SCCARA-GRAM

Santa Clara County
Amateur Radio Association

Volume 29, Number 12 December 2013

Prez Sez

I have a potpourri of information for you. First the simple stuff.

Hopefully everyone is coming to the Christmas Luncheon. You will find information elsewhere in this document on the exact location. It is held December 14th and starts at 12: noon. It's a lot of fun and Barbara always makes the neatest table favors; thank you Barbara Britten, KD6QEI. The cost is $32 for an excellent meal. There is also a no host bar available. You can send your check to the club PO Box or bring a check with you. However it is important to get your meal selection to Don Village so he can get the reservations in. It is best to call Don on the telephone (his number is listed elsewhere). If you wish to participate in the Christmas Gift exchange bring a gift of $10 value for the exchange. You don't have to participate but we want to keep it KISS so please don't take a gift if you haven't brought one. By the way the luncheon replaces the meeting at Kaiser so no need to show up on the second Monday. The BOD meeting on the third Monday has also been canceled for December.

I want to thank Herman DeKruyff, KI6ETZ, for his generous donation of an ICOM IC V80 HT and two laptop computers. The HT will be added to the clubs loaner pool and one computer will be used as PSK31/Packet terminal while the other will be used for FD logging and possibly minute taking. Thank you very much Herman for these generous donations.

I also want to thank Herman and his little brother, (or was that big brother? Henry DeKruyff, KE6HOU, along with John Parks, W6JPP for running the election. Also, I want to thank Viki Moldenhauer, KI6WDS for creating the ballots. Viki is now manning the DEW (Distant Early Warning) Line in the north on the lookout for Santa Claus. Viki, please don't freeze your xxx off.

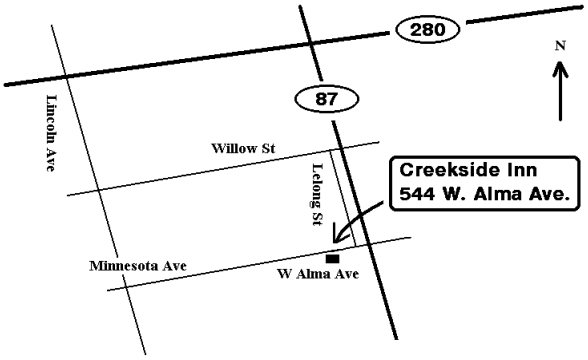
Once every decade it is time to renew your license. It just happens that our club license and my own license expire at just the same time so I am preparing to go through the process. In days of old when licenses were only good for five years you would write the FCC and request a form 610. When received, you would fill it out and return it by mail. That method still works today except, the do everything form 610, has been replaced by the form 605 renewal form. Mail still works. The rules are you can renew no more than 90 days before or up to two years after expiration. Of course you can NOT operate on an expired license. Renewal is free unless you have a vanity call and then there is vanity fee. Now there are several other ways to renew. Some details can be found at the Association Website: /www.arrl.org/renewals. If you are an

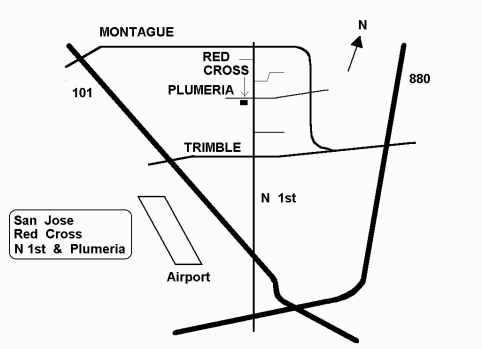
Calendar

12/14 **SCCARA General Meeting**–Luncheon
12/16 **SCCARA Board Meeting**–canceled
1/13 **SCCARA General Meeting**

General Meeting

Day:	Saturday, Dec. 14, 2013
Time:	12 noon
Place:	Creekside Inn, San Jose
Featuring:	Annual Christmas luncheon meeting





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

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

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

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS
(all officers are also directors)

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

COMMITTEES

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

SCCARA REPEATERS

SCCARA owns and operates two repeaters under the call W6UU:
2 meter: 146.985 - PL 114.8
70 cm: 442.425 + PL 107.2
Phone auto-dial and auto-patch is available. The two meter repeater is located at Eagle Rock near Alum Rock Park in the foothills of east San Jose. The 70 cm repeater is located at the Regional Medical Center (formerly Alexian), east of downtown San Jose, north of 280 and 101.

SCCARA NETS

On our two meter repeater: Mondays at 7:30 PM, (not the second Monday--our meeting night). Coordinator: Don Village, K6PBQ. On ten meters, 28.385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00 PM. Net control: Wally Britten, KA6YMD. Visitors welcome.

N0ARY PACKET BBS

SCCARA hosts the packet BBS N0ARY (connect to n0ary-1). User ports: 145.09 MHz at 1200 baud, 433.37 MHz at 9600 baud, and telnet sun.n0ary.org (login "bbs"). Sysop: Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU
For general packet info, see the NCPA web site 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

ARRL member they will usually send you a license reminder but don't count on it. Also the Association will renew for a fee of $5. Nonmembers are charged $15.

There are other ways besides the aforementioned. 120 days before expiration the Amateur Radio Service: The W5YI VEC, Inc. will also send you application forms. You can fill out their forms and return them to the service for transmittal to the FCC. If you follow that method they will charge you a modest $7 plus any vanity fee for providing the service. They accept most credit cards. Yes it is a modest $7 but it seems to me they don't do much besides get in the way of you and the FCC. However they do offer a preprinted card version of the form 605 that will save you about 30 seconds of writing.

If you are computer savvy you can download the form 605 from transition.fcc.gov/Forms/Form605/605.html and mail it direct to the FCC and save yourself the $5, $7, or $15 fees. If you are doing a vanity call you will also need a schedule 605D. The vanity fee is the same for all filings and the FCC does accept credit cards. Finally if you are really computer savvy you can do the entire filing online. This has the advantage of error checking and issuance of an immediate receipt with the disadvantage of having to be admitted to the website's inter-sanctum. This requires you to detour the process to obtain your ILS number and password; Government red tape at its finest.

Finally there is some online shopping that can save you some bucks. Stop by the West Mountain website and pick up their newsletter at www.westmountainradio.com/pdf/Fall2013Newsletter.pdf. There are some very well written articles on setting up PSK31 and other stuff for the shack. Then pick up their rebate coupons at www.westmountainradio.com/holiday2013. Finally go to their product information at www.westmountainradio.com/ and see their ads. The coupons are substantial and worthwhile. However there are several products such as their Super PWRgate PG40S or ISOpwr that I do NOT recommend. They contain big heatsinks because they dissipate and waste power using diodes. Much better to use FETs for this purpose and then the heatsink is not needed. Look for that type product elsewhere on the web.

73, Fred, AE6QL, ae6ql@arrl.net

December Meeting

Our annual Christmas meeting will be a luncheon on Saturday December 14th at 12:00noon. This year our luncheon will be at Creekside Inn 544 W. Alma ave, San Jose(one block west of Hwy 87).

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

Reservations need to be in by Monday Dec 9th.(see the sign-up sheet). Talk-in will be on our repeater. W6UU, 146.985(-). Why not renew your membership at the same time. Looking forward to seeing all of you there.

73, Don Village K6PBQ

Secretary Says

Election results from the general meeting on November 11, as reported by Vice President John Parks W6JPP:

President: Fred Townsend AE6QL
Vice President: Gregg Lane KF6FNA
Treasurer: Goetz Brandt K6GKB
Secretary: Viki Moldenhauer KI6WDS
Board of Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Wally Britten KA6YMD, and Lloyd DeVaughns KD6FJI were elected to full terms. Janet Motha KF6PUQ was elected to fill out the second half of Gregg's term.

Viki KI6WDS, Secretary

Antenna Preparation for the CQ WW DX Contest

I would like to thank Clark KE6KXO for offering his residence for the CQ WW DX contest. John W6JPP supplied a 500 W HF Ameritron amp and an ICOM 756 Pro II radio and 600 W LDG automatic tuner. Sarla WU2SWS also brought her new Bravo 7K vertical dipole (1500 W 10-40 m) that she had purchased from Tom Schiller at Pacificon. Tom N6BT had pre-tuned the antenna before shipping it. It took 15 minutes for Sarla, Lou WA6QYS, and I to assemble it for the first time (we chose to set it for the 40m band). When we put the antenna analyzer on it we found the entire 40m band usable!

Lou and I (KF6FNA) discussed Clark's antennas and that they had never been "tested" by the extra strain of an amp. Clark uses 3 HF antennas:
1. Mosely tri-band beam at 37 feet (rated 1500 W, 20,15,10 m)
2. large loop, fed by 450 Ω ladder line into 4:1 LDG 200 W balun and then to a tuner. The apex is at 35 feet, the lower loop side at 18 feet.
3. A GAP Titan DX vertical (rated 1500 W, 10-80 m, but claimed only 100 kHz bandwidth on 80 m)

When we committed to the contest, we had one week to tune up his antenna farm. First we checked the Mosely beam. Lou put the analyzer on the coax at the shack, double-checked using an external SWR meter with the radio transmitting, and proclaimed the beam ready for action. I was thinking, "this is going to be easy."

The loop was next. We cleaned and tightened the antenna feed point connection to the 450 Ω ladder line, then we swapped the LDG 200 W balun for an M2 3 kW balun supplied by John. We used Clark's Ten-Tec radio and its internal tuner and we were able to tune 10-160 m.

The last antenna was the GAP Titan DX. Lou and I lowered it down and propped it up with a ladder so that we could start cleaning up the tubing joints for better conductivity. We removed screws and pulled and tugged and tapped and squirted WD40 to no avail. Viki (KI6WDS) and I split some 4-inch pieces of PVC pipe so that we could wrap the PVC around tubing sections and hose-clamped them securely to two adjoining tubing sections. We then tried to drive them apart with a hammer and drift pin. Didn't work. We grasped the same pieces of PVC with channel lock pliers and tried to add a twisting force at the same time as the hammering. Didn't work.

Antenna party at Clark's: Gregg KF6FNA, Lou WA6QYS

We decided to do some research. Viki found a phone number for GAP Antennas. She called and asked for customer service and was connected to "Richard." School was now in session. It seems that GAP drills a 1/4" hole in the larger outer tube and a 1/8" hole in the smaller inner tube. Then they run a self-tapping screw into the 1/8" hole of the smaller tube. This creates a burr in the smaller tube that pulls up into the 1/4" hole of the larger outer tube. In order to separate the tubes, he suggested that after removing the self-tapping screw, a "nail set" or "punch" be placed over the 1/8" hole, and tapped with a hammer to dimple the burr inward. The tubing sections should then be able to be pulled apart.

He also advised against using penetrox or any other brand of aluminum anti-oxidation paste on reassembling the antenna. Richard also suggested that we check the capacitor inside the tubing at the very top of the antenna. He said that GAP sold a variety of replacement capacitors that would move the usable 100 kHz bandwidth on 80 m to various sections of the 80 m band.

Now that we were graduates of the GAP Institute of Antenna Refurbishing, we went back to Clark's Titan DX and disassembled, cleaned, and reassembled each section of antenna without any further problems.

After raising the Titan DX vertical again, Lou adjusted the counterpoise wire loop at the bottom of the antenna, which tunes the 40 m band. Using an MFJ antenna analyzer, and double-checking with an external SWR meter, while transmitting with Clark's Ten-Tec, we found 93 kHz of usable bandwidth on the bottom part of the General-class voice segment for 80 m, and on 10-40 m, the full bands were usable.

All of our testing was limited to 100 W SSB. It would not be until two days before the contest that we could try out the antennas with an amp. During the contest, we found issues with higher power, and were limited to 10-40 m operation. Next time we need to test with higher power sooner.

Thanks to all the people who were preparing for the rest of the contest, while all this antenna work was going on. The contest itself will be covered in an upcoming article.

Gregg KF6FNA

The 2013 CQ WW DX Contest

(My apologies for the delay in getting this article out; a lot has been happening, but this was a huge effort by a lot of people and deserves to be publicized. I hope I haven't missed some detail that was important to someone, and if I have, please drop me a note or an email, and I'll collect them up for an additional report.)

At the Oct 14 general meeting, guest Sarla Sharma WU2SWS, an expert DX ham visiting from India, suggested the club enter the CQ WW DX contest on Oct 25-27 with a full-time effort. To this end, several club members met at Clark's KE6KXO house to work on the GAP antenna (see Gregg's KF6FNA article), and to rearrange his shack which he so generously offered for the contest. John W6JPP brought over his Icom IC-756 Pro II radio, Ameritron amp running at 400 W, and LDG tuner which could be switched between the GAP vertical antenna, and Clark's beam and loop antennas.

Sarla organized a tutorial session the night before the contest to go over the scoring, exchange, contest strategy and techniques, and the logging software, Win-EQF. We also set up a tentative operating schedule to cover all 48 hours. After an introduction to John's radio, we set up several taped recordings of "calling CQ..." in both male and female voices. I have a certain ambiguity about this, having been fooled by responding to another female voice calling CQ, but my reply being answered by a male voice!

John and Vaibhar programming the taped "calling CQ" recording

The contest ran from 5 pm Friday to 5 pm Sunday (local time). Clark opened his garage for people to hang out in while not operating, and even had a cot set up for people to sleep on. We were grateful for all the people who dropped by to provide moral support, and even happier when they brought food (sugar and caffeine being especially popular).

The station setup and the shack size allowed for one operator and one assistant, and at most one observer. It was my first experience using headphones, a very nice boom mike, and a foot switch for PTT. It took a while to coordinate the foot switch with the mike, but after getting the hang of it, it was an effective way to operate while logging. The assistant could check out DXWatch or the gray line propagation on the computer.

Clark and Rayees chat outside the shack

Vaibhar operates; he brought his nice David Clark dc-H1013 headsets

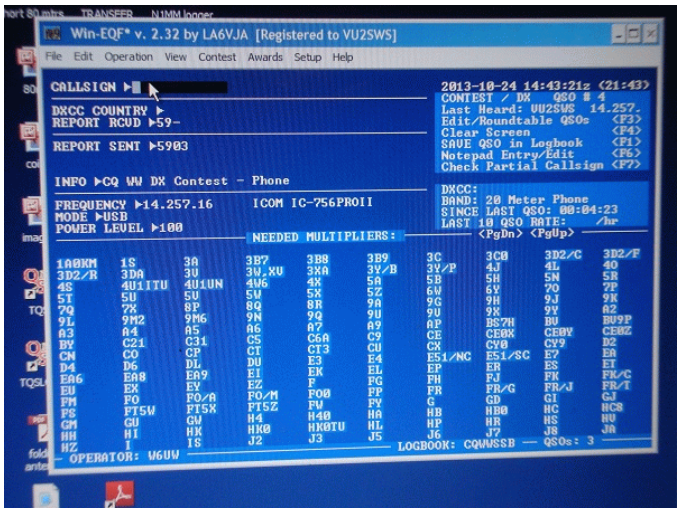
Sarla and Lou check out the gray line propagation

During the contest, the signals were pretty amazing. I heard prefixes I had never heard before, and with the power and antennas, could actually make contacts with them. There were people calling CQ from everywhere, and it was an inspiration watching Sarla break through the pileups around the rare zones. One has to listen to read the style of the station calling CQ, to see when they stop talking and start listening, and then be aggressive getting our call in there. I kept listening too long, and joked with Sarla that I had bruises where she was "nudging" me to "jump in!"

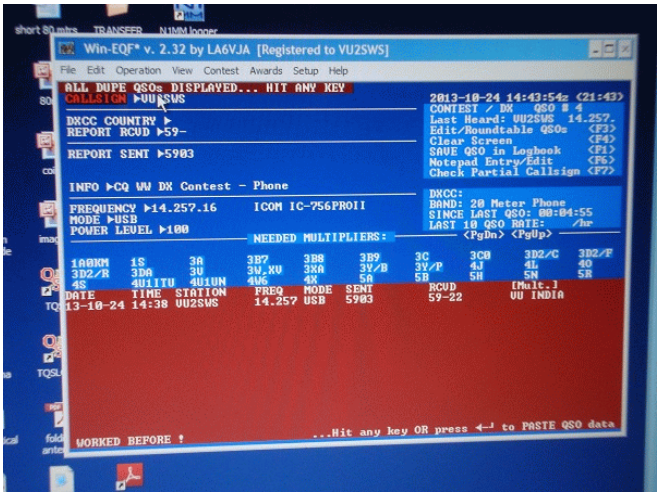
Sarla operates with her Yamaha CM500 headset which were very light

The logging program was "aware" of this contest, and helped with decoding call signs (at least the non-special-event calls) to identify new zones and score multipliers. It detected duplicate contacts, too.

We tried to keep a list of countries and zones contacted, so that we could optimize our responses, but this takes some getting used to. Also, at least my natural tendency is to reply to a clear signal (or even a difficult signal) that is there, rather than spin the dial past to look for a station from some zone that we haven't contacted yet.



Win-EQF logging program screen: enter callsign, enter (it defaults to the report sent), enter report received, type in 2 characters



Win-EQF logging program dupe alert: it is important to type in call BEFORE replying, to avoid this

Sleep deprivation was part of the experience, although we were lucky to have Vaibhar W7VAI helping out at night.

I really do have Sarla's permission to include this shot of her napping! (Taken by Vaibhar on his cell phone)

It got a little cold in the garage, but with space heaters to gather around, it was cozy, and the shack was downright toasty.

Gwen performs a competitive analysis of the space heaters

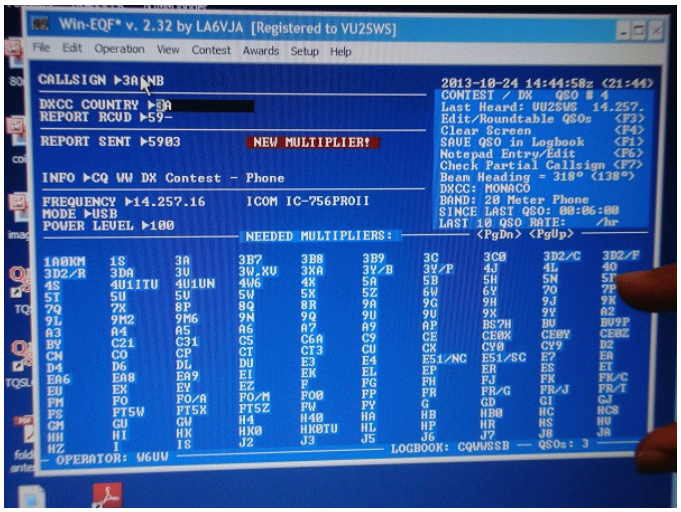
Lloyd operates Saturday around 2 am

Sarla listening in - note the mini-fridge in the corner, keeping refreshment right at hand.

Lou checks DXwatch

John and Sarla team up

John operates on Saturday afternoon



Win_EQF logging program with "new multiplier" message in red. Were we happy to see that red stripe late in the contest!

Sarla still collecting points at the end.

After 5 pm on Sunday, we had a debrief meeting where Sarla reported it was a marvelous effort for being organized on such short notice. She thanked Clark for the use of the shack; John for providing the radio and amp; Clark, Gregg, John and Lou WA6QYS for getting the antennas ready; and Vaibhar for guest operating in addition to John, Lou, Viki KI6WDS, Lloyd KD6FJI, and Gregg as operators. Of course Sarla herself operated many of the hours, and was there for almost all of them. She was still pulling in new multipliers and zones in the last few minutes!

All told, we kept the station running full-time except for 2.5 hours early Saturday morning, made 554 contacts, and contacted 26 out of the 40 zones, with no 160 m antenna, and no operational 80 m antenna.

The group at end of contest: (front left to right) Gwen KF6OTD, Clark KE6KXO; (back row left to right) Gregg KF6FNA, Viki KI6WDS, Lou WA6QYS, John W6JPP, Sarla WU2SWS, Vaibhar W7VAI

Some suggestions for next time that came from the debrief meeting were:
• get a short 1x1 special event call (it was sometimes hard enough with W6UW. I'd have never gotten through some of them with KI6WDS)
• we need good antennas on 40 m and 80 m for this contest, working all the bands helps
• contesting needs to be practiced frequently, to develop operating technique.

In addition to everyone mentioned above, (and anyone I've inadvertently left out), I'd especially like to thank Sarla for being the driving force in organizing us for this contest, and for the opportunity to participate in it. It was wonderful to have the guidance of an experienced operator showing how it should be done. It was a lot of fun and I look forward to the next full-effort contest that we can try.

Viki KI6WDS

ARRL News

From *the ARRL Letter*, Nov. 7 2013

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: MASSIVE SATELLITE "CLUSTER" LAUNCH SET FOR NOVEMBER 21

A Dnepr launcher set to lift off from Dombarovsky, near Yasny, Russia,on November 21 will carry more than two dozen satellites from 13 countries. Individual satellite teams are now in Yasny preparing their payloads for launch. Several of the satellites will carry Amateur Radio payloads, marking this as the largest single deployment of ham radio satellites. Paving the way for this month's event was the August 22 Dnepr launch of the KOMPSAT-5 satellite from Korea -- the first Dnepr launch in 2 years. This month's launch had been postponed for more than a year to work the wrinkles out of the Dnepr program. The DubaiSat-2 Earth-imaging satellite will be the principal payload of this cluster mission.

Some of the satellites headed into orbit will be contained within the Italian UniSat-5 microsat package. UniSat-5 will include a pair of UHF transceivers operating 9k6 GMSK AX25 protocol. From "PocketQube" launchers, UniSat-5 will deploy several smaller satellites, and one of the smaller satellites will release yet another satellite, reminiscent of decorative Ukrainian eggs within eggs. UniSat-5 will deploy Eagle-1 (BeakerSat-1), Eagle-2 ($50Sat), QubeScout S1, estar-2 (CW and 1k2 AFSK UHF downlink), Wren, and PUCP-Sat-1, which in turn will disgorge Pocket-PUCP, a tiny spacecraft built by students in Peru that will carry four temperature sensors and transmit the data using a 10 mW CW UHF transmitter using 30 kHz FSK.

Scheduled to be among the other Amateur Radio-payload carrying satellites is FUNcube-1, a 1U CubeSat that is a collaboration between AMSAT-UK and AMSAT-NL. It will carry an "educational beacon" (1200 baud BPK -- daytime operation) and a 20 kHz wide U/V inverting SSB/CW transponder running 300 mW PEP (nighttime operation). A project begun in 2009, FUNcube-1 will provide a signal directly to schools, with the "target audience" students at the primary and secondary levels.

FUNcube-1 is the middle 1U CubeSat of three sharing a 3U launch vehicle pod. The other two are ZACUBE-1 -- the first South African satellite -- and HiNCube from Norway, which will identify and transmit housekeeping data in the 70 centimeter band in CCSDS protocol. ZACUBE-1, in addition to carrying VHF and UHF communication equipment, has a 20 meter beacon that will transmit on 14.099 MHz.

Another Amateur Radio satellite, Delfi-n3Xt, is a 3U CubeSat developed by the Technical University of Delft in the Netherlands. It will feature a 40 kHz wide U/V transponder that will be activated after other experiments are completed, as well as a

high-speed S-band downlink.

Triton-1 and Triton-2 are 3U CubeSats each carrying a science mission and an Amateur Radio payload. Triton-1 includes two single-channel U/V FM-to-DSB transponders. Triton-2 will a single-channel U/V FM-to-DSB transponder and a single-channel U/S FM-to-FM transponder. The science mission is expected to last 3 months, after which the Amateur Radio payloads will be activated. Read more. -- AMSAT-UK, AMSAT-NA, Gunter's Space Page, Nader's Satellite Blog

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From *the ARRL Letter*, Nov. 21 2013

AMSAT-UK FUNCUBE-1 SATELLITE IN ORBIT

A Russian Dnepr rocket carried AMSAT-UK's FUNcube-1 -- now known officially as AMSAT-OSCAR 73 -- and 18 other satellites carrying Amateur Radio payloads to orbit at 0710 UTC on Thursday, November 21. Ground stations began receiving telemetry from FUNcube-1 soon after deployment and the satellite appears to be functioning normally.

One of the satellites on the launch, UniSat-5, will deploy a number of additional satellites. Among them should be the CubeSats PUCP-SAT-1, HumSat-D, estar-2, Icube-1 and the PocketQubes Wren, Eagle-1 (BeakerSat), Eagle-2 ($50Sat), QB-Scout1. PUCP-SAT-1 intends to subsequently release a further satellite Pocket-PUCP.

As well as UniSat-5 and its associated CubeSats and PocketQubes these Amateur Radio satellites were also on the launch:

HinCube	FUNcube-1	ZAcube-1
First-MOVE	UWE-3	Velox-PII
CubeBug-2	Triton-1	Delfi-n3Xt
GOMX-1		

For a frequency list, see amsat-uk.org/2013/11/13/three-amateur-radio-satellite-deployments-in-november/.

The latest orbital elements for FUNcube-1 are available at funcube.org.uk/working-documents/latest-two-line-elements/.

ARRL FILES "SYMBOL RATE" PETITION WITH FCC

The ARRL has asked the FCC to delete the symbol rate limit in §97.307(f) of its Amateur Service rules, replacing it with a maximum bandwidth for data emissions of 2.8 kHz on amateur frequencies below 29.7 MHz. The ARRL Board of Directors adopted the policy underlying the petition initiative at its July 2013 meeting. The petition was filed November 15.

"The changes proposed would, in the aggregate, relieve the Amateur Service of outdated, 1980s-era restrictions that presently hamper or preclude Amateur Radio experimentation with modern high frequency (HF) and other data transmission protocols," the League's petition asserted. "The proposed rule changes would also permit greater flexibility in the choice of data emissions." Symbol rate represents the number of times per second that a change of state occurs, not to be confused with data (or bit) rate.

Current FCC rules limit digital data emissions below 28 MHz to 300 baud, and between 28.0 and 28.3 MHz to 1200 baud. "Transmission protocols are available and in active use in other radio services in which the symbol rate exceeds the present limitations set forth in §97.307(f) of the Commission's Rules, but the necessary bandwidths of those protocols are within the bandwidth of a typical HF single sideband channel (3 kHz)," the ARRL's petition pointed out.

The League said that while bandwidth limitations are reasonable, the symbol rate "speed limit" reflective of 1980s technology, prohibits radio amateurs today from utilizing state-of-the-art technology. Present symbol rate limits on HF "actually encourage spectrum inefficiency," the League argued, "in that they allow data transmissions of unlimited bandwidth as long as the symbol rate is sufficiently slow." The League said eliminating symbol rate limits on data emissions and substituting a "reasonable maximum authorized bandwidth" would permit hams to use all HF data-transmission protocols now legal in the Amateur Service as well as other currently available protocols that fall within the authorized bandwidth but are off limits to amateurs.

The League said it's been more than three decades -- when the Commission okayed the use of ASCII on HF -- since the FCC has evaluated symbol rate restrictions on radio amateurs as a regulatory matter. "The symbol rate restrictions were created to suit digital modes that are no longer in favor," the ARRL noted in its petition. Modern digital emissions "are capable of much more accurate and reliable transmissions at greater speeds with much less bandwidth than in 1980."

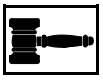
As an example, the League pointed to PACTOR 3, which is permitted under current rules, and PACTOR 4, which is not. Despite PACTOR 4's greater throughput, both protocols can operate within the bandwidth of a typical SSB transmission.

"If the symbol rate is allowed to increase as technology develops and the Amateur Service utilizes new data emission types, the efficiency of amateur data communications will increase," the ARRL concluded.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, has emphasized that there is no broader plan on the League's part to seek regulation by bandwidth. The FCC has not yet assigned an RM number and put the petition on public notice for comments, and there is no way to file comments until that happens.

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Nov. 11, 2013



{No minutes received. – Editor}

Board Meeting, Nov. 18, 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 19:42.

Attendance: President Fred TownsendAE6QL; Vice President John Parks W6JPP; Treasurer Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Trustee Don Village K6PBQ; Directors Clark Murphy KE6KXO, Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, Wally Britten KA6YMD, Lou Steirer WA6QYS.
Absences (excused) Secretary Viki Moldenhauer KI6WDS; Director Gregg Lane KF6FNA.
Visitors Gwen Steirer KF6OTD.

Announcements: Fred AE6QL announced that SCCARA's Christmas Luncheon will be held at the Creekside Inn on December 14th. The December BOD meeting will be on December 16th. (See further action below)

Treasurer's Report: GoetzK6GKB handed out the balance sheet dated 11/18/2013: Checking $4,748.14, Savings $500.07, Cash $456.88, Total $5,705.09. Motion was made by John W6JPP to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Motion seconded by Don K6PBQ. Motion passed unanimously.

A request was made by Gary WB6YRU to pay the BBS electric bill for 2012 and 2013 in the amount of $218.40. John W6JPP made the motion to pay the bill. Motion seconded by Don K6PBQ. Motion passed unanimously.

Trustee's Report: Don K6PBQ had the club station at the Red Cross open for the ARRL Sweepstakes SSB contest on November 16th. Don K6PBQ and Lou WA6QYS operated for a few hours and made 42 contacts.

A postcard was received from an ARRL OO stating that during the CQ WW SSB contest W6UW was noted operating too close to the top edge of the 20 meter band thereby having the sideband out of band.

Vice President's Report: John W6JPP presented the SCCARA election results. Elected for one year terms: President Fred Townsend AE6QL, Vice President Gregg Lane KF6FNA, Treasurer Goetz Brandt K6GKB, Viki Moldenhauer KI6WDS and Director Janet Motha KF6PUQ (to fill last year of two year directorship term vacated by Gregg Lane KF6FNA). Elected to two year terms: Lloyd DeVaughns KD6FJI, Wally Britten KA6YMD and Lou Steirer WA6QYS. A motion was made by John W6JPP to certify the election results. Motion seconded by Don K6PBQ. Motion passed unanimously.

John W6JPP thanked Fred AE6QL for his presentation on Antenna Analyzers. The scheduled program presenter had to cancel on short notice.

All logs from the W6UW participation in the CQ WW SSB contest have been uploaded to LoTW

The January 13th SCCARA meeting will have Don Anastasia AA6W presenting a program on Satellite Communications.

Pacific Division Director, Bob Vallio W6RGG was called and invited to SCCARA's Christmas luncheon. He accepted our invitation and will install the newly elected officers and BOD members.

During the November 11th meeting Herman DeKruyff KI6ETZ donated a HP Mini 210-2100 laptop, a Power Book 6.3 laptop and a Icom IC V80 HT to SCCARA. Thank you for your generous donation.

Due to the busy Holiday season, it was questioned if we should have a BOD meeting in December. John made the motion that the December BOD meeting be canceled. Goetz K6GKB seconded the motioned. The motion passed with Wally KA6YMD and Gary WB6YRU voting nay.

Newsletter Report: Nothing new.

BBS Report: BBS needs to have 6 meter radio swapped out. New BBS in Winters, CA is checking 6 meter forwarding operation possibility.

Gary WB6YRU submitted the latest SCCARA property list. He will be resigning as the SCCARA property manager after submitting yet another updated list. The BOD is asking someone else to take on the property manager position.

Repeater: Wally KA6YMD reports that the repeaters are operating OK. Eagle Rock antenna compromised. Some occasional inter-mod. Gary WB6YRU suggested installing band pass filters. People should carry on conversations on the same repeater to avoid signals doubling when both repeaters are used at the same time.

SCCARA's Web page keeping up with the latest information.

No old business.

New Business. Would club consider new plastic engraved badges? The consensus of the BOD was that we will stay with the round SCCARA button badges.

Fred AE6QL adjourned the BOD meeting at 21:05

Submitted by acting secretary Lou WA6QYS.

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

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Date: 9 Dec 2012 05:53
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: Jokes 8/12

While on a road trip an elderly couple stopped at a roadside restaurant for lunch. After finishing their meal they left the restaurant and resumed their trip.

When leaving the elderly woman unknowingly left her glasses on the table and she didn't miss them until after they had been driving about twenty minutes. By then to add to the aggravation they had to travel quite a distance before they could find a place to turn around in order to return to the restaurant to retrieve her glasses.

All the way back the elderly husband became the classic grouchy old man. He fussed and complained and scolded his wife relentlessly during the entire return drive about having to return to get her glasses that she left. The more he chided her the more agitated he became. He just wouldn't let up one minute.

To her relief they finally arrived at the restaurant. And as the woman got out of the car and hurried inside to retrieve her glasses the old geezer yelled to her...."While you're in there you might as well get my hat and credit card."

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Date: 16 Dec 2012 11:59
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: Jokes 16/12

Heard By The Computer Help Desk:

A customer couldn't get on the Internet:

Helpdesk: “Are you sure you used the right password?”

Customer: “Yes I'm sure. I saw my colleague do it.”

Helpdesk: “Can you tell me what the password was?”

Customer: “Five stars.”

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Helpdesk: “What kind of computer do you have?”

Customer: “A white one.”

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Customer: “Hi, this is Rose. I can't get my diskette out.”

Helpdesk: “Have you tried pushing the button?”

Customer: “Yes, sure, it's really stuck.”

Helpdesk: “That doesn't sound good; I'll make a note.”

Customer: “No... Wait a minute... I hadn't inserted it yet... it's still on my desk... Sorry...”

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Helpdesk: “Click on the 'My Computer' icon on to the left of the screen.”

Customer: “Your left or my left?”

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Helpdesk: “Good day. How may I help you?”

Customer: “Hello, I can't print.”

Helpdesk: “Would you click on start for me and...”

Customer: “Listen pal; don't start getting technical on me! I'm not Bill Gates, you know!”

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Customer: “Hi, good afternoon, this is Martha, I can't print. Every time I try, it says, 'Can't find printer'. I've even lifted the printer and placed it in front of the monitor, but the computer still says it can't find it.”

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Customer: “I have problems printing in red.”

Helpdesk: “Do you have a color printer?”

Customer: “Aaaah... Thank you.”

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Customer: “My keyboard is not working anymore.”

Helpdesk: “Are you sure it's plugged into the computer?”

Customer: “No. I can't get behind the computer.”

Helpdesk: “Pick up your keyboard and walk 10 paces back.”

Customer: “Okay.”

Helpdesk: “Did the keyboard come with you?”

Customer: “Yes.”

Helpdesk: “That means the keyboard is not plugged in. Is there another keyboard?”

Customer: “Yes, there's another one here. Ahh, that one works!”

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Helpdesk: “Your password is the small letter 'a' as in apple, a capital letter 'V' as in Victor, and the number '7'.”

Customer: “Is that '7' in capital letters?”

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Helpdesk: “What anti-virus program do you use?”

Customer: “Netscape.”

Helpdesk: “That's not an anti-virus program.”

Customer: “Oh, sorry... Internet Explorer.”

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Customer: “I have a huge problem. A friend has put a screensaver on my computer, but every time I move the mouse, it disappears!”

_____

Helpdesk: “How may I help you?”

Customer: “I'm writing my first e-mail.”

Helpdesk: “Okay, and what seems to be the problem?”

Customer: “Well, I have the letter 'a' in the address, but how do I get the circle around it?”

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Date: 11 Jun 2010 02:40
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Dental Work

A man went to his dentist because he feels something wrong in his mouth. The dentist examines him and says, “That new upper plate I put in for you six months ago is eroding. What have you been eating?”

The man replies, “All I can think of is that about four months ago my wife made some asparagus and put some stuff on it that was delicious... Hollandaise sauce. I loved it so much I now put it on everything -- meat, toast, fish, vegetables, everything.”

“Well,” says the dentist, “that's probably the problem. Hollandaise sauce is made with lots of lemon juice, which is highly corrosive. It's eaten away your upper plate. I'll make you a new plate, and this time use chrome.”

“Why chrome?” asks the patient. To which the dentist replies, “It's simple. Everyone knows that there's no plate like chrome for the Hollandaise!”

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

As I write this, yesterday was the newsletter deadline and Thanksgiving is just a couple days away.

Almost all submissions were late this time. I was working up a good gripe about that when one of the tardy souls, our author of the well illustrated contest article, included an apology for being late and added that she was just now running off to the hospital–her sister was about to have hip surgery!

Hmm... surgery. She went and ruined a perfectly good gripe! Well, maybe I can salvage the pieces for later.

I thought about that, and the great many other things going on lately that are worthy of gripes. And then I thought about our traditional meal coming up dedicated to the flip side.

There are a lot of things wrong that need fixing, but we also have plenty that's right.

Consider this: I've lived in this part of California for a little over half a century now. In all that time, I've *always* been able to turn on the tap and have clean drinking water come out. And I don't remember ever seeing the shelves at the local supermarket empty of food.

That's extraordinary!

Not everyone has that, and there's no guarantee it has to always stay that way for us either.

Being thankful is only part of it, we owe it to ourselves and our posterity to not screw it up.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

DECEMBER MEETING SIGN-UP

Our annual December meeting will be a luncheon on December 14th at the Creekside Inn 544 W. Alma, San Jose. Reservations need to be in by Monday Dec 9. We will have a choice of three entrees, $32.00 each. Talk-in will be on our repeater, W6UU 146.985(-). I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there. Why not renew your membership (back cover) at the same time.

73, Don K6PBQ

For the annual meeting in December, sign me up for the following lunch(es) at $32.00 ea.

_____Coulett Steak _____Chicken Marsala _____Salmon

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

Give this form (or copy) with payment to the treasurer or mail to: SCCARA PO BOX 106 San Jose CA 95103-0006

SCCARA
Santa **C**lara **C**ounty **A**mateur **R**adio **A**ssociation
PO Box 106
SAN JOSE CA 95103-0106

Affiliate of the ARRL,
American Radio Relay League

FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SCCARA Membership Form for 2014

If none of your info has changed, fill in name and call only

Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: E A G T N

Address: _____ Licensed since (yr): _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____ - _____ Licence Expiration Date (mo/yr):

Telephone: _____ ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal _____
☐ I'm also a member of the ARRL

E-mail: _____

make sure your e-mail is legible and correct if you want the newsletter by internet

Memberships begin January 1 and expire December 31.
If renewing: annual membership dues (base rate) are: $20 Individual, $25 Family, $10 Student (under 18)
For new members:
If joining in January: base rate
If joining in February through October: base rate x (11 - month) x 10% (e.g. for June, that would be: base rate x 50%)
If joining in November or December: free for November and December if paying the base rate for the following year

$ _____ **Dues payment** for: ☐ individual ☐ family ☐ student

For family memberships (at the same address), please include a separate form for each family member.

I want the newsletter by: ☐ U.S. Mail (costs the club about $35/year) ☐ internet

Give this completed form (or copy) with payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or mail to the club address. Rev. 4/2/2012