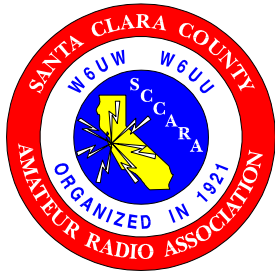


# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 30, Number 6

June 2014



## Prez Sez

It's time for Field Day. Most old timers know what Field Day is but many new hams may not be aware of the biggest amateur radio contest in North America. It is primarily a US contest but Canada and Mexico participate as well; the Mexicans not so much. It is the one contest that regular contesters and non-contesters participate in alike. The contest is bifurcated between a preparedness drill by working other stations and local public relations. It is the public relations aspect that teams hams with the general public. Under amateur GOTO supervision anyone is permitted to make contacts.

For many, Field Day is their chance to make contacts from other states and provinces. In the Pacific you can work a contesting station in Guam which is in the UTC+10 time zone. In the east you can work a contesting station as far away as the US Virgin Islands in UTC -04. That's potentially fourteen time zones. Actually you may work stations anywhere in the world for contest credit but the station must be within North America or the US possessions to actually contest.

This is the perfect time to visit and hopefully bring a friend. Think about what it would mean to a grandchild. I'll bet you'll have a lot of fun. Of course there will be picnic snacks and drinks for all without charge. The official start and finish contest times are 1100 PDT Saturday to 1100 PDT Sunday. I would hope everyone will turn out Friday afternoon to help setup and stay for Sunday noon lunch with take down following, but if you are limited please plan on spending a part day with us all.

In news from other fronts I have worked on two transmitter designs in recent years. Both designs worked within the assigned frequency bands of the US Amateur radio but were not for amateur use. Some of you may have thought amateur frequencies were for our exclusive use. You don't have to look far back to remember how Communist China parked their shortwave propaganda station in the middle of 40 M and how could you forget the Russian woodpecker that ranged up and down the HF bands jamming signals like BPL. However I am not talking about the HF bands and international frequency allocations. These were both UHF radios.

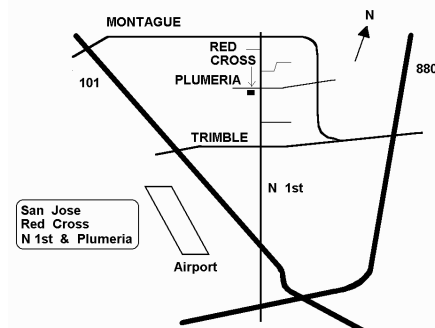
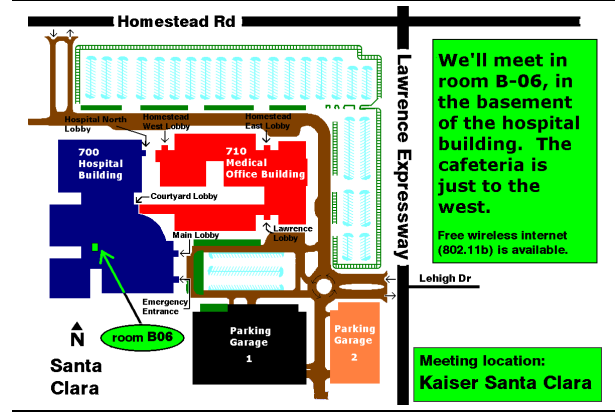
A few years back 70 cm band users living within a 150 mile radius of Beale AFB were reminded they were secondary users of the band and that they were required to reduce their signals below the Pave Paws noise floor. With limited spectrum it is easy to see why other interests might covet our ham bands as well. Over the years we have seen the FCC authorize so called tertiary users of the 70 and 33 cm in what is called the ISM (Industrial, Scientific, Medical) bands. These third-in-line users are permitted to use the bands as long as they do not interfere with the

## Calendar

- 6/9 SCCARA General Meeting
- 6/14 DeAnza electronic flea market
- 6/16 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 6/27-29 Field Day

## General Meeting

- Day: Monday, June 9, 2014
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Rm B-06
- Featuring: SCCARA on Field Day



The **SCCARA-GRAM** is published monthly by the **SANTA CLARA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**, PO Box 106, San Jose CA 95103-0106. Permission to reprint articles is hereby granted, provided the source is properly credited.

**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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**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

primary and secondary users. In other words they may not interfere with the military or hams. Also, they must accept interference from primary and secondary users.

Police robots are an example of one current tertiary user. I can think of many reasons why this is a very bad idea. The ARRL vigorously fought but lost the battle for tertiary status. They argued it wasn't too much of a stretch to foresee headlines, "Hostages killed because ham radio interfered with police robot defusing bomb." Yes, it is understood the robots must accept interference from the hams, but this proviso won't be remembered when the police are searching for a scapegoat.

Another ISM user is Savi Technologies, a maker of RFID tags. Their compelling argument is they need a frequency that is useable worldwide because their tags are used in a transoceanic environment where many countries have conflicting frequency allocations. Furthermore their customer is mainly the US Military and the US Military is the primary user of the 70cm band. The FCC granted Savi ISM status with strict power limitations as well as the requirement to "Listen Before Transmitting" (LBT). In the LBT frequency hopping scheme their RFID tags must not use frequencies where they have heard recent activity. LBT has always been a ham requirement but from the standpoint of unmanned automation the firmware to support LBT is burdensome. Nevertheless the FCC said to SAVI that is your cost of doing business on 70cm.

In 2012 Savi filed with the FCC asking to increase power and bandwidth as well as getting rid of the LBT requirement. It wasn't too hard to see where this was going. Our League rightly jumped in and cried foul. The filing seemed to languish in the morass of the rule making process until now.

Federal Regulations, Title 47, Part 15 (47 CFR 15), commonly called FCC Part 15, defines the rules for unlicensed radio operation including BPL and what is commonly called WiFi. Although they are not the same as WiFi, Bluetooth and ZigBee, ISM devices use similar (2.45GHz) Part 15 frequencies. Those frequencies are known as the trash or throw away frequencies because they are related to the natural resonant frequency of water and are too electrically noisy and therefore not used by space telescopes. Savi's competitors use the so called trash or throw away frequencies for their RFID tags so why Savi's preference for the ham bands?

Shortly after Savi filed with the FCC in 2012, the company was sold and moved from Mountain View, CA to where they were their Corporate Management was close to the Pentagon in Alexandria, VA. All hardware engineering was moved to Lexington, KY. With the move came the switch to 2.45 GHz band.

Finally this month we get the bulletin: SB QST ARL ARLB009 ARLB009 Petition to Expand RFID Use on 70 Centimeters Withdrawn

The FCC has dismissed without prejudice a Petition for Rule Making (RM-11651) by Lockheed Martin that would have amended the Commission's Part 15 rules to expand deployment of the company's radio frequency identification (RFID) system in the 433 MHz band (433.5-434.5 MHz). Lockheed Martin sold its RFID business 2 years ago, but the company only this month requested that the Petition be withdrawn and the proceeding terminated.

Thank you, ARRL. This is one of the many things the ARRL does for ham radio. Are you a member of ARRL? If not you should be.

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



# June Meeting

Field Day is June 27,28 and 29. Come to the SCCARA General Meeting to see how you can participate this year! You will get a preview and have opportunities to reserve time slots for operating various radio stations.

Gregg KF6FNA

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## Treasurer's Treatise

### Good News and Bad News

The good news is that membership dues are going to remain the same for 2015. The bad news is that our revenues are being squeezed in a most evil way.

Our only additional revenue generator, namely the annual flea market, has been severely reduced by the increase in the De Anza parking lot fee. Obviously, our revenues will remain the same, but the associated expenses have gone up.

If that wasn't enough, the Red Cross has discontinued its assistance by decommissioning the support truck that has been used to transport the command tent, generator, coffee makers, and refreshments. We now have the additional expense of renting a truck.

So the trick will be to maintain a modest balance in our treasury that can support our activities. To this end we will institute a policy that club expenses must benefit all members equally or not be authorized at all. This means we will have to plug one leak in our present balance sheet and that has to do with the expenses of printing and mailing the *SCCARA-GRAM*.

The costs of the *SCCARA-GRAM* is spread equally among the membership; however, there is a *gotcha* that needs to be fixed.

Those members who are receiving the newsletter by mail are incurring printing costs and postage expenses in excess of their membership dues. This means that they are not contributing to the running costs of the club as online subscribers do, but are in fact nipping from the collection basket.

As the treasurer of our club, I have decided, with board approval, that no portion of 2015 dues can be used to underwrite the expense of producing hard copies and mailing of the *SCCARA-GRAM* to club members. The 2015 membership application form will have the same checkbox for mail delivery of the newsletter, but it will require a \$30 subscription fee. For those accessing the newsletter over the internet, things will remain unchanged.

Goetz K. Brandt, K6GKB  
Treasurer SCCARA

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## What is Field Day?

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

Field Day is a picnic, a camp-out, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!

It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to

demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions.

We use these same skills when we help with events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums-----these are all large, preplanned, non-emergency activities. But despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems---or maybe because they ARE so complex---ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters. Amateur Radio people (also called "hams") are well known for our communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.

Gregg KF6FNA

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## SCCARA hosts the July flea market

The prime fund raising opportunity for SCCARA will be the July 12th Electronics Flea Market at De Anza College. It is a labor intensive endeavor so please consider volunteering for a shift to work with your fellow club members for the benefit of SCCARA. Workers are needed from before 5 AM until after 1 PM...early morning to register the arriving vendors and set up the food booth...in the afternoon to tear down the booth and clean up the area. In between, members are needed to sell coffee, sodas and donuts. Please reserve the date and sign up at the June 9th SCCARA meeting for your favorite shift(s), be it 5-7, 7-9, 9-11 or 11-13 hours.

Lou WA6QYS

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## ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, May 1, 2014

### AMATEUR RADIO PROPAGATION GURU SAYS EXTENDED SOLAR EBB MAY LIE AHEAD

Amateur Radio propagation and solar phenomena authority Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, said in an April 27 webinar, "Are We Headed into Another Maunder Minimum? What Does That Mean for Propagation?" that most solar scientists believe several low solar cycles lie ahead, ushering in periods of diminished HF propagation, especially on the higher bands. Luetzelschwab, who maintains K9LA's Amateur Radio Propagation Web Site and pens a regular "Propagation" column for NCJ, stopped short of concluding that we'll experience a Maunder minimum -- an extended period of very few or no sunspots. As the Marshall Space Flight Center's "Solar Physics" web page explains, early sunspot records indicate that the Sun went through an inactive period from about 1645 to 1715 -- called the Maunder minimum after the scientist who discovered it -- when very few sunspots were observed.

"Right now there's nothing bulletproof to say we're heading into a

Maunder minimum, so we're just going to have to wait and see," Luetzelschwab told the webinar, sponsored by the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF). "It sure looks like something inside the sun changed around the peak of Cycle 23. There's lots of evidence that we're entering a grand solar minimum. But I don't think any of the solar scientists are 100 percent sure that we're going to see a Maunder-type minimum." A grand solar minimum, he explained, is an extended period of low sunspot activity that is not as severe as a Maunder minimum.

Many solar scientists believe that Cycle 24 -- the current solar cycle -- is the weakest in years, and that this portends even less sunspot activity in the future. Some even have predicted outright that a Maunder minimum is around the corner.

In the hour-long presentation, Luetzelschwab reviewed the conclusions of research published by several solar scientists, raising various scenarios for what might lie ahead in terms of sunspots and related HF propagation. If a Maunder minimum were to occur, he predicted "we'll probably have some pretty good low-band propagation. Most everybody believes the low bands are better at solar minimum." But he conceded that a lot of factors come into play when trying to foresee what will happen from one solar cycle to the next and how it will affect radio propagation.

"We need to gather some really good data" over the next 10 years, Luetzelschwab concluded, adding that the additional data will provide evidence one way or the other.

"Are We Headed into Another Maunder Minimum? What Does That Mean for Propagation?" will be posted in the webinar archive on the WWROF website. Read more at [www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-propagation-guru-says-extended-solar-ebb-may-lie-ahead](http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-propagation-guru-says-extended-solar-ebb-may-lie-ahead).

## **AM BROADCASTERS, HAMS HAVE COMMON INTEREST IN CLEANING UP NOISE SOURCES**

Radio amateurs and AM broadcasters have some common ground in wanting to clean up "a worsening RF noise environment in the AM broadcast band," according to recent comments filed with the FCC by the Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE) on the issue of revitalizing AM broadcasting. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, who is also general counsel for the SBE, drafted the remarks.

"There are numerous complaints from Amateur Radio operators of severe interference from power line noise annually," said the SBE comments, filed earlier this year. "Power line radiation in the HF and MF Amateur allocations will in most cases directly translate to preclusive noise in the AM broadcast band. The Commission has relied completely on the good faith efforts of electric utilities to resolve these."

While that approach has succeeded in some cases, Imlay wrote, "more often, utilities do not have available to them -- and are not willing to retain -- persons skilled in RF interference resolution, and the cases at FCC are allowed to languish unresolved for years...without any enforcement action at all." The SBE noted that AM listeners often are in vehicles adjacent to power lines that "frequently radiate RF noise" at levels to make AM reception difficult or impossible.

The SBE comments also pointed to "substantial numbers of complaints of harmful interference to Amateur Radio stations" from LED lighting systems, noting that many RF light bulbs could be within range of a typical AM broadcast receiver in the typical residential neighborhood. Imlay used recent ARRL Laboratory RF lighting test results as one example to illustrate the problem.

The SBE comments cited an RF lighting ballast used for indoor gardening that generated excessive conducted emissions that could "preclude AM broadcast reception over entire residential subdivisions." The ARRL formally complained about the device to the FCC last month. The SBE also pointed the finger at radiation from unintentional emitters, such as plasma TV sets, and conducted emissions from devices such as pulse-width motor controllers.

"[T]he goal of AM revitalization will never be realized in the medium and long term in the face of the headwind of a worsening RF noise environment in the AM broadcast band," the SBE said, noting that the same concerns apply to all bands between 9 kHz and 30 MHz. "Some regulatory relief is absolutely necessary," the SBE concluded.

The situation may already be improving. Last month the FCC cited a Washington resident for operating an "incidental radiator" -- apparently some sort of lighting device -- that has been causing harmful interference on Amateur Radio frequencies. The Commission has ordered the individual to stop using the device. Read more at [www.arrl.org/news/am-broadcasters-hams-have-common-interest-in-cleaning-up-noise-sources](http://www.arrl.org/news/am-broadcasters-hams-have-common-interest-in-cleaning-up-noise-sources).

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From *The ARRL Letter*, May 8, 2014

## **ARRL OPPOSES FCC PROPOSAL TO LEAVE LICENSED SERVICE USERS OPEN TO UNLICENSED INTERFERENCE**

Asserting "a substantial stake" in the outcome of the proceeding, the ARRL has commented in opposition to an FCC proposal that would leave licensed radio service users vulnerable to interference from unlicensed devices. In a docket unrelated to Amateur Radio spectrum, the Commission has indicated that it's willing to consider adding licensed Globalstar terrestrial users to the 2473-2483.5 MHz band -- already shared by licensed and unlicensed services -- with the condition that customer handset users in the new allocation accept interference from unlicensed radio services now legally operating there. The League's comments were in response to a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in IB Docket 13-213 and RM-11685.

"This plan would for the first time create a multiple-use, radio frequency environment in which Part 15 unlicensed devices do not have to protect a licensed, allocated radio service from harmful interference," the ARRL stressed. "This is untenable as a precedent, and it makes the entirety of the [NPRM] likewise untenable."

The League said allowing Globalstar to deploy Ancillary Terrestrial Component (ATC) users of its Mobile-Satellite Service (MSS) system under technical rules that apply to unlicensed users would depart from long-standing rules protecting licensed radio services from interference resulting from the use of unlicensed Part 15 or Part 18 ISM devices.

The League said the proposal "represents an unprecedented withdrawal of the assurances that licensed users have been given by the Commission and relied upon in dozens of allocation proceedings." The League said many Commission orders "consistently embody" the principle that Part 15 device operators must cease operations that cause harmful interference.

"The Commission cannot, consistent with the entire regulatory underpinning for allowing Part 15 devices, premise an allocation decision in this case on the unique provision that a component of a licensed radio service will not be entitled to interference

protection from Part 15 devices, whether those unlicensed devices are incumbent or deployed in the future in the band at issue,” the League concluded.

The ARRL suggested that the FCC “do some bona fide technical evaluation” of compatibility between and among services in and below the band at question and of ATC systems before deciding whether or not the proposed overlay is compatible.

“The price of making the wrong assumptions is too high in this and similar allocations proceedings,” the ARRL said, “and the damage from the wrong assumptions will be, practically speaking, impossible to reverse.”

Read more at [www.arrl.org/news/arrl-opposes-fcc-proposal-to-leave-licensed-service-users-open-to-unlicensed-interference](http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-opposes-fcc-proposal-to-leave-licensed-service-users-open-to-unlicensed-interference).

## CANADIAN RADIO AMATEURS GAIN NEW 472-479 KHZ BAND

As of May 1, radio amateurs in Canada have a new allocation at 472-479 kHz. The 7 kilohertz sliver of spectrum is available to hams there on a secondary basis. Delegates attending the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-12) approved a secondary allocation between 472-479 kHz for the Amateur Radio Service, and telecommunications regulator Industry Canada subsequently proposed numerous revisions to its Table of Frequency Allocations, including the new MF band. Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) announced the band’s “official implementation” on May 3.

“Canadian amateur operators have recently secured two new segments of spectrum, thanks to the very hard work of RAC volunteers,” the announcement said. “The 60 meter band allocation was made official a few month ago as well.”

MF and LF experimenter Joe Craig, VO1NA, “discovered” last week that the long-awaited new 630 meter band had become available, after he checked the Table of Frequency Allocations. Craig said it didn’t take long for him and his wife Michelle, VO1RL, “to get our feet wet” on the new allocation. She stayed at home, while Joe tossed some gear into the car and drove to a park for their first contact on the new band (at 473 kHz on CW).

Last fall Industry Canada issued an experimental radio license to Craig’s club, the Marconi Radio Club of Newfoundland (VO1MRC), endorsing experimental station VX9MRC to conduct transmissions on 472-479 kHz on 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.

The ARRL in 2012 petitioned the FCC to carve out the same band for US hams, but the Commission has not yet acted on the League’s request. The ARRL-sponsored WD2XSH experimental operation in that region of the spectrum continues, with Fritz Raab, W1FR, as the coordinator. Other experimenters also operate there from time to time.

By international agreement, the maximum equivalent isotropically radiated power (EIRP) of amateur stations using 472-479 kHz may not exceed 5 W (or 1 W EIRP in some locations).

Craig believes the new band will appeal to a broader group of hams than do more-demanding LF allocations. He has predicted that transatlantic contacts, while challenging, “should be fairly common using conventional CW and digital modes.”

Read more at [www.arrl.org/news/canadian-radio-amateurs-gain-new-472-479-khz-band](http://www.arrl.org/news/canadian-radio-amateurs-gain-new-472-479-khz-band).

# MS Walk

The MS Society and I would like to thank the following members of SCCARA for providing radio communications for the 2014 MS Walk on Saturday May 3rd. Fred AE6QL, John KI6ANW, Bill AG6EM, John and Johnalee AJ6BC, Lloyd KD6FJI, Mike KB6LCJ. Wally KA6YMD, Joshua N6TZE and Gregg KF6FNA.

73, Don Village K6PBQ

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## Meeting Minutes

### General Meeting, May 12, 2014



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

The SCCARA General Membership Meeting was called to order by Fred Townsend AE6QL at 19:39. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Announcements: Gregg KF6FNA stated that Gwen KE6OTD took a fall and is recovering. Gregg spoke to Lou WA6QYS who said that he would let us know when Gwen was ready for visitors. A get well card for Gwen was passed around at the meeting for anyone wanting to sign it. Don K6PBQ announced that the club station would be open May 31. He stated that the club station would not be open in June because SCCARA would be participating in Field Day. Fred AE6QL announced that for Field Day, SCCARA was applying for a special use permit at Vasona County Park for the Circle Group Area. He requested that SCCARA members think about bringing a guest to Field Day. Gary WB6YRU stated that later, during the refreshment break, he was going to assist a member with an antenna problem and was looking for someone that had experience with “inverted L” antennas. See him during the break.

Gregg KF6FNA introduced the evening speaker, Fred AE6QL. Fred would be speaking on power poles and 12VDC distribution. The second part of Fred’s presentation would happen during the refreshment break and would be some “show and tell” items on a table at the front of the room. After Fred’s presentation the meeting was adjourned at 20:40 and refreshments were enjoyed.

Gregg Lane, KF6FNA, recording

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### Board Meeting, May 19, 2014



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

The SCCARA Board Meeting was called to order by Fred Townsend AELQL at 19:40

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

Announcements: Lou WA6QYS announced that SCCARA's Flea market at De Anza College will be on July 12, 2014. Gregg KF6FNA announced that the deadline for submitting articles for the SCCARAGRAM will be Monday 26th at midnight.

Secretary's Report: The minutes were approved as published in the SCCARAGRAM.

Treasurer's Report: Goetz K6GKB handed out a balance sheet: checking = 2,390.26, savings = 500.07, cash = 711.13, Total = \$3,601.46. Goetz spoke on the recommendations of the Dues Pricing Committee. After the committee report, Clark KE6KXO made a motion that for the fiscal year 2015 that members wishing a printed copy of the SCCARAGRAM mailed to them will be charged \$30 additional surcharge. Goetz K6GKB seconded, and the motion carried.

Trustee's Report: Don K6PBQ thanked everyone who helped with the MS Walk on May 3rd. -The club station will be open May 31. -SCCARA wishes to promote the club's digital radio activity.

Vice President's Report: Gregg KF6FNA announced that the June 9 General Meeting will be about SCCARA's Field Day(June 27,28,29) -The club's station at the San Jose Red Cross Building is going to have an antenna party to add a 10/12/15/17/20M beam. At least 4 people will be needed. Contact Gregg KF6FNA if you are interested in helping. -Clark KE6KXO has once again volunteered the use of his front yard for the annual antenna trailer field day prep. party. Thank you Clark! Please contact Gregg KF6FNA if you are interested in helping.

Presidents Report: Fred AE6QL announced that his application for Vasona County Park at the Circle Group Area could cost \$480 for the sight fee. Lloyd KD6FJI made a motion to approve \$480 for this fee, Lou WA6QYS seconded, and the motion carried. -Fred announced that he had arranged for a computer to be turned over to the secretary Viki KI6WDS so that she could archive club records and back them up on a flash drive. The computer has been donated to SCCARA by Herman KI6ETZ and Henry KE6HOU. -Fred said that it is time to renew the www.sccara.com and www.sccara.org domains.

Newsletter: None

BBS: None

Repeater and Web Page: Wally KA6YMD reported status quo

Fred AE6QL adjourned the meeting at 21:17

Gregg Lane, KF6FNA, recording

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## Packet Pieces

**Downloaded from the BBS packet network:**

=====  
Date: 29 Jan 2014 00:58  
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW  
To: HUMOR@WW  
Subject: Jokes 29/1  
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The Sermon I will never forget...

On a particular Sunday sermon... "Dear Lord," the minister

began, with arms extended toward heaven and a rapturous look on his upturned face, "Without you, we are but dust..."

He would have continued, but at that moment my four year old daughter leaned over and asked quite audibly in her shrill little voice, "Mom, what is butt dust?"

### Engineers

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Two engineering students were walking across a university campus when one said "Where did you get such a great bike?" The second engineer replied "well I was walking along yesterday minding my own business when a beautiful woman rode up on this bike, threw it to the ground, took off all her clothes and said "Take what you want."

The first engineer nodded approvingly and said "Good choice, the clothes probably wouldn't have fitted you anyway."

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To the optimist the glass is half-full. To the pessimist the glass is half-empty. To the engineer the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.

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A priest a doctor and an engineer were waiting one morning for a particularly slow group of golfers.

The engineer fumed "What's with those guys? We must have been waiting for fifteen minutes!" The doctor chimed in "I don't know but I've never seen such inept golf!"

The priest said "Here comes the green-keeper. Let's have a word with him." He said "Hello George, what's wrong with that group ahead of us? They're rather slow aren't they?"

The green-keeper replied "oh yes. That's a group of blind firemen. They lost their sight saving our clubhouse from a fire last year, so we always let them play for free anytime."

The group fell silent for a moment.

The priest said "That's so sad. I think I will say a special prayer for them tonight."

The doctor said "Good idea. I'm going to contact my ophthalmologist colleague and see if there's anything he can do for them."

The engineer said "Why can't they play at night?"

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What is the difference between mechanical engineers and civil engineers?

Mechanical engineers build weapons, civil engineers build targets.

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Three engineering students were gathered together

discussing who must have designed the human body. One said "It was a mechanical engineer. Just look at all the joints."

Another said "No it was an electrical engineer. The nervous system has billions of electrical connections."

The last one said "No actually it had to have been a civil engineer. Who else would run a toxic waste pipeline through a recreational area?"

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Normal people believe that if it ain't broke don't fix it. Engineers believe that if it ain't broke it doesn't have enough features yet.

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An engineer was crossing a road one day when a frog called out to him and said "If you kiss me I'll turn into a beautiful princess." He bent over, picked up the frog and put it in his pocket.

The frog spoke up again and said "If you kiss me I'll turn back into a beautiful princess and stay with you for one week."

The engineer took the frog out of his pocket smiled at it and returned it to the pocket.

The frog then cried out "If you kiss me and turn me back into a princess I'll stay with you for one week and do ANYTHING you want."

Again the engineer took the frog out smiled at it and put it back into his pocket. Finally the frog asked "What is the matter? I've told you I'm a beautiful princess and that I'll stay with you for one week and do anything you want. Why won't you kiss me?"

The engineer said "Well, a beautiful girlfriend for a week would be nice, but a talking frog.. now that's cool!"

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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

### RFI and electric cars?

In the last *SCCARA-GRAM*, we read in the Prez Sez column a warning that electric cars may be a source of ruinous noise (RF Interference) and/or suffer from nearby transmissions.

Well, apparently it ain't necessarily so. I know a local HAM who has had a Toyota Camry Hybrid for years now. I mentioned the article to him and this is what he tells me:

The gas engine only runs when needed, other than that it's completely electric. The car is propelled by a 600 volt 3 phase AC motor. A large water-cooled inverter supplies the power from a 244 volt battery. Despite all that heavy weight electrical activity, the car has not produced any noticeable RF noise. In fact, the GPS receiver produces more RF noise than anything the car puts out. So, the car is very RF quiet, at least on 2 m, 70 cm, and 23 cm. As far as acting up near transmitters... the car has never shown any effect at all from transmissions of up to 50 Watts.

Now, this is only the Camry, maybe other electric cars are different. But at least this is a real-world example demonstrating that electric cars can get along just fine with amateur radio. And if Toyota can make their electric cars play nice with amateur radio, then I expect most other electric cars would be similar.

We've had to deal with RFI problems ever since radios and cars were put together. And it could happen with electric cars too. But it seems to me we have enough REAL problems to deal with, let's not get worked into a lather over problems that so far don't exist.

If anyone has first-hand experience with electric cars and radios, good or bad, and would like to share, feel free to send them in for the *SCCARA-GRAM*.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

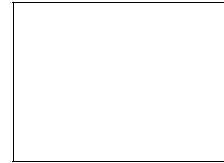
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**SCCARA**

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

Affiliate of the ARRL,  
American Radio Relay League



**FIRST CLASS**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**SCCARA Membership Form for 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.