

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 31, Number 3

March 2015



ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, February 5, 2015

RadioShack's Long, Slow Downward Slide Nears the End

The end is near for RadioShack. It seems inevitable that the once seemingly ubiquitous electronics and cell phone retailer will liquidate its assets, after which RadioShack would cease to exist. A number of legal steps would have to come first, including a bankruptcy filing. The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) de-listed RadioShack on February 2, after the company failed to maintain a required minimum value. BloombergBusiness has reported that behind-the-scenes talks are under way to sell approximately half of RadioShack's owned-and-operated stores to Sprint and shutter the remaining outlets, although other scenarios involving other entities are possible.

The nearly century-old Fort Worth, Texas, based retailer -- once a go-to shop for electronic components and, at one point, even Amateur Radio and shortwave receivers -- has lost 90 percent of its value over the past year, despite efforts to refinance and modernize its stores. Before being de-listed on February 2, RadioShack's stock was selling for just 24 cents a share.

The hedge fund Standard General LP loaned the retailer \$535 million last fall and would be the lead bidder in a bankruptcy filing and debtor-in-possession financing, BloombergBusiness said.

RadioShack once offered entry-level short-wave receivers, Citizens Band gear, a wide array of discrete components -- including transistors, resistors, and capacitors -- and, for a time, a fairly popular 2 meter hand-held transceiver and two different models of 10 meter single-band transceivers, although it failed in its effort to develop and market a VHF/UHF hand-held radio. Over the years, RadioShack has offered fewer discrete components in its brick-and-mortar stores, moving that stock and other products to its online outlet, as it shifted its marketing focus to cell phones, consumer electronics, and various battery-operated gadgets.

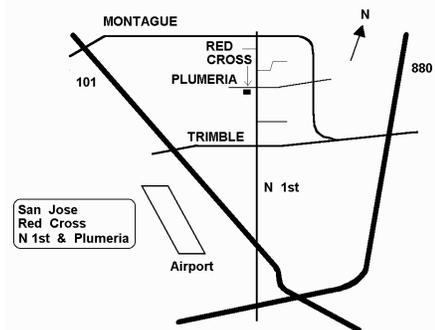
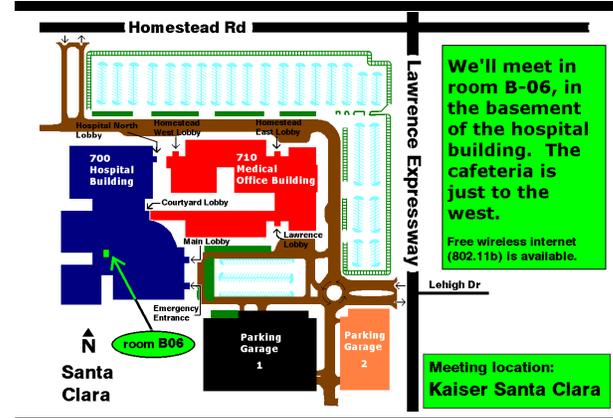
A year ago, after a dismal holiday showing, RadioShack announced plans to close 1100 stores, including 900 company-owned outlets. Due to the high costs involved with closing the stores, liquidating merchandise, lease penalties, and severances, however, the company has been able to shut down fewer than 200 outlets. RadioShack was reported to have about \$60 million in cash heading into the 2014 holiday season.

Calendar

- 3/09 SCCARA General Meeting
3/16 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting

- Day: Monday, March 9, 2015
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Hospital B-06
Featuring: {to be announced}



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)

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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 (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

From *The ARRL Letter*, February 12, 2015

FCC Seeks Comment on Radar Sharing Schemes that Could Displace Amateur Radio at 76-81 GHz

The FCC is seeking comment on issues involving expanded use of various radar applications in the 76-81 GHz band, which Amateur Radio shares with other services. The band 77.5-78 GHz is allocated to the Amateur and Amateur Satellite services on a primary basis, and to the Radio Astronomy and Space Research services on a secondary basis.

"We undertake this proceeding to expand the available spectrum for radar operations in the 76-81 GHz band," the FCC said in a detailed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Reconsideration Order (NPRM&RO), released February 5 in ET Docket 15-26. The Commission said the proposals include allocation changes as well as provisions "to ensure that new and incumbent operations can share the available frequencies in the band."

The FCC NPRM&RO is in response to a Petition for Rulemaking (RM-11666) filed in 2012 by Robert Bosch LLC and to two petitions for reconsideration of the Commission's 2012 Report and Order (R&O) addressing vehicular radar systems in the 76-77 GHz band. ET 15-26 incorporates earlier proceedings.

Among many issues, the FCC seeks comment on the possibility of reallocating the Amateur Radio and Amateur Satellite services from 76-81 GHz, and it asks for suggestions on "alternative spectrum that we might make available in this general region."

Bosch's 2012 Petition sought to modify the FCC's Part 15 rules to expand the operation of unlicensed vehicular radar systems from 76-77 GHz to the 76-81 GHz band to develop short-range radar (SRR) applications. The Bosch petition received "general support from the automotive industry," the Commission said. In its petition, Bosch said that it anticipated no interference issues between Amateur Radio operations and vehicular radar operations at 77-81 GHz. "It notes that it is unconvinced after several meetings with the technical staff of ARRL that there is any 'significant incompatibility,'" the FCC NPRM&RO recounted, "and describes how amateur operations in the band 'tend to be largely experimental, occurring in geographic areas such as mountaintops and other rural areas where motor vehicle operation is not typical.'"

The FCC noted, however, that it "has previously recognized evidence of potential interference conflicts" between Amateur Radio and vehicular radar systems in the 76-77 GHz band, and believes the potential for "similar compatibility issues" could exist above 77 GHz. More than 10 years ago the FCC suspended Amateur Radio and Amateur Satellite operation in the 76-77 GHz segment and recently extended the suspension.

"Our goal is to adopt rules that address amateur use, including Amateur Satellite use, within the 76-81 GHz band in a comprehensive and consistent manner," the FCC asserted.

The FCC said that to the extent commenters believe Amateur Radio can continue to use the 4 millimeter band, it seeks comments on "what additional rule modifications we would have to adopt to realize successful shared use of the entire band." One possibility the FCC raised was altering current amateur power limits in that portion of the spectrum. The Commission said it also wants to "develop a record on the types of amateur use, and the extent of such use, that is currently undertaken" at 4 millimeters.

From *The ARRL Letter*, February 19, 2015

ARRL Warns Experimental Licensee to Avoid Interference to HF Ham Activity

The ARRL has asked a Massachusetts company that plans to conduct experimental transmissions over wide portions of the HF spectrum either to avoid Amateur Radio allocations or to announce the times and frequencies of their transmissions in advance. The FCC last fall granted MITRE Corporation of Bedford, Massachusetts, a 2-year Part 5 Experimental License, WH2XCI, to operate 21 transmitters at 10 fixed New York and Massachusetts sites. MITRE plans to test wideband HF communication techniques on a variety of bands between 2.5 MHz and 16 MHz.

“[I]t will not be possible for MITRE to operate these transmitters within the Amateur Radio Service allocations...without causing harmful interference to a large number of Amateur Radio operators on an ongoing basis,” ARRL Chief Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said in a February 12 letter to MITRE.

Imlay said that if MITRE does not agree to avoid ham radio bands or to announce times and frequencies of transmissions ahead of time, it will ask the FCC to rescind the company's Experimental License or to impose a prior notification requirement “in real time for each and every use of the transmitters authorized at each site.”

The WH2XCI Experimental License authorizes maximum bandwidths of 5 kHz, 500 kHz, and 1 MHz at effective radiated power levels of 6 W, 24 W, or 122 W. MITRE has indicated that most bandwidths would be between 100 and 300 kHz.

“At these power levels with the operating parameters proposed, it will be impossible to conduct your tests at any time within the Amateur Radio allocations and, at the same time, avoid harmful interference,” Imlay said. He noted that MITRE already conceded this point in a technical exhibit submitted to the FCC with respect to its 1 MHz bandwidth mode.

Imlay said that when interference from MITRE's wide-bandwidth transmitters “inevitably occurs in the narrow-bandwidth, sensitive receivers” hams use, amateur licensees will have no way to determine the source of the interference or know to whom they might complain. “Thus, your assurance of operation on a 'non-interference basis' is meaningless under the circumstances, and yet that is both a special condition of operation” of the WH2XCI license and under FCC Part 5 regulations, Imlay told MITRE.

“It is ARRL's intention to ensure that this experimental authorization, improvidently granted to the extent that it includes heavily used Amateur Radio allocations, is not permitted to cause interference to ongoing Amateur Radio HF communications,” Imlay concluded.

MITRE obtained the Experimental License to investigate high data rate wideband HF communication systems.

US to Propose Additional Sharing of 10 GHz Band at WRC-15

The US proposal for World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15) Agenda Item 1.12 -- to expand the Earth Exploration Satellite Service (EESS) in the vicinity of 10 GHz -- supports allocating an additional 600 MHz of spectrum to the EESS (active) as a primary allocation in the frequency band 9.9-10.5 GHz, with certain limitations. The Amateur and Amateur-Satellite services have secondary allocations of 10.0-10.5 GHz and 10.45-10.5 GHz, respectively; the only current primary allocation is to Radiolocation. A study conducted by a Working Party of the

International Telecommunication Union Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) concluded that the interference potential of EESS (active) to Amateur Radio was limited to very brief and infrequent periods.

“In this hotly contested frequency range, the best we can hope for is that sharing partners will be compatible with continued amateur access, and that is the case here,” ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, commented.

The US proposal does not include adding the United States to a “country footnote” that allocates the 10.0-10.45 GHz band to the fixed service in some Region 2 countries -- a position advocated by Mimosa Networks and strongly opposed by the ARRL. Mimosa Networks had petitioned the FCC to allow wireless broadband services in the band, which the ARRL has also strongly opposed.

The US proposal includes a provision that recognizes the Amateur-Satellite Service. “This proposal ensures that secondary Amateur-Satellite service operations in the frequency band 10.45-10.5 GHz that are advance published prior to the date of entry into force of the primary EESS (active) allocation in 9900-10,500 MHz are treated on a co-equal basis with EESS (active) operations,” the US position states. After that date, presumed to be January 1, 2017, new stations in the Amateur-Satellite Service would be considered secondary to the EESS.

EESS use of the 9900-10,500 MHz band would be limited to systems requiring necessary bandwidths greater than 600 MHz that cannot be fully accommodated within the 9300-9900 MHz band.

ARRL Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4QX, has been advocating on behalf of positions favorable to Amateur Radio at WRC-15 during the US preparatory process. He notes that administrations in Europe generally favor an EESS allocation down to 9.2 GHz and up to 10.4 GHz, sparing the Amateur Satellite segment.

A US proposal on WRC-15 Agenda Item 1.4, involving the possibility of an Amateur Radio allocation in the vicinity of 5 MHz, has not been finalized. US proposals on WRC-15 agenda items that already have been agreed upon are available on the National Telecommunications and Information Agency (NTIA) website. Each proposal represents the US position on WRC-15 agenda items for possible changes to the international Radio Regulations.

FCC “Paperless” Amateur Radio License Policy Now in Effect

Effective February 17, the FCC no longer routinely issues paper license documents to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one, but what arrives in the mail now will be printed on plain white recycled paper, instead of the more distinctive stock the FCC had been using until recently. All of this is part of the FCC's efforts to streamline procedures and save money.

“We find this electronic process will improve efficiency by simplifying access to official authorizations in ULS, shortening the time period between grant of an application and access to the official authorization, and reducing regulatory costs,” the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) said. According to the WTB, the new procedures will save more than \$300,000 a year, including staff expenses.

The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic Universal Licensing System (ULS) record, although the FCC had routinely continued to print and mail hard copy licenses until this week.

In mid-December, the FCC adopted final procedures to provide access to official electronic authorizations, as it had proposed in WT Docket 14-161 as part of its “process reform” initiatives. Under the new procedures, licensees will access their current official authorization (“Active” status only) via the ULS License Manager.

Licensees can also print an official license authorization -- as well as an unofficial “reference copy” -- from the ULS License Manager.

The ULS License Manager now permits licensees to change the default setting, so that the Bureau will print and mail a license document.

From *The ARRL Letter*, February 26, 2015

ARRL Seeks Member Input on Draft HF Band Plan Proposals

The ARRL is asking members to comment by April 19 on possible changes to the League's HF Band Plans suggested by the HF Band Planning Committee. The survey is part of the committee's efforts to tweak the band plans for the RTTY/data/CW portions of 80 through 10 meters -- excepting 60 meters. The committee developed its suggested revisions to the voluntary band plans after reviewing some 400 member comments in response to a March 2014 solicitation that sought suggestions on how to use the spectrum more efficiently, so that data modes may coexist compatibly.

“The committee concluded that most of the concerns voiced by members could be addressed by modest adjustments to the existing band plans, and mainly by confining data modes with bandwidths greater than 500 Hz to the FCC-designated segments for **automatically controlled digital stations (ACDS)** and to parts of the RTTY/data subbands above those segments,” ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said. His article detailing the committee's suggestions will appear in the April issue of QST. www.arrl.org/files/file/About_ARRL/Committee_Reports/2015/January/SUMNER_QS4.pdf

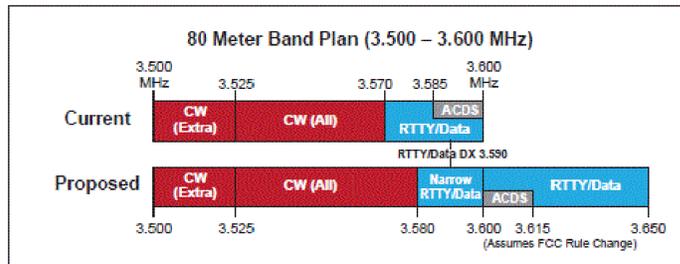
The proposed changes differentiate among ACDS, narrow RTTY/data modes having a bandwidth no greater than 500 Hz, and wider data modes having a bandwidth up to 2700 Hz.

Band-by-Band Draft Recommendations

On **80 meters**, the committee suggests several modifications to the band plan. FCC action in 2006 reduced the 80 meter RTTY/data subband to 100 kHz and limited access to the 3600-3700 kHz segment to Amateur Extra class licensees. “Unless and until the FCC Rules are modified, changes in the band plan for 3500-3600 kHz will not improve the situation,” Sumner said.

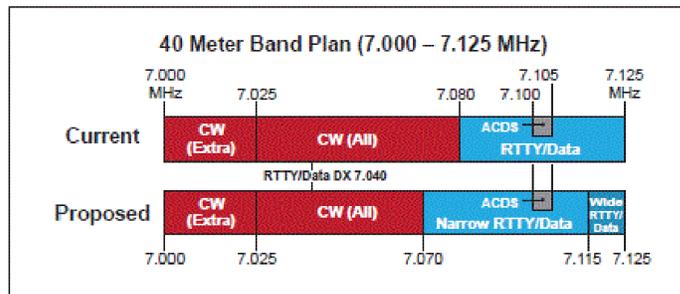
The HF Band Planning Committee recommends that the League petition the FCC to move the boundary between the 80 meter RTTY/data band and the 75 meter phone/image band from 3600 to 3650 kHz and restoring that segment to General and Advanced class licensees. Members are being asked to comment on this proposal, as well as on whether or not the ARRL should petition the FCC for these other changes:

- Shift the ACDS band segment from 3585-3600 to 3600-3615 kHz, consistent with the IARU Region 1 and 2 band plans.
- Extend the current Novice/Technician CW segment of 3525-3600 kHz to 3650 kHz.
- Add 80 meter RTTY/data privileges for Novices and Technicians.

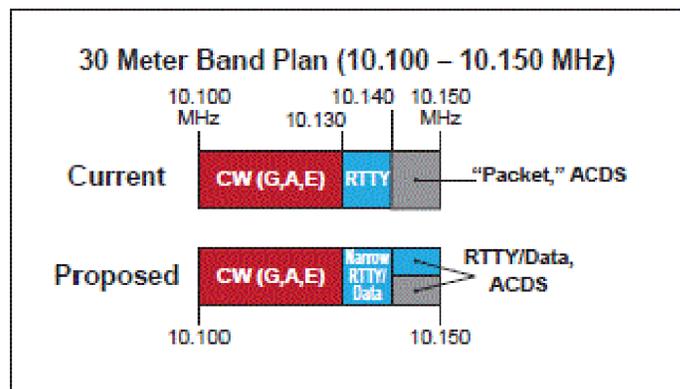


On **40 meters**, the committee concluded that it would be unrealistic to try to bring the ARRL band plan into alignment with the rest of the world, particularly with Regions 1 and 3 where operating patterns developed when the entire band, including phone, was just 100 kHz wide -- and is still only 200 kHz. While 7040 kHz is a recognized RTTY/data DX frequency in the band plan, the best place for other RTTY/data activity in the US is above 7070 kHz.

The committee proposes aligning the band plan with the “Considerate Operator's Frequency Guide,” with wide data modes -- outside of ACDS -- at 7115-7125 kHz. The “Guide” shows 7070-7125 kHz for RTTY/data, while the ARRL band plan shows 7080-7125 kHz. The FCC mandates that ACDS be confined to the 7100-7105 kHz segment.



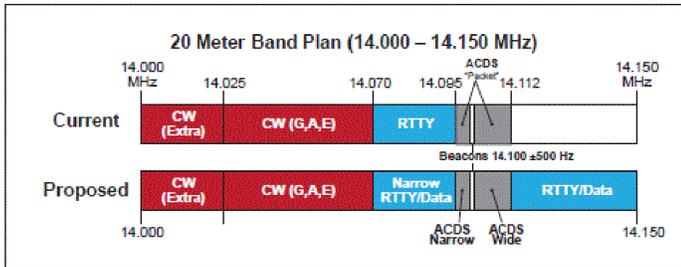
On **30 meters**, the committee recommends confining wide data modes to 10.140-10.150 MHz, separated from other RTTY/data at 10.130-10.140 MHz.



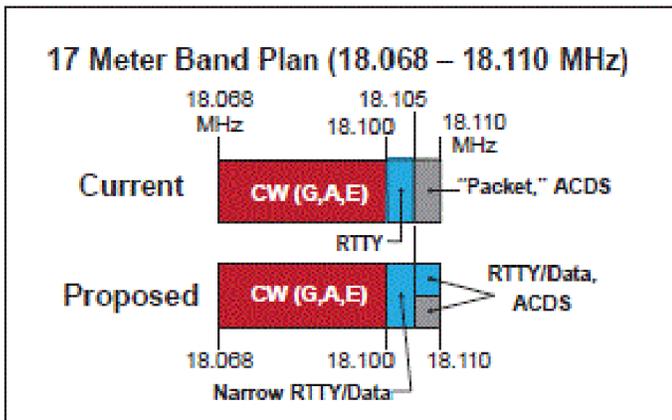
On **20 meters**, the committee recommends using the 1 kHz

IARU/NCDXF beacon network frequency (14.0995-14.1005 MHz) as a line in the sand between wide ACDS in the 14.1005-14.112 MHz segment, and narrow ACDS in the 14.095-14.0995 MHz segment.

The committee recommends 14.070-14.095 MHz for RTTY and narrowband data, noting that so-called "weak-signal" data modes often are used between 14.070 and 14.078 MHz.

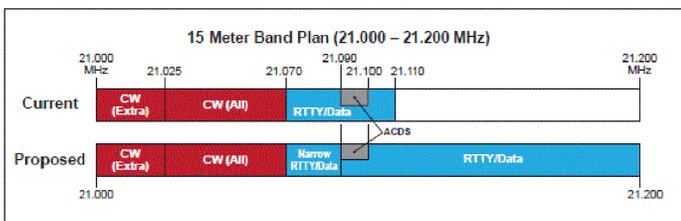


On **17 meters**, the committee recommends confining wide data modes to the FCC-mandated ACDS segment of 18.105-18.110 MHz, separated from narrow RTTY/data at 18.100-18.105 MHz. FCC rules do not permit RTTY/data above 18.110 MHz, limiting options for this band.



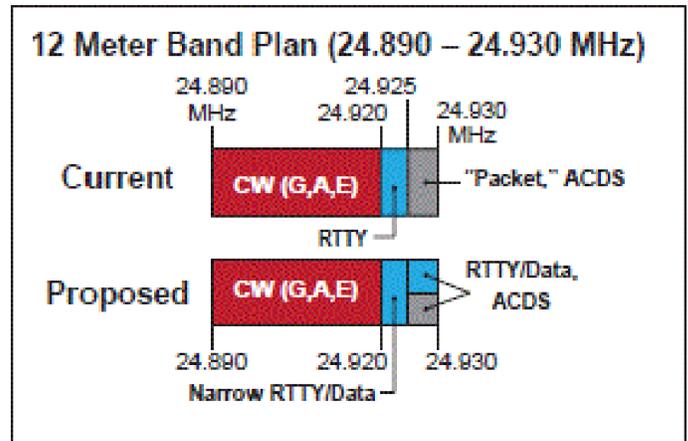
On **15 meters**, the committee recommends that 21.070-21.090 MHz for narrow RTTY/data modes, the FCC-mandated ACDS segment of 21.090-21.100 MHz for both narrow and wide automatically controlled data station activity, and above 21.100 MHz for any additional wide data activity.

The ARRL Board also wants members to comment on the desirability of adding RTTY/data privileges for Novices and Technicians in their existing 15 meter segment, where they're now limited to CW.

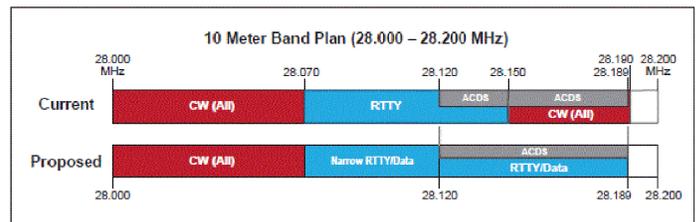


On **12 meters**, the committee recommends confining wide data to the FCC-mandated ACDS segment, 24.925-24.930 MHz, separated from narrow RTTY/data operation at 24.920-24.925 MHz. FCC rules do not permit RTTY/data operation above 24.930 MHz,

limiting options for this band.



On **10 meters**, the committee recommends that wide data be confined to the FCC-mandated ACDS segment, 28.120-28.189 MHz, separated from narrow RTTY/data modes at 28.070-28.120 MHz.



How to Comment

The League has set up a web page to record members' preferences and comments, which includes links to the HF Band Planning Committee report to the ARRL Board and to Sumner's April QST article (and high-resolution band charts). www.arrl.org/bandplan Those wishing to offer more detailed comments may e-mail ARRL at bandplan@arrl.org. The comment deadline is April 19. The HF Band Planning Committee will deliver its final report at the ARRL Board of Directors' July meeting.

Treasurer's Treatise

Financial Statement 1/1/2014 through 12/31/2014

INCOME

Club Badges	14.00
Club Dues - 2014	558.00
Club Dues - 2015	525.00
Flea Market	3160.00
Flea Market Food Booth	489.66
Holiday Luncheon - 2014	725.00
Holiday Luncheon - 2013	64.00
Sale Of Assets Income	654.00
SCCARA-GRAM subscription	60.00
TOTAL INCOME	10,398.66

EXPENSES

BBS	109.20
Business Cards	65.31

Club Cards	11.80
Equipment Maintenance	30.50
Equipment Purch & Maint	130.45
Field Day	379.66
Flea Market Expense	1950.00
Flowers	60.00
Holiday Luncheon Expense	424.87
Holiday Luncheon -2014	400.00
Insurance	200.00
Office Supply	122.33
PO Box	74.00
Postage	107.80
SCCARA-GRAM	721.82
TOTAL EXPENSES	8936.74

ACCOUNT BALANCES:

	1/1/2014	12/31/2014
Cash	490.88	352.04
Savings	500.07	500.07
Checking	4518.89	6119.65
Total	5509.84	6971.76

Net gain for the year: 1,461.92

Goetz Brandt, K6GKB

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Feb. 9, 2015



Kaiser, Santa Clara, 710 Homestead Rd. Rm. B-06

President Fred Townsend AE6QL called the meeting to order at 19:32. Introductions were shared.

Announcements:

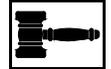
- 1) John W6JPP announced that the American Legion was having a fund raising Crab Feast on Feb. 21, 2015 starting at 17:30. The cost is \$45 and the location is 1504 Minnesota Ave. See John for details.
- 2) Don K6PBQ announced that the M.S. WALK would be on Saturday April 25, 2015 at Vasona Park. See Don if you would like to volunteer to help.
- 3) Gregg KF6FNA announced that he planned on setting up an HF radio and antenna in the park this weekend. Listen to the SCCARA 2M repeater for details.
- 4) Richard WB6EWM thanked the SCCARA members that helped him move a tower to his house.
- 5) Fred AE6QL announced that the club station would be open on the last Saturday of Feb. Talk in on the SCCARA 2M repeater. Also- SCCARA meetings will be in Rm. B-06 For 2015.

Gregg KF6FNA introduced Don Furgason AI6RE who would speak on SDR (software defined radio). Don is active with satellite radio, fox hunting, DX Club, and the Calif. near space project. After the talk on SDR, Don gave an update on the Jan. 24, 2015 balloon launching.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:12 and refreshments were shared.

Gregg Lane, KF6FNA, Secretary

Board Meeting, Feb. 16, 2015



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

Attendance: President Fred Townsend AE6QL; Vice President / Secretary Gregg Lane KF6FNA; Treasurer Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Trustee Don Village K6PBQ; Directors Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Wally Britten KA6YMD, Lloyd DeVaughns KD6FJI, Clark Murphy KE6KXO, Richard Clare WB6EWM; Visitors Gwen Steirer KF6OTD, Paul Gorny KK6HWN.

Announcements:

- 1) Electronics Flea Market March 14, 2015, FARS hosting.
- 2) SVECS QUARTERLY BREAKFAST Sat. April 25, 2015. Set up at 7:30, Breakfast at 9:00 AM, Program at 10:00 AM.
- 3) Field Day at Vasona June 26-28, 2015.

Secretary's Report: January's Board Meeting Minutes approved as printed in the SCCARA-GRAM.

Treasurer's Report:

- 1) Goetz K6GKB submitted the following account balances as of 2-16-2015. Checking = \$6,281.28, Savings = \$500.07, Cash = \$392.04, TOTAL = \$7,173.39.
- 2) Tax Documents to the State of Calif. are in the processing stage.
- 3) Don AE6PM, Fred AE6QL, and Goetz K6GKB will meet at the Union Bank on Alameda to update SCCARA ACCOUNT SIGNATURE CARDS.
- 4) www.sccara.org forwarding to <http://www.qsl.net/sccara/> is operational. Domain registration expires on March 10, 2015 and can be renewed for \$18.17 per annum. Goetz will take care of Domain name.

Trustee's Report: Don K6PBQ:

- 1) The club station will be open on the last Saturday of Feb.
- 2) Don will take measurements for shelving in the new cabinets in the radio room. A work party will fabricate 3 shelves.
- 3) Don has made reservations for the Dec. 12, 2015 SCCARA HOLIDAY LUNCHEON at Micheal's in Mountain View.
- 4) The M.S. Walk will be April 25, 2015 at Vasona Park. Fred will be Net Control. Lloyd and Wally volunteered to help.

Vice President's Report: Gregg KF6FNA stated that the beam antenna for the club station still needed a rotor. Goetz examined several rotors as candidates, but none were a "thumbs up." Clark has offered SCCARA some used coax which will be tested. The coax being used by the beam was "borrowed" from the SCCARA ANTENNA TRAILER. Gregg moved to approve the purchase of a rotor, rotor cable and coax as opportunity arises for the SCCARA SCUB STATION. Don seconded and the motion carried.

President's Report: Fred AE6QL submitted a list for Field Day Committees: Food and Drink-Lou; Pre pubs- Teresa; PIO-Wally; Layout and Shelter- Richard; Generator-Dennis and Richard; Antennas- Gregg and Fred; Database- Paul. A walk through at Vasona should happen in the next two weeks.

Repeater Report: Wally KA6YMD stated that Don AE6PM was going to re-tune the cavities on the 107.2 pl repeater. Hopefully the will clean up the audio.

Newsletter Report: Questions from Gary WB6YRU:

- 1) Does Brad's life membership include the mailed newsletter of does the new mailing fee apply to him as well? Lou moved to keep Brad on the mailing list without the fee. Don seconded and the motion carried.

2) Shall the mailing fee be prorated, like the annual dues? Don moved to prorate the mailing fee for the newsletter. Lou seconded and the motion carried.

Electronics Flea Market Report: FARS will sponsor in March, SVECS in April, and SCCARA in August. The fee has been raised to \$2,200.

New Business:

- 1) The "SCCARA INFO SHEET" needs to be updated to show changes in membership fees. Fred will forward this information to Gary (who prints them).
- 2) Bob Vallio W6RGG donated an ARRL \$25 Gift Certificate to SCCARA. Goetz moved to apply the gift certificate to the winner of the "HOME BREW" meeting. Rich seconded and the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:05

Gregg Lane, KF6FNA, Secretary

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====
Date: 24 Sep 2010 15:16
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Second Notice

A taxpayer received a strongly worded "second notice" that his taxes were overdue. Hastening to the collector's office, he paid his bill, saying apologetically that he had overlooked the first notice.

"Oh," confided the collector with a smile, "we don't send out first notices. We have found that the second notices are much more effective."

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.

Topics:

Antennas, feed-lines, tuners: NV6W, 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: NV6W, K6PBQ
DX (long distance/propagation): NV6W
Emergency operating/preparedness: WA6QYS
HF operating techniques (SSB, CW): NV6W, K6PBQ
Legal/FCC rules: WB6YRU
SCCARA (club inner workings): K6PBQ, WB6YRU, WA6QYS
EchoLink: KK6MX
License testing, new amateurs: W6JPP

Contacts:

NV6W, James D. Armstrong, Jr.,
evening & msg: 408-670-1680

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 N0ARY
e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com

Newsletter Notes

I'm not so sure about some of the figures reported in the cash flow financial statement. My records for 2014 show:

Newsletter printing: \$740.01
Newsletter postage: \$98.00
Newsletter Total: \$838.01

Perhaps some of it was put under the "office supply" category.

There were 440 newsletters printed in 2014 (including those for handing out). So the average cost of one printed newsletter during 2014 was \$1.68. That's slightly less than in some previous years. It depends on how big each issue is and how many photos there were.

The mailing list had 17. Including postage, that's an average of \$26.06 per member per year for those who received the mailed *SCCARA-GRAM*.

The mailing fee is now in effect, only four signed up for it. The board decided to include our only life member without the fee. So the newsletter mailing list now has five, that's the smallest it has ever been..

If anyone wants the paper newsletter mailed to them, you still can. The board decided to allow the fee to be prorated, so you won't have to pay for the whole year if you sign up for it in the summer. See the updated membership form on the back cover.

Or if you already paid the mailing fee and changed your mind, we can refund the balance for switching to the electronic version.

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 2015
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: _____

You'll get a short e-mail notice each month letting you know a new SCCARA-GRAM (pdf) is ready for download.

Memberships begin January 1 and expire December 31. Annual dues are: **\$20 Individual \$25 Family \$10 Student** (under 18)
For family memberships (members at the same address), please include the above info for each member, (use separate forms).

New members:

- If joining in January: normal dues
- If joining in February through October: dues x (11 - month) x 10% (e.g. for July, that's: \$20 x 4 x 0.1, which is \$8)
- If joining in November or December: normal dues. That's for next year, and the rest of this year is included free

I want the newsletter on paper delivered by U.S. Mail for an additional \$30 per year, prorated (\$2.50 per month).
So that's \$27.50 if starting in February, \$25 if starting in March, \$22.50 if starting in April, \$20 starting in May, etc.

\$ _____ **Total membership payment for:** individual family student

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