savings = \$500.07, cash = \$371.99, total = \$2452.47.

Trustee's Report: Don K6PBQ gave a check for \$419 to Goetz for the Mt. Madonna cancellation. Don will have the station open July 27th after the SVECS Breakfast (check on the repeater to make sure he is there before coming down), and he can also make arrangements with people to open the station at other times if they would like.

Vice President's Report: John W6JPP announced the August speaker will be Rich Harrington KN6FW, on setting up for and

working satellites. John also has had no answer from Jim or his son on transferring the web site. There was discussion about finding someone else to build and host the web site, but Wally KA6YMD stated the hosting works fine, we just don't have the link that forwards to our site. Fred AE6QL took an action item to track this down; John will give the information so far to Fred. John also reported that this year Pacificon is offering the same deal as previously: someone who volunteers for 8 hours over 3 days, will get their admission fee returned.

President's Report: Fred AE6QL reported his thumb drive was missing after the last General Meeting, so after the meeting, he will recover the Field Day VHF data from Gregg, and the phone data from Clark. Wally KA6YMD will also resend the scans of visitors logs, since many board members did not receive his email.

Fred also reported that Dennis Vernier W6VET formerly W7RIT is setting up a vet station at the Palo Alto VA hospital.

### Standing Committee Reports:

Newsletter: Gary WB6YRU submitted an e-mail report which was not discussed in his absence.

BBS: Gary WB6YRU submitted an e-mail report which was not discussed in his absence.

Repeater: Wally KA6YMD had no new news. When he hears someone unkey on the old repeater, he hears a different tone before the normal tone. He will check with John Glass to see if he changed the tone. He hears fewer squeaks and pops on the newer repeater.

Webpage: Wally had nothing more than the earlier discussion.

### Special Committee Reports:

Field Day: Gregg KF6FNA gave a short summary. Lou WA6QYS has receipts to turn in for approximately \$500 of Field Day expenses. Fred AE6QL will submit the Field Day results to the ARRL. There will be a Field Day wrap-up/debrief this Thursday at Lee's Kitchen at 7pm.

Red Cross antennas: Discussion was deferred until Field Day work is over.

SCCARA picnic committee: The picnic is traditionally the 3rd Saturday of August. John W6JPP moved to hold the SCCARA picnic on Saturday Aug 17th at Mary Gomez Park. Don K6PBQ seconded, all were in favor. Gregg KF6FNA volunteered to be there at 4am to reserve the good spots, and Don K6PBQ will also get there early. Don will send an article to Gary for the newsletter. We still have hot dogs, hot links and beans, condiments, and charcoal from Field Day. Usually club members bring their own meat and a potluck dish to share. We need to get burgers, buns, and drinks. Food will be further discussed at the general meeting. Lou WA6QYS will bring bingo; people should bring nice prizes for bingo. Edward and Cheryl will call.

Flea Market: Lou WA6QYS reported we had 138 vendors at \$20 = 2760 + 3 vendors at \$30 = 90 for a total of \$2850 taken in at the gate. After the \$1625 already paid to ASVARO to host, we cleared \$1225 from the gate. We also cleared \$622.90 after expenses for the food, and our sales table brought in \$261.

### Old Business:

Status of the phone line to the new repeater: Goetz will check on adding a 2<sup>nd</sup> line. The line would not be required to be active during an emergency, since we don't need to reprogram during an

emergency.

Kenwood 450 with bad display: Fred will look up a manual for it.

John W6JPP asked if we want a dinner meeting this year; after discussion the conclusion was not unless a speaker cancels.

New Business:

Lou WA6QYS described some issues seen with the Yahoo email lists (SCCARA general and also BOD). Fred AE6QL will look at who is on the Yahoo mailing list, and mentioned Teresa will take over the general list.

Fred AE6QL adjourned the meeting at 21:00.

Viki Moldenhauer, KI6WDS, Secretary

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## Packet Pieces

**Downloaded from the BBS packet network:**

=====  
Date: 3 Dec 2012 23:55  
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW  
To: HUMOUR@WW  
Subject: Jokes 2/12  
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A big Texan stopped at a local restaurant following a day roaming around in Mexico.

While sipping his tequila, he noticed a sizzling, scrumptious looking platter being served at the next table. Not only did it look good, the smell was wonderful.

He asked the waiter, 'What is that you just served?'

The waiter replied, 'Ah senior, you have excellent taste! Those are called Cojones de Toro, bull's testicles from the bull fight this morning. A delicacy!'

The cowboy said, 'What the heck, bring me an order.'

The waiter replied, 'I am so sorry senior. There is only one serving per day because there is only one bull fight each morning. If you come early and place your order, we will be sure to save you this delicacy.'

The next morning, the cowboy returned, placed his order, and that evening was served the one and only special delicacy of the day. After a few bites, inspecting his platter, he called to the waiter and said, 'These are delicious, but they are much, much smaller than the ones I saw you serve yesterday.'

The waiter shrugged his shoulders and replied, 'Is, Senior. Sometimes the bull wins.'

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## IDIOT SIGHTINGS:

We had to have the garage door repaired. The Sears repairman told us that one of our problems was that we did not have a 'large' enough motor on the opener. I thought for a minute and said that we had the largest one Sears made at that time a 1/2 horsepower. He shook his head and said 'lady you need a 1/4 horsepower.' I responded that 1/2 was larger than 1/4. He said 'NO it's not.' Four is larger than two..

We haven't used Sears repair since.

My daughter and I went through the McDonald's take-out window and I gave the clerk a bill. Our total was .25 so I also handed her a quarter. She said 'you gave me too much money.' I said 'Yes I know but this way you can just give me a dollar bill back.' She sighed and went to get the manager who asked me to repeat my request. I did so and he handed me back the quarter and said 'Were sorry but we cannot do that kind of thing.' The clerk then proceeded to give me back 0 and 75 cents in change.

Do not confuse the clerks at McD's.

I live in a semi rural area. We recently had a new neighbor call the local township administrative office to request the removal of the DEER CROSSING sign on our road. The reason: 'Too many deer are being hit by cars out here! I don't think this is a good place for them to be crossing anymore.'

From Kingman, KS

My daughter went to a local Taco Bell and ordered a taco. She asked the person behind the counter for 'minimal lettuce.' He said he was sorry but they only had iceberg lettuce.

From Kansas City

I was at the airport checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked 'Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?' To which I replied 'If it was without my knowledge how would I know?' He smiled knowingly and nodded 'That's why we ask.'

Happened in Birmingham Ala.

The stoplight on the corner buzzes when it's safe to cross the street. I was crossing with an intellectually challenged coworker of mine. She asked if I knew what the buzzer was for. I explained that it signals blind people when the light is red. Appalled she responded 'What on earth are blind people doing driving?!'

She was a probation officer in Wichita, KS

At a good-bye luncheon for an old and dear coworker who was leaving the company due to "downsizing" our manager commented cheerfully "This is fun. We should do this more often." Not another word was spoken. We all just looked at each other with that

deer-in-the-headlights stare.

This was a lunch at Texas Instruments.

I work with an individual who plugged her power strip back into itself and for the sake of her life couldn't understand why her system would not turn on.

A deputy with the Dallas County Sheriffs office no less.

When my husband and I arrived at an automobile dealership to pick up our car we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the drivers side door. As I watched from the passenger side I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked. 'Hey' I announced to the technician 'its open!' His reply 'I know. I already got that side.'

This was at the Ford dealership in Canton Mississippi

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Two couples were playing poker one evening. Jim accidentally dropped some cards on the floor. When he bent down under the table to pick them up he noticed Bob's wife Sue wasn't wearing any underwear under her dress! Shocked by this Jim upon trying to sit back up again hit his head on the table and emerged red-faced.

Later Jim went to the kitchen to get some refreshments. Bob's wife followed and asked 'Did you see anything that you like under there?' Surprised by her boldness Jim admitted that well indeed he did. She said 'Well you can have it but it will cost you \$500.'

After taking a minute or two to assess the financial and moral costs of this offer Jim confirms that he is interested.

Sue told him that since her husband Bob worked Friday afternoons and Jim didn't Jim should be at her house around 2 p.m. Friday afternoon.

When Friday rolled around Jim showed up at Bob's house at 2 p.m. sharp and after paying Sue the agreed sum of \$500 - they went to the bedroom and closed their transaction as agreed. Jim quickly dressed and left.

As usual Bob came home from work at 6 p.m. And upon arriving asked his wife: 'Did Jim come by the house this afternoon?'

With a lump in her throat Sue answered 'Why yes he did stop by for a few minutes this afternoon.' Her heart nearly skipped a beat when her husband curtly asked 'And did he give you \$500?'

Sue using her best poker face replied 'Well yes in fact he did give me \$500.'

Bob with a satisfied look on his face surprised his wife by saying 'He came by the office this morning and borrowed \$500 from me. He promised he'd stop by our house this afternoon on his way home and pay me back.'

Now THAT my friends is a poker player

## 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

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## Newsletter Notes

Thanks to Viki for the article about our Field Day weekend and getting together all the photos—some of which weren't hers and some were for Gregg's article. It all made this newsletter a little bigger than usual, but it's well worth it. It would have been smaller than usual otherwise.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

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**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.