

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 32, Number 9

September 2016



Prez Sez

Greetings from Sunny Oregon! After a week in Oregon I can say this is the longest interval I have been in Oregon without getting rained on. In fact they are having a drought up here just like California. Even the many rivers are running low but not low enough to stop the white water rafting. It is high season in Southern Oregon even with low water.

I stopped by the Rogue River ARC flea market. It was held in one small room except for the guy with a trailer load of junk that only made it to the parking lot. The principle trading items were tubes. There were also boxes of QSTs. The price was ten dollars an issue or take the whole box for free. Sounds like the selling tool SCCARA has been using of late. I saw several of the big tubed receivers. One was a HQ170A. The seller told me he was hoping to get a \$150 but would take a \$125. The higher price was because he had purchased a complete set of replacement tubes. I didn't have the heart to tell the guy receiver tubes don't generally wear out. If you replace a tube you may need to realign. It's the transmitting tubes that gas out after you turn their plates cherry red. Oh for the days when you didn't need a meter to tell you how much power you were running. You can't get that kind of reading from a transistor. There was also a 75A2 and a Drake 4B.

In chatting with a ham from Jacksonville OR, he noted the historical town was so old that the founders had never heard of amateur radio and therefore had never placed antenna restrictions in the city charter. By the way he was from Carpentaria, CA. He said Oregon is where all the old California guys come to hide out from the QRM.

I want to thank Gregg, Gertz, and Lou for bringing goodies and gear for the SCCARA picnic. Gregg had a neat antenna setup as well. He has done a lot of work to make his 40 meter antenna portable yet easy to put up; fairly light to tot too. (Say that three times fast.) Weight is something else us gray haired guys tend to think about.

Want to get some operating time on your HT or mobile rig? For the first time in several years SCCARA will be coordinating the Diabetes Association 2016 Step Out. See: http://stepout.diabetes.org/site/TR/StepOut/StepOutContent?fr_id=11500&pg=entry

It's a timed walk/run along the Guadalupe River Park in down town San Jose. We'll be using four SAGs, four Rest Stop monitors, a two wheeler, plus a net control. If you are interested email me. See details below.

73, Fred, AE6QL, ae6ql@arrl.net
408-425-8216

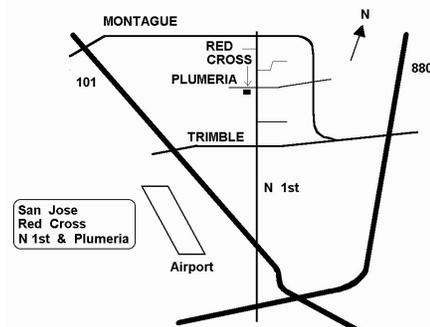
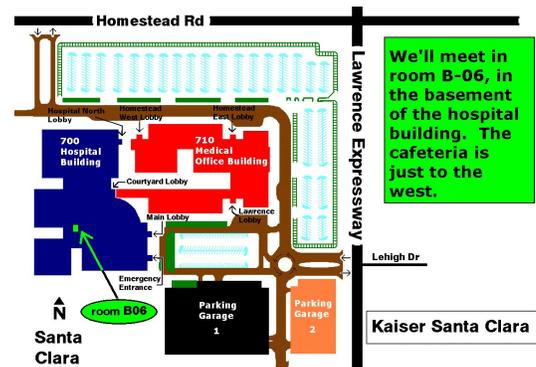


Calendar

- 9/10 Electronic Flea Market -- we host!
- 9/12 SCCARA General Meeting
- 9/19 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting

Day: Monday, Sept. 12, 2016
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Hospital B-06
Featuring: {to be announced}



ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, August 4, 2016

FCC Proposes Rule Changes in Response to ARRL's "Symbol Rate" Petition, Seeks Comment

The FCC has proposed to revise the Amateur Service Part 97 rules in response to the ARRL's so-called "Symbol Rate" Petition for Rule Making (RM-11708, see the FCC web site <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filing/6017477458/document/7520958815>), filed in late 2013, and it has invited comments on its recommended changes. The Notice of Proposed Rule Making (https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-16-96A1.pdf) in WT Docket 16-239, released on July 28, had been making the rounds at the FCC since May. ARRL had asked the FCC to change the Part 97 rules to delete the symbol rate limit in §97.307(f) and replace it with a maximum bandwidth for data emissions of 2.8 kHz on amateur frequencies below 29.7 MHz.

"[W]e believe that the public interest may be served by revising the Amateur Service rules to eliminate the current baud rate limitations for data emissions, consistent with ARRL's Petition, to allow Amateur Service licensees to use modern digital emissions, thereby furthering the purposes of the Amateur Service and enhancing the usefulness of the service," the FCC said in its NPRM. "We do not, however, propose a bandwidth limitation for data emissions in the MF and HF bands to replace the baud rate limitations, because the rules' current approach for limiting bandwidth use by amateur stations using one of the specified digital codes to encode the signal being transmitted appears sufficient to ensure that general access to the band by licensees in the Amateur Service does not become unduly impaired."

While tentatively concluding that a specific bandwidth limitation for RTTY and data was not necessary, the FCC nonetheless invited comments on whether it should set emission bandwidth standards for Amateur Service MF/HF RTTY and data emissions.

Under the current rules, "specified digital codes" in Part 97 may be used with a symbol rate that does not exceed 300 baud for frequencies below 28 MHz, with the exception of 60 meters, and 1200 baud in the 10 meter band. The baud rate limits were adopted in 1980, when the FCC amended Part 97 to specify ASCII as a permissible digital code.

FCC Seeks Comments on Waiver Request from Expert Linears

The FCC is inviting comments on a June 11 request from Expert Linears America LLC to waive §97.317(a)(2) of the Amateur Service rules to permit it to import, market, and use its model 1.3K FA amplifier in the US. The Texas company is seeking the waiver pending resolution of its earlier Petition for Rule Making (RM-11767), which called on the Commission to eliminate the 15 dB gain limitation on Amateur Radio amplifiers altogether. Expert said the version of the model 1.3K FA amplifier it now imports has been modified to comply with current rules.

"Expert seeks a waiver in order to be able to import the unmodified version of the Model 1.3K FA, which is capable of considerably more than 15 dB amplification," the FCC explained in a July 29 Public Notice. "Expert argues that the public interest would be served by permitting use of a higher-powered amplifier, because it would improve the communications capabilities of amateurs using portable, low-power transmitters by enabling them to approach the maximum legal power output." Expert assured the FCC that its

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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: 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

Amateur license testing, ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group,
Morris Jones, AD6ZH: 408-507-4698

model 1.3K FA has proprietary software to prevent it from transmitting in the 26-28 MHz band, so it cannot be used in the Citizens Radio Service.

On May 26, ARRL told the FCC that it “strongly supports” Expert’s petition seeking to eliminate the Amateur Service rule, spelled out in §97.317(a)(2), that amateur amplifiers not be able to boost the RF input signal by more than 15 dB.

Comments on Expert’s waiver request are due by August 29, reply comments by September 13.

From *The ARRL Letter*, August 11, 2016

HAARP Facility to Reopen in 2017 under New Ownership

Alaska’s High-Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) facility will reopen in 2017. The sprawling facility now is under the ownership of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), and the UAF Geophysical Institute is preparing HAARP for a new sponsored research campaign that’s set to begin early next year, UAF Researcher Chris Fallen, KL3WX, told ARRL.



The HAARP facility is located near Gakona, Alaska. Part of the massive antenna field is on the right.

“This involves, for example, reinstalling the vacuum tubes in each of the 10 kW amplifiers -- eventually 360 in total -- that were removed by the US Air Force [the facility’s former owner] for warm storage in the main facility,” Fallen said. He later clarified that’s just one-half of the 720 tubes required to equip all of HAARP’s transmitters.

“For the first campaign we will only be bringing half of the array online, as we will only have half the tubes installed,” he explained. “It’s a long process and we have limited resources.” He noted that the transmitter shelters have been unheated since the previous campaign in the summer of 2014. “The five generators -- approximately 3 MW each -- have recently been tested individually and are verified operational.”

Fallen said the HAARP ionosonde (DPS4D “Digisonde”) will be brought back online. “Some instruments on site need to be repaired or replaced,” he said. Those would include riometers and a UHF radar. “Optical instruments will be brought back. The flux-gate magnetometer is operational again.”

Fallen said other researchers are planning to install instruments at the science pads. “We are still investigating models for increasing Amateur Radio involvement with HAARP, which, in addition to announcing operating schedules, can potentially include hosting one or more ham stations on or near the science pads,” he said.



Inside the HAARP control room.

UAF describes HAARP as “the world’s most capable high-power, high-frequency transmitter for study of the ionosphere.” Built in three phases, starting in the early 1990s and continuing through 2007, at a cost of some \$300 million, HAARP over the years has inspired a wide range of conspiracy theories that became grist for late-night radio talk shows. Some have claimed that HAARP’s transmitters and 30-acre antenna farm -- capable of generating up to 5 GW ERP -- have been used to control the weather, while others have argued that HAARP has caused earthquakes.

The FCC recently granted two Part 5 Experimental Service licenses for HAARP ionospheric research “across multiple bands.” W12XFX will cover experiments in discrete parts of the HF spectrum, including 2650-2850; 3155-3400; 4438-4650; 4750-4995; 5005-5450; 5730-5950, and 7300-8100 kHz. A second Experimental license, W12XDV, covers ionospheric research between 1 and 40 MHz.



A closer look at a portion of the HAARP antenna array. The white buildings house transmitters.

UAF is hosting an open house at HAARP, located near Gakona, Alaska, on August 27. The event will feature facility tours, a mobile planetarium, a permafrost exhibit, science demonstrations and talks, and barbecue.

Fallen will deliver a free science lecture on Friday, August 26, at the Wrangell-St Elias National Park Visitor Center Auditorium, “Radio Modification of the Ionosphere, and Who Uses This HAARP Thing Anyway?” in partnership with the Wrangell Institute for Science and the Environment (WISE)

HAARP is aimed at studying the properties and behavior of the ionosphere. Operation of the research facility was transferred from the US Air Force to the University of Alaska Fairbanks last August, allowing HAARP to continue exploring ionospheric phenomena via a land-use cooperative research and development agreement.

-- Thanks to Chris Fallen, KL3WX, Steve Floyd, W4YHD, and UAF

Comments in FCC "Symbol Rate" Rule Making Proposal Due by October 11

The FCC will accept public comments in response to a July FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM, https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-16-96A1.pdf) in WT Docket 16-239 -- the "Symbol Rate" proceeding -- until October 11. Reply comments -- ie, comments on comments already filed -- are due by November 10. The NPRM now has been published in The Federal Register, thus opening the respective 60-day and 30-day comment/reply comment windows.

In response to a 2013 ARRL Petition for Rule Making (RM-11708 <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filing/6017477458/document/7520958815>), the FCC proposed to revise the Amateur Service Part 97 rules to eliminate current baud rate limitations for data emissions, consistent with ARRL's Petition, but it declined to propose a bandwidth limitation for data emissions in the MF and HF bands to replace the baud rate limitations.

ARRL had asked the FCC to change the Part 97 rules to delete the symbol rate limits in Section 97.307(f) and replace them with a maximum bandwidth for data emissions of 2.8 kHz on amateur frequencies below 29.7 MHz.

Interested parties may comment via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing Service (EFCS <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/>), as well as by mail.

Step Out Event

SCCARA will be coordinating the "Diabetes Association 2016 Step Out San Jose event. It's a timed walk/run event along the Guadalupe River Park in down town San Jose. We'll be using 2 meters with four SAGs, four Rest Stop monitors, a two-wheeler, plus net control. See: http://stepout.diabetes.org/site/TR/StepOut/StepOutContent?fr_id=11500&pg=entry for Diabetes Association details.

Date: October 1st
Time: 0730 to 1200
Operators: Rest Stops x 4 (2 operators)
SAGs x4 (1 operator)
Trail Mobile (1 operator)
Net Control (2 operators)
Type Radio:
SAGS and Net Control: 2 meter mobile with gain mag mount antenna and cigarette lighter power plug or power pack.
Stops: 2 meter HT or mobile with portable power pack and any antenna.
Trail: 2 meter HT

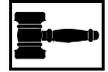
If you wish to participate: email ae6ql@arrl.net. State your desired position and your tee-shirt size. Don't wait or you may not be able to get your desired position. Route maps and addition information will be emailed at a later date.

If you have never done an event before this is a good time to learn. We will pair you with an experienced operator. Do one and you will want to do another.

73, Fred

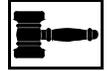
Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Aug. 8, 2016



{No minutes received. -- Editor}

Board Meeting, July 18, 2016



Meeting Started at 20:00

Excused Absences: Goetz K6GKB
Unexcused Absences: Lloyd KD6FJI

Field Day Report - We have 1600 points

Secretary's report:
Previous Months minutes approved as read.
We have 46 members as of 07/18
Correspondence - No new correspondence

Treasurer's report:
Checking 3,773.59
Savings 500.07
Cash 1,001.57
Total 5,275.23

Trustee:
On the last Saturday, we have the station open. 11:00 to 15:00.
Secretary to put up the meeting on meetup.com.

Vice President:
Speakers for August - TBD
At the flea market last month we sold \$37 worth of goods.
Gregg mentioned that we need to work on identifying the storage.
At the moment lot of SCCARA items are in Gregg's & Lou's vehicles. Club needs to find a way to take over this stuff.

Fred suggested buying a trailer for our storage. Prices ranged from \$1400 to \$3000. In addition to this, there will be a cost for parking the trailer. Gregg suggested we should get rid of stuff that is really old and try to fit any left overs in the trailer that the club already owns rather than buying a new one.

Fred informed that a 10X10 storage space costs approximately \$220 per month. We need to explore more opportunities and find a solution by our August meeting.

Gregg & Lou agreed to keep the SCCARA equipment for one more month to allow the club to find a better deal. Thank you Lou & Gregg.

Wally - Repeater is running well.

SCCARA Annual Picnic is planned for Aug 21st at Henry Schmidt park. Wally moved to have a picnic on Aug 21st 2016 at Henry Schmidt park. Seconded by Don Village. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 21:17

Praveen Akunuru, KK6VGB, Secretary



{No minutes received. -- Editor}

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====
Date: 27 Mar 2011 18:23
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Cats For Sale!

An art collector is walking along when he notices a mangy cat lapping milk from a saucer in the doorway of a store and he does a double-take. He recognizes that the saucer is extremely old and very valuable, so he walks casually into the store and offers to buy the cat for two dollars.

Store owner: "I'm sorry, but the cat isn't for sale."

Collector: "Please, I need a hungry cat around the house to catch mice. I'll pay you twenty dollars for that cat."

Owner: "Alright, sold!" And he hands over the cat.

Collector: "Hey, for twenty bucks I wonder if you could throw in that old saucer. The cat's used to it and it'll save me from having to get a dish."

Owner: "Sorry buddy, but that's my lucky saucer. So far this week I've sold sixty-eight cats."

=====
Date: 12 Jun 2010 02:40
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: dentist bill

A woman phoned her dentist when she received a huge bill. "I'm shocked!" she complained. "This is three times what you normally charge." "Yes, I know," said the dentist. "But you yelled so loud, you scared away two other patients."

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 and 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

Lightning protection, grounding: WB6YRU
Station set-up, equipment: K6PBQ, W6JPP
TVI/RFI: WB6YRU
Homebrew projects, construction: 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

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

When did we become SCCARA?
I've always wondered.

We know the club was first organized in 1921 and that it was originally called the San Jose Radio Club. But not much is known beyond that... until now.

As most of you know, your editor has been busy digitizing our historical records and archiving them on our web site.

One item is a rather nice brochure of the 1933 Pacific Division Convention which we hosted. It contains a summary of the club by our first president, Harry Engwicht W6HC. The club was just over 12 years old at the time--memories of our beginning were fresh then.

So, when was it? We started as the San Jose Radio Club in the winter of 1921. The first meeting was in Harry's barn, (perhaps that had something to do with him being our first president). In 1925 they renamed it to the *Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association* to be more inclusive of the surrounding communities.

It had to be *early* 1925 because the 16 mm film of the club's early days was made throughout 1925, and it shows the name SCCARA, not SJRC. So, we became SCCARA almost exactly four years after that first meeting.

That brochure and a bunch of other interesting stuff will be added to the archives on our web site over the next few weeks. I'll keep you posted.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor



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



FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SCCARA Membership Form for 2016

If renewing and none of your info has changed, we only need your name and call

Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____

Address: _____ Licensed since (yyyy): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Licence Expiration
 Date: (mm/dd/yyyy): _____

Telephone: _____ New Member Renewal I'm also an ARRL member

E-mail: _____

(only for club communications and the SCCARA-GRAM (pdf) newsletter)

Memberships start 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, 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 and payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or mail to the club address.