

# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 30, Number 1

January 2014



## Prez Sez

I'd like to thank those who attended the SCCARA Christmas Luncheon. The food was good and the comradely great. Our special guest, ARRL Pacific Director Robert Vallio, W6RGG blessed us with his comments and humor and then went on to install the 2014 SCCARA slate of officers and directors. Nevertheless there was a pall over the occasion.

In my previous months column I mentioned several people fully expecting that I would see them at the luncheon. The pall was cast by two empty chairs, one forever a silent key. Henry DeKruyff, KE6HOU, passed away before we could meet again. His good natured humor and his KISS comment will always be remembered. When a submarine is lost it is said to be on eternal patrol. I'd like to think Henry is on eternal watch. Good luck with the CQ DX stations.

The other MIA was Barbara Britten, KD6QEI. Thank God Barbara is still with us. Barbara had a cold she couldn't shake. Rather than spread the cold she sent the table favors and benediction with Wally. Wally read it well but it wasn't the same without Barbara. Thank you, Barbara for all you do and thank you Wally for all you do as well. While I am thanking people I'd like to thank Don Village, K6PBQ for putting the luncheon together. Year after year he checks around to make sure we are getting the best price. \$32 may seem steep but everyone else was \$40 or more. \$40 may be a prophetic price. The restaurant we have used for the last five years has changed its name and now is going Mexican motif. Hopefully the Mexican cook can still do steak, chicken, and salmon so we can do it there again next year.

I had the good fortune to attend the ARRL Pacific Division Leadership Meeting hosted by LARC. It was a good opportunity to see some of the inter-workings of the ARRL. The plum of the meeting was the announcement that ARRL had secured the use of the special event call sign W100AW for its centennial activities throughout the year 2014. W1AW will remain in effect too for, shall we say, ordinary activities while W100AW will be used for the pomp and circumstance relating to the centennial including all contests. For those not able to journey to Newington Connecticut there will be six regional centennial conventions as well. One of them will be our familiar Pacificon 2014 where you can sign up to work W100AW/6.

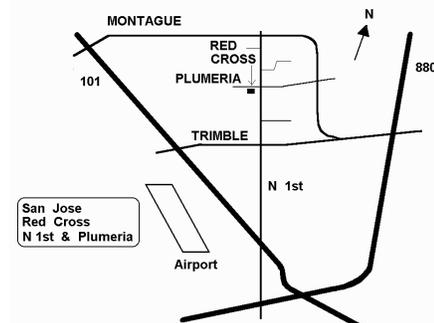
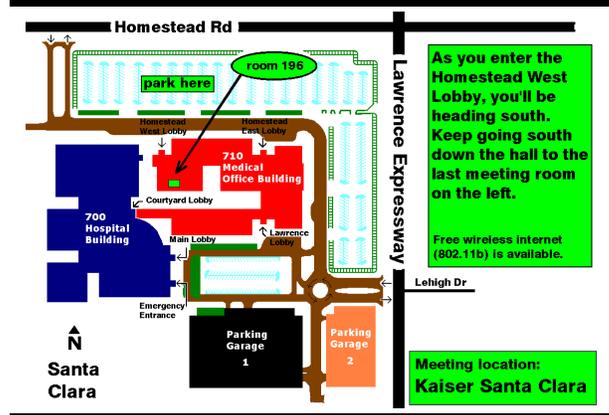
As a side note this may be the last convention held at the Santa Clara Marriott's. This is the last year of the contract with Marriott's. In 2014 the San Francisco 49'ers will be playing their home games just a few blocks away. The 49'ers always sell out so

## Calendar

- 1/13 SCCARA General Meeting
- 1/18 San Jose RACES drill, 1 to 4 PM
- 1/20 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

## General Meeting

- Day: Monday, Jan. 13, 2014  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Rm 196  
Featuring: Don Anastasio AA6W from HRO on satellite tracking



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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](mailto:ka6ymd@arrl.net))

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(all officers are also directors)

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**SCCARA REPEATERS**

SCCARA owns and operates two repeaters under the call W6UU:  
2 meter: 146.985 - PL 114.8  
70 cm: 442.425 + PL 107.2

Phone auto-dial and auto-patch is available. The two meter repeater is located at Eagle Rock near Alum Rock Park in the foothills of east San Jose. The 70 cm repeater is located at the Regional Medical Center (formerly Alexian), east of downtown San Jose, north of 280 and 101.

**SCCARA NETS**

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

**N0ARY PACKET BBS**

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

an estimated 59,000 parking places are needed of which they have only 50,000. They are looking to use 9,000 more places from the surrounding commercial buildings. That will make parking tight in the whole area. Marriott's may be forced to charge for parking. MDARC sees trouble on the horizon so they are looking about for other venues. On the other hand there are not too many hotels in the area that are big enough to host the convention. The San Jose Convention Center area has only high priced parking that is not friendly to RVs or ham antennas. One possible hotel would be the Double Tree San Jose near the airport.

At the meeting we received a report on the ECAC project relating to ARES and emergency communications in the area. Unfortunately there wasn't a whole lot of progress to report. In any event I will leave ARES to SVECS to report.

Other problems relating to Amateur Radio were discussed. I asked suggestions for building membership with the younger hams. No one had any useful suggestions.

One potentially major problem is looming with NARCC. NARCC, the Northern Amateur Relay Council of California, Inc., is Northern California's repeater coordinating body. Some of the digital radio repeater people are once again threatening to form their own coordinating council for digital radios. Both the FCC and ARRL have refused to sanction NARCC or any other coordinating council. In the past years the ARRL has given a de facto endorsement to NARCC by buying and publishing the NARCC database unedited as part of the ARRL Repeater Handbook. Now ARRL has announced it will no longer buy the database. Instead they will accept input from anyone that wants to give it to them. In effect ARRL is sanctioning anarchy. Folks I have seen this once before in Los Angeles where it became an all-out, gun toting, repeater war. I view that as Amateur Radio's darkest day. Hopefully smarter heads at ARRL will prevail. Bob Vallio is now on the ARRL Executive Council so he can bring some weight to bear.



73, Fred, AE6QL, [ae6ql@arrl.net](mailto:ae6ql@arrl.net)

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## ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, December 5, 2013

### PLANS ANNOUNCED TO UPDATE THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934

The US House Communications and Technology Subcommittee has announced plans for a multi-year effort to examine and update the Communications Act of 1934, the overarching law under which the FCC functions. The subcommittee, part of the US House Energy and Commerce Committee, is chaired by Oregon Republican Greg Walden, W7EQI. Walden and Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Fred Upton of Michigan made the announcement December 3.

"Today we are launching a multi-year effort to examine our nation's communications laws and update them for the Internet era," Upton said. "The United States has been the global leader in innovation and growth of the Internet, but unfortunately, our communications laws have failed to keep pace."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, noted that the most recent significant update of the Communications Act was in 1996. "Under

the leadership of Greg Walden, the subcommittee and its staff are well equipped to take up the challenge,” Sumner said. “The ARRL will be monitoring the work closely as it goes forward next year and beyond.”

The plan was made public via Google Hangout, where the committee leaders were joined by former FCC Commissioner Robert McDowell, who said he was “delighted” to learn of the update plans. Upton explained that the process, to start in 2014, will involve a series of white papers and hearings focusing on what might be done “to improve the laws surrounding the communications marketplace as well as a robust conversation utilizing all platforms of digital media.” He suggested a bill would be ready by 2015.

Walden said, “A lot has happened since the last update” and that the Communications Act is “now painfully out of date.” He said he wants to open the discussion to input from everyone, and that interested parties may follow the plan’s progress via Twitter. “It’s important for people to have an opportunity to weigh in,” he said. “This is really a public process to get better public policy.”

## **ARRL FILES ERRATUM TO “SYMBOL RATE” PETITION FOR RULE MAKING**

The ARRL has filed an Erratum with the FCC to correct an error in its “symbol rate” Petition for Rule Making (PRM), filed November 15 with the FCC and put on public notice for comment as RM-11708 a few days later. The League’s petition asks the FCC to delete the symbol rate limit in §97.307(f) of its Amateur Service rules and replace it with a maximum bandwidth for data emissions of 2.8 kHz on amateur frequencies below 29.7 MHz. The Erratum, filed November 26, removes an erroneous reference in the appendix at §97.307(f)(3) to “unspecified digital codes” and includes a corrected appendix.

“In one respect the criticism being voiced about our RM-11708 petition has some merit,” said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. “This is with regard to the addition of ‘unspecified digital codes’ language to §97.307(f)(3). This change is not discussed at all in the body of the petition and was not intended to be included in the proposal.” The Erratum “relates only to the Appendix as originally filed, and only with respect to the proposed revised text of §97.307(f)(3).” The League said. “The remainder of the Petition was correct as filed.”

The revised proposed §97.307(f)(3) will read: “Only a RTTY or data emission using a specified digital code listed in §97.309(a) of this part may be transmitted. The authorized bandwidth is 2.8 kHz.” Sumner pointed out that in 1995 the FCC clarified that “specified digital code” is any digital code that has its technical characteristics publicly documented.

“All of us who reviewed the draft and missed this are deeply sorry for the confusion thus caused,” Sumner said.

In its petition, the ARRL said that the changes it is proposing “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.”

## **CANADA ISSUES SHORT-TERM 472-479 KHZ EXPERIMENTAL LICENSE**

Industry Canada has issued an experimental radio license to the Marconi Radio Club of Newfoundland (VO1MRC). Experimental station VX9MRC has been endorsed to conduct transmissions on

472-479 kHz for just two days -- December 14 and 15 -- to call attention to the potential new Amateur Radio band there and to the role ham radio plays in emergency communication.

“A special message from Bauline, Newfoundland, Mayor Christopher Dredge will be sent on CW on 478 kHz as a beacon transmission on these days,” said Joe Craig, VO1NA, a low-frequency enthusiast and MRC leader. “Those receiving the message are invited to forward it to their respective municipal representative.” Craig said the ERP should be about 2 W on 478 kHz, with the message sent at approximately 12 WPM.

Delegates attending the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-12) approved the secondary allocation between 472-479 kHz for the Amateur Radio Service. Industry Canada has proposed creating a new MF Amateur Radio band at 472-479 kHz on a secondary basis. Last year the ARRL asked the FCC to carve out the same band for US hams.

In November 2012 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*, December 19, 2013

## **VOICE OF RUSSIA -- FORMER “RADIO MOSCOW” -- TO END SHORTWAVE BROADCASTS**

Voice of Russia (VOR), the former Radio Moscow during the USSR era, will cease shortwave broadcasts as of January 1, 2014. From the 1950s through the 1980s, the station, as Radio Moscow, was a virtual beacon for short-wave listeners (SWLs), many of whom gravitated into Amateur Radio. Voice of Russia currently broadcasts to 160 countries in 38 languages for an aggregate 151 hours per day on short and medium waves, on FM, via satellite, and via the Internet. Earlier this year shortwave transmissions were cut to 26 hours a day in all languages, down from more than 50 hours a day in 2012.

VOR, which claims to be the first radio station to broadcast internationally, will continue to broadcast online and via three medium-wave transmitters. In 2003 VOR was among the first major international radio broadcasters to launch daily broadcasts to Europe in Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM).

As a result of a decree signed earlier this month by Russian President Vladimir Putin, the Voice of Russia radio company officially ceased to exist on December 9 and merged with several other state-run news agencies as part of Rossia Segodnya, a Russia-based international news service. Putin’s decree also abolished the State Fund of Television and Radio Programs, placing it under control of All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company.

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## **Close the Door**

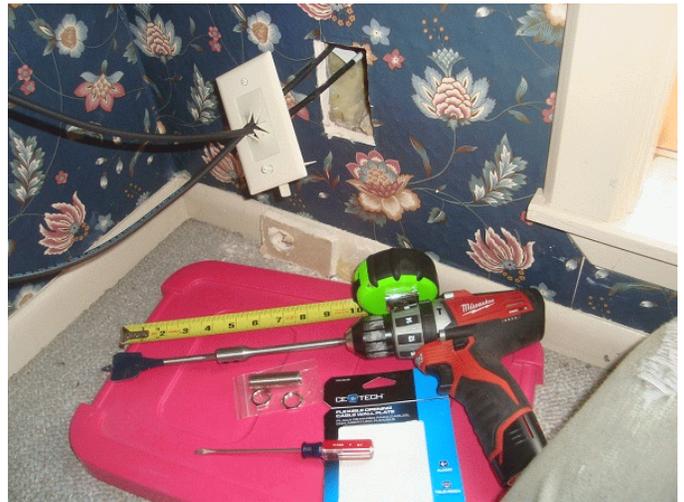
Not all buildings provide a convenient window at a ham station’s desired operating position. Viki (KI6WDS) has a wonderful view from a second story with a balcony where her shack is set up when she visits her father. Unfortunately the glass panes are solid so that she must open the exterior door to bring in her coax. Not much fun when it is 6° F outside! QSO’s tend to be short. Swiss Miss hot chocolate with mini-marshmallows can only do so much... Viki thought it would be nice to spend more time operating and less time moving coax around.

Types of construction vary. In this instance 2" x 4" wood studs were used for wall framing. Inside the building the walls were finished with 1/2" drywall covered in wallpaper. Outside the building the exterior of the wall was covered with wood siding. There was an existing unused TV coax penetrating the wall that went through a notch that was probably made with a saw when the siding was installed. The interior opening in the drywall looked about the size of a hammer head and had paper stuffed around the coax to prevent drafts. This was a chance to bring in two coax lines, eliminate the unused TV coax, and give a "finished" look to the interior drywall.

**STEP 1** The hole in the interior drywall was made larger to provide better access to the back of the exterior wood siding. Home Depot sells a plastic "flexible opening cable wall plate" made by "ce tech" that is made for existing wall installation. It does a great job of hiding the wall insulation when the job is done. It comes with well written instructions and a template to help you mark the outline of the hole that needs to be cut. **NOTE:** If you have wallpaper, use a razor knife to score the wallpaper 1/8" outside the line that you will be cutting around. A "keyhole saw" or "drywall saw" will tend to rip wallpaper. Scoring the wallpaper will contain any wallpaper ripping to 1/8" outside of the hole you cut in the drywall.



**STEP 2** There was room to install two bulkhead connectors (spaced 1 1/2" center to center) through the wood siding. First, 1/8" pilot holes were drilled through the wood siding to mark the location. This is when it was discovered that the siding was two layers of wood thick. The siding had to be countersunk with an 1 1/4" spade bit on the backside (interior of stud wall) so that the bulkhead connectors would be long enough. After the holes were countersunk, a 5/8" spade bit was used to finish drilling the two holes from the outside of the building. Six foot sections of coax were connected to each of the two new bulkhead connectors and then the connectors were routed through the plastic wall plate, then through the drywall, and then slid through the 5/8" holes in the wood siding. The nuts were screwed onto the bulkhead connectors from the outside until snug. Caulking was then used to seal the penetrations from rain and wind. (The caulking will look better when it turns clear after curing.)



For now a 2m/440 antenna was attached to one connector and a G5RV jr (40m-6m) to the other. Silicon tape was used to seal the connectors because it is easy to remove for future antenna projects.

After orchestrating tools and materials for a few photos, Viki hooked up her HF antenna and turned on her Yaesu FT-857d. I made a few phone calls and found Clark (KE6KXO) was sitting in his ham shack in Alviso and ready to give us a signal report. We each spun dials on 20 m and found a quiet frequency. Noise level a Viki's station was S1 or less! Then we heard Clark call CQ as the signal meter swung to 10 over S9 and enjoyed a QSO that was as clear as an FM repeater! It was nice to have good conditions for that first contact.

Five minutes later the noise went up to S8 (Ohhhhhhhh!). Viki went out to investigate. She went around turning things off and yelling "HOW ABOUT NOW?" On the fourth try we were back to S1 again! The culprit was the kitchen fluorescent lights, possibly assisted by the cats who thought it was dinner time...

Gregg KF6FNA

# BBS Report (sort of)

Last month I was up at the radio site where the N0ARY BBS is located, doing a little work on the 6 m radio. That by itself isn't such big news, but this is...

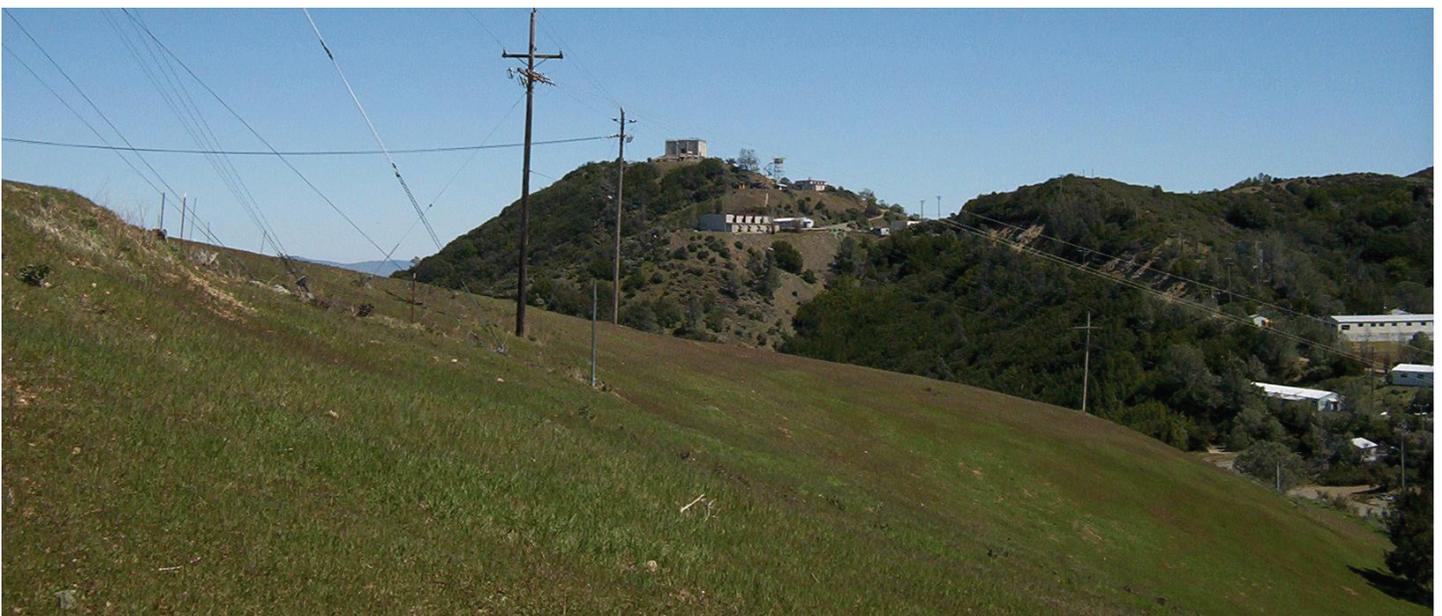
The radio site is on a ridge just to the North West of the old abandon Air Force Base and radar at Mt. Umunhum. The base was quite extensive, it was like a small town, complete with a bowling ally and a swimming pool.

For many years the base has been scheduled to be demolished, cleaned up, restored to its natural condition and made into a park. The radar block house has become kind of a land mark. If you can see the mountain peak, you can see that square block house on it. Back when the base was active, at this time of year they'd string colored lights on it in the shape of a star. It was easily visible all over the South Bay. The radar dish itself has been gone for a long time, but the block house is still there.

Well, it's finally starting to happen. This is what the place looked like for a long time:



In this view, we're looking toward the South East from the radio site ridge. This is where many of the buildings were located. Note that big "golf ball" on the ridge in the distance, that's a weather doppler radar.



This is looking East, toward the peak itself. (Note that white building at the far right, it's the same one on the left in the first photo.)

And this is what it looked like while I was up there on Monday, December 16:



This shot was taken from a bit farther east at the radio site and more zoomed in, but for reference, you can still see that weather doppler radar at the top left. I didn't take this shot, I wish I had something better so you can more easily compare, but we were a bit rushed and this is all I could get. The prominent clearing here is where that building was, visible in the first photo on the right. I hear they even dug down far enough to remove all the underground pipes.

The upshot is: It looks like Mt. Umunhum will become a park sooner than I expected. Since the 1950's, only select few have been able to enjoy the tremendous view up there. On a clear day you can see Monterey Bay to the South, Mt. Diablo to the North East, San Francisco to the North West, and San Jose is right there at your feet.

73, Gary WB6YRU

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## Meeting Minutes

### General Meeting, Dec. 14, 2013



*{No minutes were received. – Editor}*

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### Board Meeting, Dec. 21, 2013



*{The December board meeting was canceled. – Editor}*

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## Packet Pieces

### Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

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

An old Wild West fort is about to be attacked. The wily old

general sends for his trusty Indian scout. "You must use all your thirty years of skill in trying to estimate the sort of army we are up against here."

The trusty Indian scout lies down and puts his ear to the ground. "Heap large war party," he says, "maybe three hundred braves, four chiefs, two on black stallions, two on white stallions. All have war paint. Many many guns. Medicine man also with them."

"Good grief!" exclaims the general. "You can tell all of that just by listening to the ground?"

"No," replies the Indian, "I can see under the gate."

=====  
Date: 25 Jul 2010 01:32  
From: W1GMF@W1GMF  
To: HUMOR@USA  
Subject: Senior Trip

-----  
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 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 husband became the classic grouchy old man. He fussed and complained and scolded his wife relentlessly during the entire return drive. The more he chided her -- the more agitated he became. He just wouldn't let up.

To her relief, they finally arrived at the restaurant. 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 the credit card!"

=====  
Date: 26 Jul 2010 01:32  
From: W1GMF@W1GMF  
To: HUMOR@USA  
Subject: WRONG WAY ELMER

-----  
An elderly ham driver was going down the interstate when suddenly his 2 meter rig crackled his call...

Answering...he heard a fellow ham's urgent warning....  
"Hey Elmer, just heard on the news that there's a car going down I 40 the wrong way, please be careful"!!

Elmer replied,"Well I'll declare, it's not just one, there's hundreds of them!"

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## 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

Happy New Year! This is the time many of us come up with resolutions. How about this one for the club: I'd like to publish comments and ideas you have about what SCCARA can do to be more interesting or useful. Is there something you'd like to see the club do? Let's hear it!

I'll start... It would be fun if the club were a little more experimental. We've had a couple of "member night" meetings where people brought in something they were working on. Well, what I'm thinking is something along those lines, but projects sponsored by the club. You know, something that interested members can experiment with, or do, or make.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

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**SCCARA**

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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  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.