

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

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May 2014



Prez Sez

The lazy, hazy, days of summer are almost here. Before it gets too hot you might want to enjoy a little wind in your face and do some mobiling like days of the past when I combined picnicking with chasing 2M DX on mountain tops.

During my first two years of college I attended classes in the morning, fixed two-way radios in the afternoon, and babysat the local TV transmitter by night. My social life wasn't much but it was OK with the TV station if I hammed while I worked. Where else could you get paid while talking on ham radio?

My 2 meter rig at the time was Gonset Communicator IIB (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gonset_Communicator) running a 2E26 tube with maybe 5 watts output on a good day. The two way radio shop gave me plenty of components to build with if I could only figure out to utilize those junk parts so I spent lot of time with the books engineering high power for the mobile.

This was during the period when the world was transitioning from tubes to transistors. The trouble was early power germanium transistors worked really well only at audio frequencies. Both Motorola and GE came out with hybrid tube-transistor radios that continued to use tubes for the RF power portion of the rig. They cost a lot more than the old tubed models and worked a whole lot worse. The hybrids had all the incumbent problems of tubes with a whole lot of new transistor problems. For one thing the trunk mounted radios in the summer could expect temps above 140F and that didn't leave much operating margin for germanium transistors. Still the old tubed units hummed while the hybrids sang. You knew that transistors were the wave of the future so you went for the singing knowing you were in for trouble.

An inherent problem with transmitting tubes was the high voltage power supply; there wasn't an easy way of generating a high voltage from DC. The most popular methods involved dynamotors or vibrators both of which were highly inefficient so to say nothing of being acoustically and electrically noisy. Noise you were going to hear in your own receiver and frequently by the person listening on the other end.

Cars during that generation didn't contain electronics except, save, for your car radio. However during the seventies, increased smog controls, forced the automakers to use electronics to solve their problems. Following the NIH (not invented here) principle the automakers ignored what the two-way radio makers had learned about mobile transistors and started a whole new wave of problems. Early smog controls were unreliable and had the potential for computer generated RFI (Radio Frequency Interference). RFI could make your ham rig unusable.

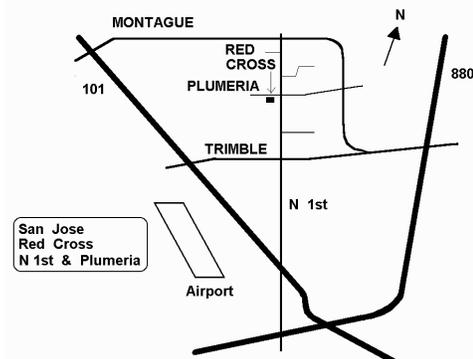
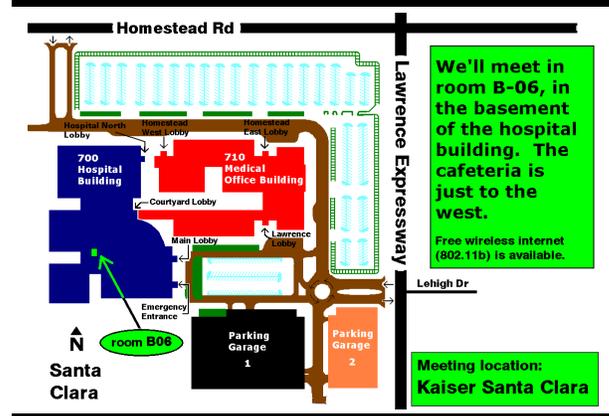
Joe, W6SNV related when he was going 60 miles an hour down the road in his Datsun 280Z and he pushed the transmit button on his 50 watt MOTRAC (hybrid radio). The car simply

Calendar

- 5/10 DeAnza electronic flea market
- 5/12 SCCARA General Meeting
- 5/19 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting

- Day: Monday, May 12, 2014
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Hosp. Rm B-06
- Featuring: {to be announced}



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

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

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

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SCCARA REPEATERS

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

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

SCCARA NETS

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

N0ARY PACKET BBS

SCCARA hosts the packet BBS N0ARY (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

stopped running. Totally silent! He let off the button and the car restarted and ran fine. Transmit again and it stalled again. This is known as RFS (Radio Frequency Susceptibility) on the part of the car and RFI on the part of the transmitter. This wasn't a one-way problem either. Some cars and particularly trucks with superchargers wiped out ham radio reception as well.

Detroit was somewhat indifferent to these problems while the Japanese stuck their collective heads in the sand. As far as the automakers were concerned it was up to the hams to solve their own interference problems. Fortunately for hams law enforcement and fire fighters were having like problems but unlike hams they had the collective clout to tell Detroit we are not going to buy any more of your cars until you fix this problem. Detroit grumbled and fixed while the Japanese stayed below ground. If police departments drove 280Zs then perhaps Joe wouldn't have had a problem in the first place.

After a bit of pushing the FCC entered the fray. They ruled all devices with the potential for generating RFI had to be tested and certified clean. (There was a partial exclusion for ham radio equipment. Ham radios had to meet the requirements but did not have to certify testing.)

The auto industry has continued to add electronics like, backup cameras and GPS to present day cars but they have gotten smarter. They hired RFI engineers to make sure all the electrons play nice. While there have been a few problems with Toyota and GM as a whole, RFI and RFS problems involving cars have largely disappeared until...

Quoting myself from last month's column: "The bugaboo in any electric car design has been the battery. Tesla uses the lithium Ion battery (Li-ion), the same battery used in newer HTs and cell phones. The original design used 13,000 Li-ion cells. Today it still uses 6,000. These cells are the principle reason why the Tesla costs a \$100,000."

Simply, electric cars are moving a whole lot more electrons around than any gas or diesel burner. Batteries themselves and particularly electric motors generate RFI. Batteries must be dispersed around the vehicle to maintain balance. With this wide dispersal of electron flow comes the undoing of many of the RFI mitigation technics. Simply you can't wrap a shield around all of the batteries. For the RFI engineer electric cars are a nightmare.

I think it was Ronald Reagan that said more government is not the solution. Government is the problem. Again I quote myself from last month: "There were a lot of smiles when the Federal Government announced early in the first term of the Obama administration they were funding research at thirteen wind, solar, and battery companies, among them A123 and Solyndra in Fremont. A123 was to provide batteries for the Tesla also located in Fremont. Here was an American car company and an American battery company teaming with the blessings of the federal government all in Silicon Valley."

Some city governments, with grants from the department of energy, are switching some of their motor pools to electric cars and motorcycles in the mistaken belief electric vehicles have a zero carbon footprint. (That's why Green cars ride for free in the car pool lane too.) There is little doubt that big government is in love with the electric car.

Here is what bothers me: Do you think they might bend the law a bit to favor the electric car just because it's green? Do you think this favoritism might be detrimental to ham radio the same way early smog controls were?

This may seem farfetched but let's take a look to date. 1) The department of energy was charged with promoting promising energy technologies. They picked 13 losers. In the case of Solyndra the golden parachutes were so favorable to management that it was obvious the company was never intended to succeed. It was a way to give away federal money and reward backers of green technologies. 2) Bond holders of both GM and Chrysler were defrauded by the federal government when they took over. Plans for GM's hydrogen powered car for which billions were

spent were scrapped in favor of the Chevy Volt (electric car). 3) After four years of study the Keystone Pipeline was put on indefinite hold so the pipeline could be 'studied'. The Keystone Pipeline is estimated to drop the price of gasoline by fifty cents or more per gallon. 4) The Department Labor tells Boeing it could not build the 787 Dreamliner in South Carolina.

In addition to those four energy and labor scandals we have scandals at the IRS, State, Departments of Interior, Health, and Justice but those don't affect ham radio much. Let's get back to ham radio.

Given history and given the massive amounts of silicon that will be required to run and manage electric cars is it not possible, nay I say probable, that electric cars will cause RFI? If that is the case what will happen when an electric car, truck, or motorcycle passes your operating mobile rig? What will happen when you try to put a ham rig in an electric car?

Do you think it might be possible the FCC would be told to issue waivers on electric car RFI emissions? When push comes to shove is the government going to favor the Green Initiative or follow the law and protect ham radio?

To those of you that say the FCC would never do that I remind you of the Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) issues where the FCC redacted public documents showing the FCC was ignoring BPL RFI issues. The FCC also concocted a formula that defiled the laws of physics in an attempt to slew the calculated RFI emissions of BPL. If the FCC would violate its own regulations to promote the Internet what would stop them from doing the same, in the so called name of, zero emissions.

But you say the ARRL sued the FCC and won? Well let's say the hams half won. The Federal Court ruled the FCC couldn't redact its own documents but the same court also ruled the FCC had the power to ignore science and rule however they wanted without any redress to the amateur community. In the end, BPL died because it was a hair brained idea that was not economically feasible. The FCC was totally willing to give BPL cover.

Be watchful my friends that hams are not like the dead birds at the base of the windmills. The FCC staff, some of which are hams, are our friends but they are ruled by the commission which is a political body; Politicians that will sell their mother for a fix of the narcotic called political power.

73, Fred, AE6QL, ae6ql@arrl.net



Getting Smarter

I have had an Icom 706 in my car for more than ten years. The first implementation included a 12 volt car battery that sat on the floor in the right rear passenger foot well. This was trickle charged from the cigarette lighter socket. The radio itself was under the right front passenger seat and the remote head on the dash. Wires ran from below the passenger seat and under the rear seat and on to the trunk to pass the signal along to the tuner and the whip. All Icom equipment.

After years of hassle from contacts, who could hear the signal fade when the cigarette lighter couldn't keep the battery at 13.5 volts, I removed the lead acid battery and ran an eight gage wire from the engine compartment car battery back to the radio under the seat. This was a great improvement and people stopped complaining about the fading signal.

The final improvement in this saga was the removal of the radio from inside the car and placing it in the trunk where it belonged all along. This was accomplished this month and wasn't

all that leg room in back seat passenger compartment a good thing! So with all the wires tidied up and the installation nearly invisible, I took the whole thing for a test run. I turned on the radio and SILENCE! Turned up the volume and mostly silence except for a muffled sound coming from the trunk. Took me a while to realize the Mafioso pleading for his life was in fact the speaker of my 706 which was now banished to the darkness of the trunk and speaking to the spare tire!

So I plugged a cassette deck audio adapter into my car radio and the 3.5mm jack into the 706 remote head. However the VHF sneaks into the car radio and the hum is S9 +40. So off to HRO and see what they had for speakers. As expected, the salesman started at the top end and was about to double the cost of my entire installation. So I directed him reluctantly ever downward towards smaller and cheaper. I finally arrived at the 2 1/2 inch cylindrical speaker with a square face plate made by MFJ. Very much the size of an airplane panel compass.

Once again, off for a test run. With the volume all the way up I could just about hear what was going on. In frustration I began the MFJ litany which ends in junk! I told myself I would bring it back another day, couldn't face the ordeal just now. That's when an inspiration from above reminded me that there was a slide switch on the back of the 706 remote head that might have something to do with the 3.5 mm audio jack. I always say, god hates to see a grown man cry. The head was off in a second and indeed there was a switch which was in the "Phones" position. Over it went to the "Speaker" position and the rest is history. Just about blew my brains out but ecstatic just the same.

The speaker fits exactly into one of the cup holders between the front seats. It faces upwards and delivers the sound perfectly to the driver as well as the front seat passenger. The lid closes and hides the speaker when not in use. Probably the finest mobile installation on the planet, make that the whole universe!

Goetz Brandt, K6GKB

Mic Wanted

Does anyone have a mic with a DTMF keypad using an 8-pin plug that they don't need? Most any DTMF mic with an 8-pin plug could be re-wired, but if it's for one of these radios, that would be best:

Kenwood TM321A, mic MC-48B

Icom IC-48A, mic IC-HM14

Yaesu FT-6200, mic MH-62FB

73, Gary WB6YRU wb6yru@ix.netcom.com

ARRL News

From *the ARRL Letter*, April 3, 2014

ARRL CALLS FOR TIMELY, VISIBLE FCC AMATEUR RADIO ENFORCEMENT

In comments filed in response to the FCC's February 14 Report on Process Reform (GN Docket 14-25), the ARRL has called for a more visible, responsive Amateur Radio enforcement program. The League also said it was concerned that FCC policies for adjudicating certain complaints of interference to radio amateurs, especially those involving electric utilities, provide no incentive for the utilities to resolve them. The ARRL was further critical of the fact that FCC petitions for rule making and spectrum allocation proceedings often take years to resolve. But the League confined the bulk of its comments to perceived shortcomings in the Amateur

Radio enforcement program.

“[T]he visibility of the Commission's enforcement program for the Amateur Service is wholly inadequate, resulting in a widespread, albeit inaccurate, public perception that there is no active enforcement in our service,” the League's comments asserted. The ARRL said “deterrence based on visibility is a critical component of a successful compliance campaign.”

The most successful -- and visible -- period of Amateur Radio enforcement in recent years was between 1997 and 2008, the ARRL said. According to the League, compliance during that period was a result of “the visibility in the Amateur Radio community of a single member of the Commission's Enforcement Bureau staff at Amateur Radio events” and of keeping the Amateur Radio media fully informed on what was being done to resolve a particular enforcement issue.

FCC-imposed constraints in the past few years have had “a devastating effect on the entire philosophy of the program and its success,” the League told the Commission. Among other factors, the ARRL pointed to the “extensive approvals” required before the release of enforcement correspondence. Enforcement actions that are taken, the League continued, are not released to the Amateur Radio media. “This deprives radio amateurs of the knowledge that the Commission is indeed investigating and responding to a given enforcement problem,” the ARRL said. “The result is the perception that nothing is being done in a given case, and frustration builds rapidly among the radio amateurs who have to endure the rule violator on an ongoing basis.”

“[L]imitations imposed on the visibility of enforcement actions in recent years have significantly reduced the effectiveness of the program,” the ARRL stressed, and “directly resulted in notable and unacceptable increases in rule violations, most especially malicious interference.” Further, the ARRL said, Enforcement Bureau personnel responsible for Amateur Radio enforcement should be empowered with greater autonomy to address problems as they arise.

The League faulted the FCC's websites -- old and new -- for being “woefully out of date” and not well maintained or presented. “The fact that there are two separate listings of Amateur Radio enforcement actions on two separate FCC websites is, frankly, ridiculous in any case,” the ARRL concluded.

The ARRL also urged the FCC to make better use of the Amateur Auxiliary -- the ARRL Official Observer Program -- in resolving enforcement complaints. “It is unclear why none of the evidence gathered by OOs is usable other than as a predictor for Commission District Office staff to use in investigating the matter themselves -- if and when their time permits,” the League said. “The program is authorized by legislation. It would increase the Commission's efficiency if the work of these volunteers were put to a better use.”

The ARRL pointed to cases where chronic rule violators who were the subject of hundreds of hours of OO surveillance and off-the-air recordings have “been allowed to continue those activities for periods of years without more than a warning letter.”

The League said the Report “makes good recommendations” in addressing years-long delays in resolving rule making petitions and open-docket proceedings. As an example it cited the League's 2012 Petition for Rulemaking seeking a new Amateur Radio allocation at 472-479 kHz. “To date, a year and a half after it was filed, this Petition for Rule Making has not been afforded a file number, nor has public comment been solicited on it,” the ARRL said.

In a Public Notice the FCC said its Report “seeks to further the

goal of having the agency operate in the most effective, efficient and transparent way possible.” The League said it was not being critical of any individual FCC staffers or managers. “Rather, the remarks are directed at the Commission's policies and processes” and address issues that “result, in large part, from the unenviable necessity of allocating scarce (and in some cases inadequate) human resources available to the Commission.”

VOICE OF RUSSIA GOES DARK AFTER ALL

The Voice of Russia -- the former “Radio Moscow” -- ended its shortwave broadcasts on Tuesday, April 1 -- No fooling! After contradictory announcements and reports last December, it appears the international broadcaster has indeed pulled the plug on its HF transmissions. SWL Tom Witherspoon, K4SWL, contacted VOR. As he reported on his blog, Voice of Russia's Elena Osipova told him, “This is to thank you for your message and confirm the information about the upcoming cancellation of the Voice of Russia's short- and medium wave transmissions as of April 1, 2014.”

Richard Weil, KW0U, in St Paul, Minnesota, was able to hear the final shortwave broadcast. “Just barely picked up the last-day broadcast of VOR on 13.805 at 1300 UTC,” he commented on Witherspoon's site. He used a dipole in his attic. “No mention on air of a final broadcast, which some services have given before closing down,” he added. “Too bad to lose it, but time does move on.”

Effective December 9, as a result of a decree signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin, the Voice of Russia radio company officially ceased to exist and merged with several other state-run news agencies as part of *Rossia Segodnya*, a Russia-based international news service. From the 1950s through the 1980s, the station, then as Radio Moscow, was an easy catch for budding short-wave listeners (SWLs), many of whom later gravitated to Amateur Radio.

“I remember when the Voice of Russia and Radio Moscow absolutely dominated the shortwaves, especially in my early years as a radio listener,” Witherspoon remarked on his blog. “Times have changed for this broadcaster, who has been the mouthpiece for Russia and the Soviet Union.”

In 2003 VOR was among the first major international radio broadcasters to launch daily broadcasts to Europe in Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM).

From *the ARRL Letter*, April 10, 2014

FCC MAKES THE FIRST MOVE IN 5 GHZ U-NII DEVICES PROCEEDING

The FCC has taken the opening steps on its proposal (ET Docket 13-49) to make available another 195 MHz of spectrum at 5 GHz for Part 15 unlicensed National Information Infrastructure (U-NII) devices.

U-NII devices use “wideband digital modulation techniques to provide a wide array of high data rate mobile and fixed communications for individuals, businesses, and institutions,” the FCC has explained. In a First Report and Order (R&O) in the proceeding released on April 1, the Commission affirmed that Amateur Radio is entitled to protection from interference by such unlicensed devices.

“The Amateur Service is an allocated service entitled to

interference protection within the 5 GHz spectrum,” the FCC said, “whereas U-NII devices operate under our Part 15 rules.” Amateur Radio has a secondary allocation at 5.65-5.925 GHz, including an Amateur Satellite Service uplink allocation of 5.65-5.67 GHz, and a downlink allocation of 5.83-5.85 GHz.

In the R&O the FCC, among other things, extended the upper edge of the 5.725-5.825 GHz band to 5.85 GHz and consolidated the Part 15 rules “applicable to all digitally modulated devices operating across this 125 megahertz of spectrum to ensure that all such devices comply with U-NII requirements intended to protect authorized users from harmful interference,” the FCC said. The Commission did not address the use of U-NII devices in the 5.35-5.47 GHz and 5.85-5.925 GHz bands, pending additional technical analyses of those bands.

The FCC was obligated by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (PL 112-96) to begin a proceeding to amend its Part 15 rules to allow unlicensed U-NII devices to operate in the 5.35-5.47 GHz bands.

FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler called the R&O “a big win for consumers” that will offer much-needed relief from growing congestion on Wi-Fi networks. “At the same time,” Wheeler continued, “it moves us another step closer to ending the analog-era debate of licensed vs unlicensed spectrum. In 2014, licensed and unlicensed spectrum are more complementary than competitive. They are less oil and vinegar, and more peanut butter and jelly.”

The FCC R&O turned away an ARRL suggestion that it require U-NII devices to employ dynamic frequency selection (DFS) and transmit power control (TPC) throughout the 5.650-5.925 GHz segment to minimize harmful interference to Amateur Radio operations in the shared spectrum. The Commission said such a requirement was unnecessary.

In 1999, the Commission allocated 5.85-5.925 GHz for direct vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-roadside, or “Dedicated Short Range Communications” (DSRC). Amateurs may continue to operate in this segment, but only to the extent that they do not interfere with DSRC operations. In support of its argument that the introduction of U-NII into this segment would be premature, the ARRL has observed that “a U-NII overlay at the present time requires a good deal of compatibility analysis, none of which has been completed to date.”

In its comments last May, the League traced a history of “a continuing series of overlays” to which the 5 GHz band has been subjected over the past 16 years, progressively reducing the utility of the amateur allocation there. And the League asserted that “a decision in the near term with respect to the addition of U-NII devices to the 5.85-5.925 GHz band would be premature,” a conclusion the FCC now has reached.

“Chairman Wheeler noted the need for careful study of technical analyses prior to expanding unlicensed access into the 5.85-5.925 GHz band,” ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said. “We can only hope that he will insist on this study being done before the other shoe drops in this proceeding.” Read more at www.arrl.org/news/more-peanut-butter-and-jelly-fcc-drops-the-first-shoe-in-5-ghz-u-nii-devices-proceeding.

WWV'S 25 MHZ SIGNAL BACK ON THE AIR

WWV silenced its 25 MHz signal in 1977, but it's back on the air “for old times' sake” -- on an “experimental basis.” Resurrecting the long-dormant standard time outlet operated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) was Matt Deutch,

NORGT, the lead electrical engineer at WWV.

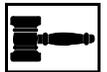
It all came about after Dean Lewis, W9WGV, lamented the loss of the 25 MHz signal in an e-mail to Deutch, who surprised him by subsequently putting the signal back on the air on April 4 for about 3-1/2 hours. A listener in Scotland posted a reception report of the WWV 25 MHz signal on YouTube. WWV ran another 25 MHz test starting on April 7. Initially it was only to stay up for 24 hours or so, but Deutch told ARRL that WWV will remain on the air probably for the rest of the week. “So hopefully a few more people will hear it,” he said.

Lewis said he'd told Deutch last week that 10 meter propagation has been very good at this point in Cycle 24, and he uses the various WWV frequencies as propagation beacons every day. “He responded that 'for old times' sake,' they'd put the signal back on the air for a while. I assumed, of course, that he was kidding, and so I didn't check. Matt wasn't kidding!”

NIST said the 25 MHz broadcast consists of the normal WWV signal heard on all other WWV frequencies, at the same level of accuracy. The transmitter in Fort Collins, Colorado, can deliver 2500 W into its “broadband monopole” antenna, although Deutch told ARRL that he is running it at 1200 W. WWV has invited listeners' comments and signal reports.

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, April 14, 2014



Kaiser Hospital, 710 Lawrence Expressway, Santa Clara, Ca. 95051 Status: unreviewed

The SCCARA General Membership Meeting was called to order by President Fred Townsend AE6QL at 19:31. Self introductions were made around the room. There were approximately 25 attendees.

Announcements: Don K6PBP announced that he was looking for ham volunteers for the May 3, 2014 M.S. Walk to be held at Vasona Park. First shift will start at 0600 and the second shift will start at 10:00 hrs. The walk should conclude by 12:30. Volunteers will need a 2M HT that has been pre-programmed for two frequencies. See Don during the meeting break for more information. -Don also announced that the club station at the S.J. Red Cross will be open Sat. April 12 after the SVECS breakfast. -Lou WA6QYS announced that the next SVECS breakfast will be April 12, 2014. The cost is \$5 for all you can eat and there will be a \$125 door prize. The speaker will be Rick Filippuzzi KG6YIE, the Emergency Planner for Kaiser Hospital. Please RSVP. -Lou also announced that SCCARA will again set up a ham station at the Native American Pow Wow at Stanford on Mother's Day week, May 9, 10, 11- 2014. There will be an HF station and we will monitor the SCCARA 2M repeater for talk-in. See Lou for more information. -Don AE6PM announced that there will be a ham Tech Class May 24, 2014 at the Saratoga Fire Station. See Don for more details. -Fred AE6QL reminded that ARRL members can sign up for email forwarding through the ARRL and that it is free. See Fred for more details. -Fred also mentioned that Field Day is coming up and that the June meeting will be about SCCARA's Field Day Plan. -Goetz K6GKB mentioned that he had a show and tell if there was time during to-night's meeting.

Fred turned the meeting over to Gregg KF6FNA who introduced

the guest speaker, Jim Peterson K6EI. Jim spoke on "Youth-Energizing your Club's Field Day". Jim is the Field Day Chairman for the West Valley Amateur Radio Association. He covered ways to raise awareness of Field Day and how to Bait-Attract more youth. The use of poster-maps at libraries and schools, passed out to friends, co-workers and scouts needs to be followed up with a Designated Greeter to help guests find the GOTA Station. He also encouraged the GOTA Station to have digital modes available because to day's youth is more familiar with key boards than with microphones.

After Jim's presentation, Goetz K6GKB shared his experience home-brewing a di-pole from 2 hustler mobile whips.

The meeting was adjourned and refreshments were enjoyed.

Gregg KF6FNA Acting recording secretary

Board Meeting, April 21, 2014



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 19:40

Attendance: President: Fred Townsend AE6QL; Treasurer: Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Trustee: Don Village K6PBQ; Directors: Wally Britten KA6YMD, Janet Motha KF6PUQ, Clark Murphy KE6KXO, Lloyd DeVaughns KD6FJI, Lou Steirer WA6QYS. Excused Absences: Vice President Gregg Lane KF6FNA, Secretary Viki Moldenhauer KI6WDS Visitors: Gwen Steirer KF6OTD

Announcements: SVECS Breakfast April 26, 2014 -M.S. Walk May 3, 2014- Don will mail out info packets to volunteers. -Stanford Pow Wow, May 9,10,11- 2014 -SCCARA will host the Flea Market July 12,2014

Secretary's Report: none given

Treasurer's Report: Goetz K6GKB handed out the balance sheet: checking=2,390.26, savings=500.07, cash=711.13, TOTAL=\$3,601.46 - A check for \$1,900 has been sent to cover SCCARA's Flea Market - Discussion on a letter drafted by Goetz suggesting that members wanting a subscription for a paper copy of the SCCARA-GRAM mailed to them get a separate charge (not part of the dues) was postponed per motion by Wally KA6YMD and seconded by Lloyd KD6FJI.

Trustee's Report: Don K6PBQ stated that the club station at the Red Cross will be open April 26, after the SVECS breakfast. -Don will contact the MS WALK Committee to schedule a meeting.

Vice President's Report: none given

President's Report: Fred AE6QL and Lloyd KD6FJI will do site surveys in city and county parks for potential Field Day locations.

Newsletter: no report given

BBS: no report given

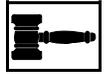
Repeater: Wally KA6YMD will obtain minutes from the NARK Meeting and give a report at a future board meeting.

Web Page: Fred will follow up on GO DADDY account for the SCCARA WEB PAGE.

Fred AE6QL adjourned the meeting at 2031.

Gregg KF6FNA Acting recording secretary

Board Meeting, March 17, 2014



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 19:37.

Attendance: President: Fred Townsend AE6QL; Vice President: Gregg Lane KF6FNA; Secretary: Viki Moldenhauer KI6WDS; Treasurer: Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Trustee: Don Village K6PBQ; Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Janet Motha KF6PUQ, Wally Britten KA6YMD, Clark Murphy KE6KXO; Absences: Director Lloyd DeVaughns KD6FJI; Visitors: Gwen Steirer KF6OTD, Gary Mitchell WB6YRU

Announcements: Fred AE6QL announced: - SVECS Quarterly Breakfast Saturday, April 26, 7am to help, 9am to eat, Santa Clara Senior Center

Secretary's Report: The minutes have been published in the SCCARAGram. Viki KI6WDS will send Gary WB6YRU a request to mail her copies of minutes other people have submitted in her absence.

Treasurer's Report: Goetz K6GKB handed out the balance sheet: checking = \$4431.05, savings = \$500.07, cash = \$631.13, total = \$5562.25. Gregg KF6FNA gave Goetz \$35 for a 12A power supply and \$45 for a Kenwood 2m radio, both sold at last month's flea market. Viki KI6WDS will send a list of 2013 non-renewals to Goetz.

Trustee's Report: Don K6PBQ reported he has received the club licenses, which are good for the next 10 years. He will have the club station open the last Saturday Mar 29th. Also the MS walk will be at Vasona Lake on Saturday May 3; at the next meeting, he will have the info on the number of rest stops and how many operators are needed.

Vice President's Report: Gregg KF6FNA reported the speaker for the next meeting is TBD. Also the Red Cross antennas/reroofing project is on semi-permanent hold. Gregg reported that an antenna project for Larry Spector to put a rotator at the bottom of a mast was successful, and a similar installation will be made for the Red Cross roof.

Gregg also reported he and Lou WA6QYS measured the trailer at the American Legion; it might be used to replace the Red Cross truck which has been used for flea markets but has now been decommissioned. Lou commented that all clubs now need to make their own arrangements to get the flea market equipment (canopy, tables, generator, buckets, chairs, coffee containers, etc) to the flea market, and eventually to store it in between. John W6JPP said the American Legion will offer their trailer for a nominal donation. Lou WA6QYS reminded the board we need to write a check for \$1950 to ASVARO. He also reported that SVECS rented their UHaul for around \$115. West Valley plans to run multiple vans instead of renting a truck or trailer.

Gregg has gotten no response from other clubs about Field Day.

Gregg received a call from someone about WA6UFN (Silent Key)'s two section tower in Campbell, but it has difficult access. If it doesn't get taken down, it will be cut down for the free pickup on Apr 4.

Don K6PBQ announced a neighbor of his has a 55 ft tower she wants removed, and will pay to remove. The antenna can be removed without taking down the tower. It is a 3-element tubular tower with no rust, and a rotator at the bottom. The antenna is a TA-53 Mosely (not jr) with the 40m add-on. She is asking \$600 for the tower, rotator, and beam.

Gregg will be inviting other clubs to present how they do Field Day. K6EI from West Valley Amateur Radio Association will present at some TBD date.

President's Report: Fred AE6QL reported on the Ham Cram held at the Palo Alto VA. There were some vets, but most were VA employees. Out of 18 who attended, 2 didn't take the test, and 9 passed. If the VA repeats this class, we could send SCCARA members. He is also investigating a large building site at the VA as a possible alternate flea market site.

Fred reported progress on renewing the web site addresses: he is working with Jim Tyranski Jr to get the password changed. Unfortunately all internet activity must go through a credit card, so it will be tied to Fred's card. Lou WA6QYS moved to have Fred try for a 10-year renewal of the web-site, Gregg KF6FNA seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Fred will add the club email address (w6uw@sbcglobal.net, set up by Wally KA6YMD) to the registration with godaddy.

Fred asked Janet to report on alternate Field Day sites: she spoke to someone in the parks department, who said that someone from the club needs to send an email requesting a special use permit for Field Day. She will email the person, copy Gregg, and he will reply. Fred noted we get points for having a public official attend. There was further discussion about sites, the number of stations (CW, PSK31, RTTY), and the possibility of the GOTA station being digital.

Fred gave a brief summary of Henry DeKruyff KE6HOU SK's memorial.

Fred raised the possibility of a donated club laptop being given to the secretary to use, with the advantage it would be already set up for Field Day.

Standing Committee Reports:

Newsletter: Gary WB6YRU reported cost facts. After discussion of newsletter costs and dues, Fred appointed a committee of Goetz K6GKB, Janet KF6PUQ, and Wally KA6YMD to study the issue, come up with a solution, and report back in September or earlier. Gary will write a newsletter article with the facts in.

BBS: Gary WB6YRU reported nothing new.

Property list: Gary checked the lockers: John W6JPP had been going to fix the shelves; this hasn't happened. Gary needs to get the boxes moved back so he can update the property list one last time, so this update is delayed. Clark KE6KXO, Gregg KF6FNA, and Fred AE6QL will look at fixing the shelves.

Repeater: Wally KA6YMD reported no changes.

Webpage: Wally is keeping the webpage updated.

Field Day: no update.

New Business:

Gary WB6YRU had a suggestion: the club has repeaters and packet BBS already. Don KK6MX has an ATV repeater but nowhere to put it; we have room where the BBS is. The cost would be coax, an antenna, and paying for electricity.

Don K6PBQ asked about the location of the holiday banquet so he can make reservations. By a show of hands, the location will again be the Creekside Inn.

Fred received an email about mesh repeaters: he will meet with the requestor.

Viki KI6WDS asked about scanning club documents in; these could be archived on the TBD laptop, or a thumb drive, or a CD.

Lou W6QYS asked if the club would like to participate in the Stanford POW WOW on Mother's Day weekend. SCCARA will put up an antenna, explain amateur radio to people. The POW WOW conflicts with the flea market on Saturday. Lou will tell Stanford that we will be there.

Wally KA6YMD announced the NARCC meeting is coming up, discussing the frequency splits. He cannot make the meeting, needs a proxy to go. Fred volunteered.

Fred AE6QL adjourned the meeting at 21:20.

Viki Moldenhauer, Secretary KI6WDS

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====
Date: 3 Feb 2014 00:58
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW
To: HUMOR@WW
Subject: Jokes 3/2

Q: What do you call a sleeping bull
A: A bull-dozer.

Q: What do you call a cow with no front legs?
A: Lean Beef

Q: What do you call a bull with no legs at all?
A: Ground beef

Q: What do you call a cow with no legs at all?
A: Udder drag

Q: What do you call a cow that can't produce milk?
A: An udder failure

Q: What do cows do for entertainment?
A: Go to moo-vies.

Q: What happens when a bomb goes off in the middle of a herd of cows?
A: Udder destruction!

Science From The Eyes of 5th and 6th Graders

The spinal column is a long bunch of bones. The head sits on the top, and you sit on the bottom.

A city purifies its water supply by filtering the water and then forcing it through an aviator.

The inhabitants of Moscow are Mosquitoes.

It is so hot in some places that people there have to live in other places.

Momentum is something you give a person when they go away.

Mushrooms always grow in damp places which is why they look like umbrellas.

The four seasons are salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

The alimentary canal is located in the northern part of Indiana.

Thunder is a rich source of loudness.

Some people can tell what time it is by looking at the sun but I never have been able to make out the numbers.

In some rocks you can find the fossil footprints of fishes.

When planets run around and around in circles, we say they are orbiting. When people do it, we say they are crazy.

One of the main causes of dust is janitors.

For asphyxiation, apply artificial respiration until the victim is dead.

Blood circulates through the body by flowing down one leg and up the other.

A monsoon is a French gentleman.

The word "trousers" is an uncommon noun because it is singular at the top and plural at the bottom.

Rain is saved up in cloud banks.

To keep milk from turning sour, keep it in the cow.

Genetics explains why you look like your father, and if you don't, why you should.

Water vapor gets together in a big cloud. When it gets big enough to be called a drop, it does.

There is a tremendous weight pushing down on the center of the Earth because so many people are stomping around there these days.

The cause of perfume disappearing is evaporation. Evaporation gets blamed for a lot of things people forget to put the top on.

You can listen to thunder and tell how close you came to getting hit. If You don't hear it, you got hit, so never mind.

The IRS audits Grandpa, and summons him to the IRS office. The auditor was not surprised when Grandpa showed up with his attorney.

The auditor said, "Well, sir, you have an extravagant lifestyle and

no full-time employment, which you explain by saying that you win money gambling. The IRS doesn't find that believable."

"I'm a great gambler, and I can prove it." says Grandpa. "How about a demonstration?" The auditor thinks for a moment and said, "Okay. Go ahead."

Grandpa says, "I'll bet you a thousand dollars that I can bite my own eye." The auditor thinks a moment and says, "It's a bet." Grandpa removes his glass eye and bites it. The auditor's jaw drops.

Grandpa says, "Now, I'll bet you two thousand dollars that I can bite my other eye." The auditor can tell Grandpa isn't blind, so he takes the bet. Grandpa removes his dentures and bites his good eye.

The stunned auditor now realizes he has wagered and lost three grand, with Grandpa's attorney as a witness. He starts to get nervous.

"Want to go double or nothing?" Grandpa asks "I'll bet you six thousand dollars that I can stand on one side of your desk, pee into that wastebasket on the other side, and never get a drop anywhere in between."

The auditor, twice burned, is cautious now, but he looks carefully and decides there's no way this old guy could possibly manage that stunt, so he agrees again.

Grandpa stands beside the desk and unzips his pants, but although he strains mightily, he can't make the stream reach the wastebasket on the other side, he pretty much urinates all over the auditor's desk.

The auditor leaps with joy, realizing that he has just turned a major loss into a huge win. But Grandpa's own attorney moans and puts his head in his hands.

"Are you okay?" the auditor asks. "Not really," says the attorney. "This morning he bet me twenty-five thousand dollars that he could come in here and pee on your desk and that you'd be happy about it."

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

Brace yourself, it's a big one this time... ☺

SCCARA-GRAM report for 2013

Imagine, if you would please, that SCCARA had a thousand members. You might think that's a good thing, right? But it would be a **bad** thing if they all wanted the club newsletter mailed to them, odd as that may sound.

In 2013 we printed 495 newsletters at a total printing cost of \$1066.61. That's an average of \$2.15 for one newsletter. (It varies slightly from year to year depending on the number of pages and even more so on the number of color pages.)

We all like color—me too—but a color page cost a lot more than a black and white page. I haven't figured out exactly what the average would be if the *SCCARA-GRAM* had no color, but it would be somewhere around 80 cents each.

Some newsletters were given away, some were mailed to members, and a few were saved for the archives. Of those that were mailed to members, there is the added cost of postage.

We had 73 members in 2013, 26 of whom get the mailed newsletter. That's 312 mailed newsletters. The cost of those alone (including postage) was \$827.81 total. That's \$31.84 to mail the *SCCARA-GRAM* to one member during 2013.

There are some expenses the club can't avoid, such as liability insurance, the State Incorporation fee, PO Box, etc. As close as I can determine, that minimum basic cost is at least \$300 annually. That's \$4.11 per member (or more if I missed something). If we had no other expenses, the dues could be around \$5 per member.

Roughly 2/3 of the membership gets the newsletter electronically.

If everyone got the mailed newsletter, it would cost the club almost \$2500. That's a very important point given that we collected \$1214 in dues during 2013. On the other hand, if everyone got the electronic version, the cost to the club would be \$0.

Looking at it another way, if you get the electronic newsletter, some 3/4 of your dues goes to help the club. But if you get the mailed newsletter, you're costing the club that same amount. (This is assuming all memberships are the same, no family or complementary members.)

The board has not allowed a discount in dues for those getting the electronic newsletter, nor have they allowed an extra charge for those getting the mailed newsletter.

The club treasury would have been in the red years ago if it weren't for the money we get by hosting the electronic flea market. However, starting this year, the flea market costs have gone up significantly. So, we'll make a little less from the flea market now.

I've noticed our treasury has been slowly dropping over the recent years. Now, no one wants to pay more dues, but just in the interest of basic fairness and to be sure the club remains solvent, let's think about this.

The options I can think of are:

- 1) All members pay higher dues
- 2) Pay your way if you want the mailed newsletter
- 3) Lower dues if you want the electronic newsletter
- 4) Do more fund raising
- 5) Some combination of the above
- 6) Something else?

Let the board know what you think. And I ask the board to tabulate the responses and seriously consider implementing whatever the majority advises.

I suggest option 2. Why? Consider this: Suppose we gain 100 new members and they all want the mailed newsletter. That would **cost** the club \$1000 to \$1500 each year! It shouldn't be possible for the club to lose money by gaining members. That's a dead give-away that our current dues structure is messed up.

When I was on the board, last year I mentioned this same thing (about the year 2012), but the consensus was that the revenue from the flea market will handle it. However, to me it just doesn't seem right that we (some of us) help raise funds for the club, only to then see a significant portion go to supplement those who want the mailed newsletter. There are exceptions of course, and it's the board's duty to take care of those, but I'm talking about the normal rank and file who can easily afford to pay their way.

One other thing... When I first joined SCCARA, I was very active in the booth we had at each month's flea market. We sold donated items. Typically we'd make a few hundred each time, it paid for the repeaters, BBS, and some of the club radios we now enjoy. That's also how we were able to pay for that commercial storage locker—which we no longer have. But it was a **lot** of work, Don Haden referred to it as “these iron-man efforts.” The point is: if we go for option 4, we first need to think carefully about what's involved. SCCARA was twice as big back then, but even so we just barely had enough people to do the job.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor



SCCARA

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association
PO Box 106
SAN JOSE CA 95103-0106

Affiliate of the ARRL,
American Radio Relay League



FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SCCARA Membership Form for 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.