SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 33, Number 3

March 2017



We Host the March Electronic Flea Market!

Flea Market at De Anza College

SCCARA will be hosting the first Flea Market of the year on March 11th, 2017. That date happens to be two days before the regular SCCARA meeting in March, March 13th. Please mark the Flea Market date on your calendars and plan on helping that day. The flea markets are held rain or shine.

This is our prime fund raising activity of the year. Don't let your club down. Volunteer for a shift or two. Shifts are A 0500-0700, B 0700-0900, C 0900-1100, and D 1100-1300. Let me know your availability and preference. I can be reached at wa6qys@arrl.net. Sign up early to reserve your favorite shift/shifts.

We are anticipating antenna work at the club station at the Red Cross and repair of SCCARA's tower trailer. The club coffers need an influx of funds to complete these necessary jobs. Please join your fellow club members and make SCCARA's turn running the De Anza Electronic Flea Market a resounding success.

Lou WA6QYS

{Apologies to Lou and the club for not getting this in the February issue

We get a very early start Saturday Morning, people are already there before 5 AM. We run the food booth (doughnuts and coffee) and man the entrance gate. If you haven't already done so, please consider lending a hand. For flea market details, directions, etc. see http://www.electronicsfleamarket.com
-- Editor}

March Meeting

February's speaker rescheduled for March

Erick Norris WD6DBM will speak about QRP portable operating at the SCCARA general meeting on March 13, 2017. Eric is a life-long resident of Santa Clara County and has been a ham since 1972. His primary interests are CW rag chewing mostly on 40M, moon bounce on 2M, meteor scatter on 6M, and QRP portable operation. Sometimes he also uses PSK31, RTTY, and

Calendar

3/11 Electronics Flea Marcket -- WE HOST!

3/13 SCCARA General Meeting

3/20 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red

Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting

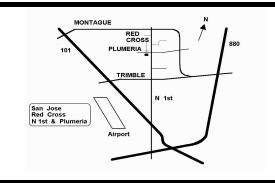
Day: Monday, March 13, 2017

<u>Time:</u> 7:30 PM

Featuring: Kaiser Santa Clara, Hospital B-06
Erick Norris WD6DBM on QRP

portable operations





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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

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Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(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

442.425 + PL 107.2 70 cm:

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.

NØARY PACKET BBS

SCCARA hosts the packet BBS NØARY (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.

AMATEUR LICENSE TESTING

ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group: Morris Jones, AD6ZH:

408-507-4698

SSTV. On VHF he uses WSJT.

If you have been lucky enough to see Eric's presentations on Moon bounce and on magnetic loop antennas, you will want to mark your calendar for the second Monday in March - the SCCARA meeting to see Eric's third presentation.

Hope to see you there!

Gregg KF6FNA

President's Prose

March has several days to remember. March 12th daylight savings time begins, the 17th is St. Patrick's day, and on the 20th spring begins. For SCCARA members there is also March 13, our general membership meeting at 7:30 PM, Kaiser Santa Clara. I'm looking forward to learning more about QRP portable operating from Eric Norris WD6DBM. I appreciate the effort that he puts into presenting his information in a way that makes it comprehensible to all.

There is another important date to remember - Saturday, March 11, 2017 - 2 days before the March SCCARA meeting. It is SCCARA's turn to host the electronic flea market at the De Anza College in Cupertino. This is SCCARA's primary fund raising event. Historically the 1st Flea Market of the year has a good turn out as long as there is no rain. Lou WA6QYS is SCCARA's Flea Market expert. He has spent years learning the ropes and honing his skills. From finding the perfect donuts (which he picks up that morning) to arranging for a truck and trailer to deliver the concession tent and supplies, Lou puts in a marathon of activity. But no matter how good he gets he still needs volunteers to help. Mark your calendars - March 11, flea market. It is a chance not only to help out SCCARA but to browse the tents and find new treasures to take home. If you would like to help out with the march electronics flea market you can call Lou at 408-241-7999 or e-mail to wa6qys@aol.com. You can also call me at 408-3393-5607 or e-mail to kf6fna@comcast.net. Hope to see you there!

73, Gregg KF6FNA, kf6fna@comcast.net

ARRL News

From The ARRL Letter, Feb. 2, 2017

AM Rally Set for April 1-3 -- No Fooling!

If you don't use amplitude modulation (AM), you'll get the chance during the AM Rally, April 1-3, on the HF bands between 160 and 10 meters (except 30, 17, and 12 meters) plus 6 meters.

Amateur Radio voice-mode transmissions on the HF bands into the 1960s were AM, the same mode that used to predominate in radio broadcasting. Single-sideband (SSB), a form of AM, gradually took over the bands, although not without some pushback! Today, a group of dedicated radio amateurs keep the magic flame alive, getting on AM frequently, and for many of them, AM is their primary operating mode. The AM Rally gives the uninitiated a chance to dip a toe into the pool, so to speak.

A cooperative event organized by AM, SSB, and, yes, even CW operators, the AM Rally aims to encourage fellow operators to take this "sister mode" for a spin, make a few contacts, and have a shot at earning some nice certificates.

"We plan to make the AM Rally fun for everyone, but we also want to help ops who might be new to the mode get their rigs set up and sounding the best they can in time for the event," said Clark Burgard, N1BCG, who is spearheading the event with Steve Cloutier, WA1QIX, and Brian Kress, KB3WFV. "Whether your rig is software defined, solid state, vacuum tube, hybrid, homebrew, or broadcast surplus, you'll be a welcome part of the AM Rally."

The event website http://www.amrally.com/ has complete AM Rally details, contact information, award categories, logging, and tips on how to get the most out of your station equipment in AM mode.

The AM Rally begins on Saturday, April 1 at 0000 UTC (Friday, March 31, in US time zones) and concludes at 0000 UTC on Monday, April 3.

It's open to all radio amateurs capable of transmitting full-carrier AM, using any type of equipment, from vintage to bleeding edge. The event is sponsored by Radio Engineering Associates (REA), in cooperation with ARRL, which supports all modes of Amateur Radio operation.

If you like to get on the air and have fun and now operate -- or would like to operate -- AM mode, then you're good to go!

Participating stations earn 1 point for each station worked per band, and you may work the same station on more than one band. They also earn 1 point for each state, Canadian province/territory, or DXCC entity worked. Both stations must be using AM for a contact to count.

Certificates will be awarded to stations scoring the highest number of points in each of the five power classes, regardless of rig category, both for most contacts and most states/provinces.

"All it takes is a turn, push, or click to participate!" There's also plenty of time to dig out and dust off that old AM-capable tube gear sitting in your attic or basement.

From The ARRL Letter, Feb. 9, 2017

Radio Australia HF Station Signs Off in CW

In an apparent nod to radio amateurs who may have tuned in, Radio Australia's VL8A transmitter in Alice Springs signed off on January 31 in CW. The station sent "73 de VL8A QRT," before pulling the big switch. Radio Australia announced last fall that it planned to cease shortwave transmissions. Although the broadcaster shut down its Katherine, Tennant Creek, and Roe Creek (Alice Springs) transmitters at the end of January, it will continue to broadcast on the FM and AM bands, via satellite, and via online streaming and mobile applications.

The move was not popular with those who live and work in the vast area the shortwave broadcasts reached, with some saying it was the only reliable broadcast outlet, and that its demise could deprive Northern Australian listeners of emergency and critical weather information. Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association President Tom Stockwell, who lives on Sunday Creek Station with no access to AM or FM radio or mobile phone service, isn't buying the Australian Broadcasting Commission's explanation. He said the decision to focus on digital transmission ignored people in the bush. "It affects a big area of Australia, and it affects those people that are remote from other forms of communication that rely on

radio network," he said.

Mark Crocombe of the indigenous Thamarrurr Rangers in the remote community of Wadeye said his group members spend days and sometimes weeks at a time away in the bush and out on sea patrols and had relied on the ABC's shortwave radio for weather reports and emergency information, including cyclone warnings. "It could be life threatening, if you are out and you don't know a cyclone is coming," he said.

Radio Australia has said the move was in line with its commitment to dispense with outdated technology and to expand its digital content offerings and FM services.

{Every now and then I read something like this, HF broadcast stations are closing. Of course this is bad news if you're in to shortwave listening. However, I believe this reduces the demand and competition for spectrum on our HF bands. -- Editor}

ARRL Board of Directors Adopts Legislative Objectives for 115th Congress

The ARRL Board of Directors unanimously adopted five legislative objectives for the 115th US Congress when it met in Connecticut January 20-21. ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, chaired the session.

The first objective is to seek early congressional passage of the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017, H.R. 555 and of any Senate companion bill that might be introduced. H.R. 555 cleared the House on January 23. The Board was told that specific instructions to the FCC on implementation of the bill would be included in the report language from Congress.

In addition to the new Parity Act initiative, the ARRL Board agreed that the League would oppose any legislation that would lead to the reallocation of Amateur Radio spectrum or to sharing arrangements that reduce the utility of existing allocations. ARRL also will oppose legislation "that diminishes the rights of federal licensees in favor of unlicensed emitters or encourages the deployment of spectrum-polluting technologies."

Further, the League will seek recognition of the unique resources, capabilities, and expertise of the Amateur Radio Service in any legislation addressing communication issues related to emergencies, disasters, or national security. Finally, ARRL will support the complementary legislative objectives of other radiocommunication services.

Entry-Level Licensing

New England Division Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI, presented the report of the Entry Level Licensing Committee and entertained questions. It has been more than 10 years since ARRL asked the FCC to consider a proposal for restructuring licensing requirements and creating a more appropriate entry-level license. After a comprehensive study, the committee is still discussing possible recommendations to bring before the Board for consideration.

ARRL Seeks Opinions on Possible New Entry-Level License

An Entry-Level License Committee was established by the ARRL Board of Directors and appointed in September 2016. As part of its ongoing work, the committee is gathering member input and will make recommendations to the Board for possible rules changes to submit to the FCC.

The result could mean changes to the Technician license, but it could also be an additional, but simpler, license with privileges that would give a newcomer a taste of most facets of ham radio, from HF to VHF and UHF.

The committee has created an online member survey. Please complete and submit the survey no later than April 7, 2017. Survey results will be published.

The Board received the Entry-Level Licensing Committee's interim report and endorsed its recommendation to work toward improvements in the current license question pools and seek aggregate demographic data from the FCC's Amateur Radio database. The Committee also recommended continuing the effort to examine public attitudes toward Amateur Radio, with a goal of better understanding how to reach out and attract new licensees.

The Board asked the Committee to work with ARRL Headquarters staff to gather ARRL member input regarding potential changes to the entry-level license, develop several different proposals for change to the entry-level license, and work toward bringing a final recommendation before the Board at its July meeting.

Regulatory

In his report to the Board, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, noted that there are few threats to Amateur Radio spectrum at this time. He also pointed up the importance of a comprehensive review of the Amateur Auxiliary -- the Official Observer (OO) Program.

{Do we really need another "Novice" class? I thought we were trying to get away from having many different license classes. Well, that opinion survey is open to ARRL members. So if you're member, let them know what you think. -- Editor}

From The ARRL Letter, Feb. 16, 2017

FCC Invites Comments on ARRL Petition to Allocate New 5 MHz Band

The FCC has invited comments on the ARRL's January 12 Petition for Rule Making to allocate a new, secondary contiguous band at 5 MHz to the Amateur Service. The League also asked the Commission to keep four of the current five 60-meter channels -- one would be within the new band -- as well as the current operating rules, including the 100 W PEP effective radiated power (ERP) limit. The federal government is the primary user of the 5 MHz spectrum. The FCC has designated the League's Petition as RM-11785 and put it on public notice. Comments are due Monday, March 20. ARRL plans to file comments in support of its petition.

The proposed ARRL action would implement a portion of the Final Acts of World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15) that provided for a secondary international allocation of 5,351.5 to 5,366.5 kHz to the Amateur Service; that band includes 5,358.5 KHz, one of the existing 5 MHz channels in the US. The FCC has not yet acted to implement other portions of the WRC-15 Final Acts.

"Such implementation will allow radio amateurs engaged in emergency and disaster relief communications, and especially those between the United States and the Caribbean basin, to more reliably, more flexibly and more capably conduct those communications [and preparedness exercises], before the next hurricane season in the summer of 2017," ARRL said in its petition.

The League said that 14 years of Amateur Radio experience using the five discrete 5-MHz channels have shown that hams can get along well with primary users at 5 MHz, while complying with the regulations established for their use. "Neither ARRL, nor, apparently, NTIA is aware of a single reported instance of interference to a federal user by a radio amateur operating at 5 MHz to date," ARRL said in its petition. NTIA -- the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, which regulates federal spectrum -- initially proposed the five channels for Amateur Radio use. In recent years, Amateur Radio has cooperated with federal users such as FEMA in conducting communication interoperability exercises.

The League said in its petition that while the Amateur Radio community is grateful to the FCC and NTIA for providing some access to the 5-MHz band, "the five channels are, simply stated, completely inadequate to accommodate the emergency preparedness needs of the Amateur Service in this HF frequency range," ARRL said. Access even to the tiny 15-kHz wide band adopted at WRC-15 would "radically improve the current, very limited capacity of the Amateur Service in the United States to address emergencies and disaster relief," ARRL said.

The WRC-15 Final Acts stipulated a power limit of 15 W effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP), which the League said "completely defeats the entire premise for the allocation in the first place." ARRL said the FCC should permit a power level of 100 W PEP ERP, assuming use of a 0 dBd gain antenna, in the contiguous 60-meter band. "To impose the power limit adopted at WRC-15 for the contiguous band would render the band unsuitable for emergency and public service communications," the League said.

The ITU Radio Regulations permit assignments at variance with the International Table of Allocations, provided a non-interference condition is attached.

"Mysterious Foghorn" is Chinese Over-the-Horizon Burst Radar

The International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 (IARU-R1) Monitoring System newsletter reports a mysterious "foghorn" -- a Chinese over-the-horizon (OTH) burst radar -- is operating in Amateur Radio bands.

"We observed the mysterious foghorn on 7, 10, and 14 MHz," the newsletter recounted. "This is a Chinese OTH radar, which is often jumping, and sounding like a foghorn." The signal is frequency modulation on pulse (FMOP) with 66.66 sweeps-per-second bursts.

Other intruders include a Russian frequency shift keying (FSK) signal from Kaliningrad on 7,193 kHz and a Russian FSK signal on 7,193 kHz (50 baud, 200 Hz shift). German telecommunications authorities have filed another complaint.

The latest IARUMS newsletter also reports strong splatter from Radio France International (RFI) on 7,205 kHz down to 7,186 kHz. The French REF has informed RFI and French telecommunications authorities.

Intruders still reported, and the subjects of complaints from German authorities include Radio Hargeysa in Somaliland on 7,120.0 kHz; Radio Eritrea with Ethiopian interference on 7,175.0 kHz; Radio Taiwan and a Chinese jammer on 7,200.0 kHz, and a Radio Tajik harmonic (from 4765 kHz) on 14,295.0 kHz.

Treasurer's Treatise

Financial Statement - ending 2016 1/1/2016 through 12/31/2016

INCOM	Club Badges Club Dues - 2016 Club Dues - 2017 Donation Flea Market Income Flea Market Food Booth Holiday Luncheon - 2015	12.00 424.50 205.00 20.00 4,199.25 572.25 50.00	
TOTAL	SCCARA-GRAM mailing fee INCOME	90.00 5,573.00	
EXPENS	Archive BBS Business Cards Equipment Purch & Maint Field Day Flea Market Expense Insurance Misc Office Supplies PO Box Postage SCCARA-GRAM Secretary Of State Software EXPENSES	1,111.33 109.20 68.33 1,041.96 66.46 2,382.21 200.00 116.73 10.85 82.00 70.00 664.42 20.00 164.24 6,107.73	
OVERALL TOTAL CASH FLOW -5			
TOTAL	ACCOUNTS 2016 beginning 2016 ending	8,254.68 7,719.95	

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Feb. 13, 2017



{None submitted. -- Editor}

Goetz Brandt, K6GKB

Board Meeting, Jan. 16, 2017



Red Cross Building, 2731 N. 1st. St., San Jose, CA.

The SCCARA board meeting was called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 19:42.

Attendance: President Gregg Lane KF6FNA; Treasurer Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Trustee/Director Don Village K6PBQ; Director: Wally Britten KA6YMD, Lou Steirer WA6QYS, James Rustermeir KI6ZSK. Excused absences: Secretary Praveen Akumuru KK6VGB, Director Clark Murphy KE6KXO.

Announcements: 1) SCCARA to host De Anza Flea Market March 11, 2017. 2) SVECS quarterly breakfast January 28, 2017. 3)

SCCARA 10M net 28.385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00PM.

Secretary's Report: none given

Treasurer's Report: As of 1/16/17 Checking=\$6,762.22, Savings=500.07, Cash=67.82, Total=\$7,330.11

Trustee's Report: Club station will be open Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017 after the svecs breakfast.

President's Report: Gregg asked for 1) input from the BOD on speakers for the General Meeting since there is no Vice President. Responses: a) cavity operation b) Dxpedition. 2) input on Field Day Site selection. Responses: a) Marshal Cottle Park b) Grant Ranch c) Vassona Park d) Valley Christian HS

Repeater Report: Repeater operating without controller. Controller needs repair.

Website Report: More Archived Material has been added to website.

Newsletter Report: none given

Old Business: Goetz will ask Gary WB6YRU for a projection of extent and cost of the Archive Project.

New Business: 1) Flea Market March 11, 2017 - contract with De Anza not negotiated yet. Lou moved that SCCARA participate in the Flea Market and authorize Goetz to send in deposit when the bill comes. Second by Don. Carried.

2) Don suggested researching a joint holliday party with another club for 2017.

Meeting adjourned at 20:30

Gregg Lane KF6FNA recording

Board Meeting, Feb. 27, 2017



7:24 PM

Attendance: Kf6 FNA -Gregg, KK6 VGB - Praveen, KI6ZSK - James Rustermier, KE6KXO - Clark Murphy, K6 PBQ- Don Village, WA6QYS - Lou Stierer, KA6 YMD- Wally Britten.

Guests: Paul Gorny - KK6 HWN, Gwen Steirer - KF6 OTD, Gary Mitchell - WB6YRU.

Excused Absence: Goetz Brandt - K6GKB

Announcements:

Don Village - MS - Walk - May 6th Flea Market in 2 weeks - March 11th, 2017 Holiday Luncheon - Find a club and join them.

Secretary's report:

Total 17 members paid as of 02/27/2017 Previous month's meeting minutes approved as read.

Trustee's report:

Don working on MS Walk right now.

President's Report:

Speaker - Eric Norris - WD6 DBM. Rescheduled for March 13th, 2017. Eric Norris talking about QRP Operations.

Repeater Status: Wally

Repeater is working fine on its internal demo controller.

We need to work on the external controller.

Gary - Report on Newsletter.

In 2016 - we were printing 12 newsletter per month. Total cost of newsletters printed in 2016 was \$433.67. We used to print 12 every month. In 2017, plan is to print only 10 newsletters per month.

Property List - We have couple of packet TNC's. It is better to sell them asap. One can be used in the club station.

We have 3 ICom radio's donated to the club. Gary suggested selling them or giving them to young operators or to the members to encourage them. Lou made a motion to offer the radio's to Truman. James Rustermier seconded it. Carried.

We have old software for programming the RC85 or 96. It only runs on old computers. As the software does not work on the current computers, board authorized abandoning the software. No objections received.

Archive project:

Gary handed out a progress report on the archive project. The scanning part of it is 3/4 done. Much of it is already on our web site."

Flea Market - March 11, 2017

We need 2 more people to come in at 4 AM to help Paul and Goetz man the entrance gate.

Gregg will be there by 4. Praveen will come in by 5 AM.

Svend will bring the equipment. Lou will get the doughnuts.

Holiday Luncheon needs to be planned.

Field day needs to be planned.

Gregg Adjourned the meeting at 20:50 PM.

Praveen Akunuru, KK6VGB, Secretary

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

Date: 24 Nov 2012 23:56 From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW To: HUMOUR@WW Subject: Jokes 24/11

Subject: Jokes 24/11

Cartoon Laws

A character who runs off a cliff will remain in space until made aware of its situation.

A character in motion will remain in motion until solid matter intervenes suddenly, such as a telephone pole or boulder.

A character passing through solid matter will leave a perforation conforming to its perimeter. The threat of skunks or matrimony often catalyzes this reaction.

The time required for an object to fall twenty stories is greater than or equal to the time it takes for whoever knocked it off the ledge to spiral down twenty flights to attempt to capture it unbroken.

All principles of gravity are negated by fear.

As speed increases, objects can be in several places at once. This is particularly true of tooth-and-claw fights, in which a character's head may be glimpsed emerging from the cloud of altercation at several places simultaneously.

Certain bodies can pass through solid walls painted to resemble tunnel entrances; others cannot.

Cartoon cats can be decimated, spliced, splayed, accordion-pleated, spindled, or disassembled, but they cannot be destroyed. After a few moments of blinking self pity, they return to normal. Corollary: A cat will assume the shape of its container.

Everything falls faster than an anvil.

A sharp object will always propel a character upward, such as a pin poked in the buttocks.

These are actual statements from Catholic elementary school kids on a test...

In the first book of the Bible, Guinessis, God got tired of creating the world so he took the Sabbath off.

Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.

Noah's wife was Joan of ark. Noah built an ark and the animals came on in pears.

Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.

The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic genitals.

Sampson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.

Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the apostles.

Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.

The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up to mount cyanide to get the ten commandments.

The first commandments was when eve told Adam to eat the apple.

The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.

Moses died before he ever reached Canada. Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.

The greatest miricle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.

David was a Hebrew king who was skilled at playing the liar. He fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in biblical times.

Solomon, one of Davids sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.

When the three wise guys from the east side arrived they found Jesus in the manager.

Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.

St. John the blacksmith dumped water on his head.

Jesus enunciated the golden rule, which says to do unto others before they do one to you. He also explained a man doth not live by sweat alone.

It was a miricle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.

The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibels.

The Epistels were the wives of the Apostles.

One of the oppossums was St. Matthew who was also a taximan.

St. Paul cavorted to Christianity, he preached holy acrimony which is another name for marraige.

Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.

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 start a regular newsletter? And when was it first called the SCCARA-GRAM?

I came across a prototype of the first newsletter in the board meeting minutes of November 25, 1953. It was called *The Junk Box*. Presumably the first issue actually published was January 1954, but we can't be sure.

The term 'junk box' was not derogatory. All amateurs were electronic experimenters back then. Any good HAM had a *junk box* full of electronic components and other goodies for projects. So, a junk box is a good thing!

Last month I reported that all the newsletters we had are now on our web site. Well, of course this one **must** be added. If you don't see it there yet, it will be shortly.

So, when did it become the *SCCARA-GRAM*? Well, this is Volume 33 for 2017. So Volume 1 must have been 1985. Or so I thought.

When I took over as Editor in March 1993, we were on Volume 9. I just kept the numbering consistent from there. That seems reasonable, doesn't it?

Apparently mistakes were made on the Volume numbers during the late 1980's and early 1990's. However, we have a couple of 1984 issues and those are both Volume 3. So, that should settle it, 1982 must have been the first *SCCARA-GRAM*, Volume 1. And we should now be on Volume 36... Right?

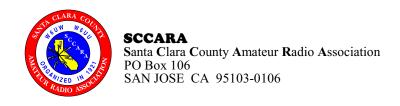
Well, not so fast! There are even more flies in the ointment. We have one *SCCARA-GRAM* dated September 1976. It doesn't have a Volume number, but it's the earliest we have that's actually called the "*SCCARA-GRAM*."

We don't have a lot of records around that time period, so this may forever remain a mystery. I'll let you know if I discover anything new.

At least we know this much: We have a *SCCARA-GRAM* dated September 1976. We also have two issues in 1974 that have no title. So the first *SCCARA-GRAM* was probably between late 1974 and mid 1976.

This is just a wild guess, and I have no particular reason for thinking this, but maybe it was July 1976 to go along with the Nation's bicentennial.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor



FIRST CLASS

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