

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 13, Number 5

May 1997



President's Prose

Greetings, all. It certainly looks as if spring has sprung in the Valley. I found myself planting some more flowers over the past weekend!

Hope you all made it through the outing at Ponderosa--a special thanks to all of you who helped bring SCCARA to that event.

With enough manpower, we could be doing this sort of thing each month--with the right motivation, we could get enough manpower to accomplish anything we wished to accomplish. I wish I could find the key to unlocking the hidden talent within SCCARA, but I don't think I am the one to do that.

Once again, we fall back on one of the "doers" in the club for Field Day. Your secretary, Dan Dietz, WM6M, has agreed to be the Field Day Chair this year. If any of you want to do something to help our effort this year, contact Dan, or any one of your 1997 officers and let them know.

73, Jack / AC6FU



Flea Market

Put away your umbrella and bring your sun screen lotion. SCCARA has the honor of hosting the July 12th Foothill Amateur Radio Flea Market. This is an opportunity for you to pitch in and help your club.

The tasks are not difficult.....setting up, brewing coffee, selling coffee, donuts and sodas, grilling hot dogs, making change and packing up/cleaning up after it is over.

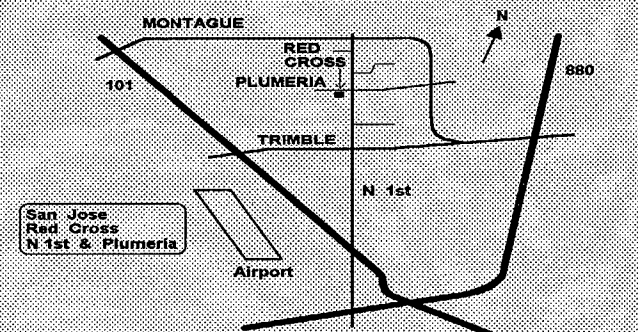
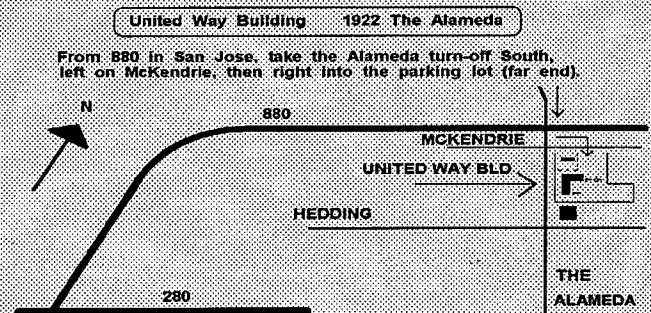
So as not to burn anyone out shifts will be of 2 hour

Calendar

- 5/10 Foothill Flea Market
- 5/12 SCCARA General Meeting
- 5/19 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:00p, all are welcome)
- 6/27-29 Field Day!

Next General Meeting:

- Day: Monday, May 12, 1997
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: United Way Building
- Agenda: Ladies Night. Entertainment by El Wirt K6ZYY



The **SCCARA-GRAM** is published monthly by the **SANTA CLARA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**, PO Box 6, San Jose CA 95103-0006. Permission to reprint articles is hereby granted, provided the source is properly credited.

SCCARA was formed as a general interest amateur radio club in 1921 and became a non-profit corporation in 1947. SCCARA is an affiliate of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

The club station, W6UW, is currently out of service.

The deadline for SCCARA-GRAM articles is one week before the last Monday of the month.

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

President	Jack Ruckman, AC6FU	379-4846
Vice President	Barbara Britten, KE6QEI	293-3847
Secretary	Dan Dietz, WM6M	458-3460
Treasurer	Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI	225-6769
Station Trustee	Stan Getsla, WA6VJY	275-0735

Director	Clark Murphy, KE6KXO	262-9334
Director	Don Apte, KK6MX	629-0725
Director	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	241-7999
Director	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847

STAFF

Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	265-2336
Facilities	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789

COMMITTEES

Repeater	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
Youth Group	George Brady, AB6OZ	729-9012

SCCARA REPEATERS

SCCARA owns and operates two repeaters under the call W6UU:

2 meter:	146.385 +	PL 114.8 (none for basic use)
70 cm:	442.425 +	PL 107.2

Phone patch capability is available (auto-dial and auto-patch). The two meter repeater is located in the Mt. Hamilton foothills, Alum Rock area. The 70 cm repeater is located at the Alexian Brothers Hospital, North of 280 and 101.

SCCARA NETS

On our two meter repeater: Mondays at 7:30 PM, (not the second monday--it's our meeting night). Net control: Joe WA6DXP.

On ten meters, 28.385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00 PM. Net control: Wally KA6YMD.

Visitors welcome to join in on the SCCARA nets.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

SCCARA HOTLINE:	249-6909
ARRL LICENSE (VEC) HOTLINE:	984-8353

duration:

SHIFT A	0400-0600
SHIFT B	0600-0800
SHIFT C	0800-1000
SHIFT D	1000-1200
SHIFT E	1200-1400

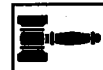
If you can manage multiple shifts that would be great. By all means talk it up on the radio and bring a friend. We will also be publicizing SCCARA at the flea market by passing out our newsletter, our new blue business cards and membership application forms.

So mark your calendars NOW for a fun day of promoting our club July 12th and helping out at the food booth. Let me know which shift(s) you would like me to mark down for you.

Thanks,
Lou WA6QYS (408) 241-7999

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, April 14, 1997



7:35 PM Call to order by President Jack AC6FU

Self introductions

Don KO6HH: Bob Keller KB6OHO is not doing too well. He has the flu in addition to other things.

Speaker: Earl Stevens, KC6ZDJ from San Jose RACES. His talk was on the ARES/RACES, their organization, and operation. San Jose RACES simplex frequency is 146.475.

V.P. Barbara, KD6QEI: The SCCARA demo at Ponderosa school could have used a better location, but it was OK. There wasn't much foot traffic where we were and it was a bit windy. Thanks to the following who helped: Rich, KE6FTZ; Henry, WD6CGI; Clarke, KE6KXO; Don, K6PBQ; Wally, KA6YMD; Barbara, KD6QEI; Gary, WB6YRU; Lou, WA6QYS; Mike, KB6LCJ; and Joan, KB6LFZ.

Editor Gary, WB6YRU: Some have yet to receive the April issue. The newsletter was late because of a postal snafu. Our bulk-mail has two accounts: one for postage, the other is an annual \$85 fee. Evidently, our \$85 bulk-mail permit fee was put into the postage account by mistake, so the post office wouldn't accept our April mailing. Tony, K6MOB helped get it all figured out and things should be back to normal now.

Roy, K6VIP: What's going on with our possible new meeting site? Barbara, KD6QEI: Nothing yet... we still need to get a copy of our liability insurance to them.

Field Day: Discussion about possibly changing to another site. Mt. Madonna is already reserved for this year. Since these things need to be arranged way in advance, now is the time to look into a new site for next year. We need a place that would allow over-night camping, generators, and a couple of towers.

Don, KK6MX: Flea Market. Maybe have a booth with literature about the club and solicit new members when we host the flea market in July. Discussion followed. Consensus was that we would probably have trouble getting enough volunteers just to host the event.

Don, KO6HH: There seems to be a dearth of amateur classes lately. We should think about it. Jack, AC6FU: WVARC is putting on a novice/no-code class. We should too if we can get the volunteers.

Barbara, KD6QEI: Next month will be ladies-of-SCCARA night. Should be good.

9:20 PM Adjourned.

Gary, WB6YRU, recording for the secretary.

Board Meeting, April 21, 1996



8:02 PM Called to order by V.P. Barbara KD6QEI

Attendance: Barbara KD6QEI, Lou WA6QYS, Lloyd KD6FJI, Wally KA6YMD, Don K6PBQ, Clark KE6KXO, Gary WB6YRU.

Barbara KD6QEI: Our Liability insurance is settled. We will give a copy to Valley Villages (possible new meeting place). We may meet there and may decide to have our meetings at 8 PM. The May general meeting will be "Ladies' night," with entertainment by El Wirt et al.

Lou WA6QYS: motion to approve minutes as published. Passed unanimously.

Editor's report, Gary WB6YRU: The April issue was late because of a snafu in our payments to the Post Office. We have a postage account with the post office from which the bulk mail postage is paid. We also have to pay an \$85 annual fee. The annual fee was paid, but, for whatever reason, was put into our postage account. Since they didn't have a record of us having paid the fee, they stopped

accepting our newsletter mailing. Everything has been straightened out now.

Treasurer's report, Lloyd KD6FJI: We have an entry in World Radio magazine (where they list clubs) This costs \$65 per year. Lou WA6QYS: motion to approve renewing this. Passed unanimously.

General checking account:	\$362.19
General savings account:	\$8843.51
Repeater checking account:	\$1224.57
Repeater savings account:	\$3687.31
Total:	\$14117.58

Barbara KD6QEI: It would be nice to do something special (flowers perhaps) for the ladies that participate in next meeting's ladies night. Clark: Motion to pay for expenses for guest speakers at the next general meeting. Three in favor, one abstain. Motion passes.

Lou WA6QYS: We host the July Flea Market. I volunteer to be the chairman on this effort. We will need about 24 helpers. Having a "SCCARA booth" in addition to the food booth would stretch our man-power to much. We can promote SCCARA as part of the food booth with hand-outs.

Barbara KD6QEI: We will use the same sign-up form for Field Day, only the dates will be different. Field Day is June 27-29. The deadline for the sign-up is Monday June 23. Dan WM6M (not present) was nominated as Field Day Chairman. Discussion of possible other locations for future Field Day events.

9:17 PM Adjourned.

Gary WB6YRU, recording for the secretary

Rule Changes

From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT
April 2, 1997

FCC issues changes in Amateur Radio rules

In response to three petitions for rulemaking, the FCC has adopted changes to the Amateur Service rules that--among other changes--will make it easier to obtain 1x1 call signs for special event stations and harder to get a club station license. Other amendments to the rules included in a Report and Order released April 1, 1997, will allow hams to append special designators either before or after their call signs--or both, and will recognize, but not require, the use of a session manager at Volunteer Examiner testing sessions.

The FCC declined to give examination credit for formerly held licenses and turned down an ARRL request for a

lifetime operator's license.

Under the new amendments, the FCC will allow a licensee to substitute a self-selected call sign from the block of 1x1 call signs for temporary use during a special event operation. The station must announce its regularly assigned call sign at least once an hour. The special event call signs will be coordinated and issued by outside volunteer entities, not by the FCC. The Commission will announce later when and how volunteer entities may volunteer their services. The chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau then would certify volunteer entities to serve as amateur station special event call sign coordinators, who would issue 1x1 calls from a common, online special event call sign database. By definition, a 1x1 call sign consists of a single prefix letter, K, N or W; the region number, 0 to 9; and a single suffix letter, A to W, Y and Z--750 call signs in all. The FCC turned down a suggestion that would have limited special event call signs to stations licensed to Amateur Extra class operators.

In proposing to increase the eligibility requirements for a club station license, the FCC said it was "important to determine that the applicant for a club station license is a legitimate radio club and not just a person seeking to acquire additional call signs." Under the rules changes, the FCC has raised the eligibility requirement from at least two members to a minimum of four. Applicants for a club station license must have a club name, a document of organization, management, and a primary ham radio purpose that's consistent with FCC rules.

Responding to a petition by the National Conference of Volunteer-Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC), the FCC said VECs could elect to designate a session manager if they wanted to, but they would not be required to do so. The Commission's new rules recognize the VE session manager function but emphasize that the three Volunteer Examiners at a test session would still be held "jointly and severally responsible for the proper conduct of each examination administered."

Another change will allow hams to include a self-assigned indicator before, after or both before and after the assigned call sign when identifying. Current rules only permit using such indicators after the station's regular call sign. Self-assigned indicators include those used to indicate location or type of operation, such as /KP2 when operating in the US Virgin Islands or /m when operating in a vehicle. They also can denote participation in an unusual event or other atypical station operation, according to the FCC.

Citing mostly negative comments, the FCC decided against allowing exam credit for formerly held amateur operator licenses. The Commission also said "no" to the ARRL's suggestion that the operator license be valid for the lifetime of the holder. The FCC said operators would still have to renew their station licenses every ten years and that it did not want to maintain a separate database to keep track of station

license expirations.

The FCC announced all of the rules changes in a Report and Order, FCC 97-99, adopted March 20 and issued April 1. The amendments become effective 30 days after the Report and Order is published in The Federal Register.

From the ARRL...

The ARRL Letter
April 18, 1997

ARRL CALLS ON FCC TO PRIVATIZE HANDLING OF MALICIOUS INTERFERENCE COMPLAINTS

Citing "a substantial need to improve and increase the quantity and quality" and timeliness of enforcement in malicious interference complaints, the ARRL has called on the FCC to "create a streamlined, privatized enforcement process" to handle and adjudicate the most serious Amateur Service rules violations. In a petition for rulemaking filed March 28, the League asked that the FCC change its rules to permit members of the volunteer Amateur Auxiliary to bring evidence of malicious interference violations directly before the Chief Administrative Law Judge. The Chief ALJ would be authorized to determine if the complainants have a valid case, to issue show-cause orders, and to designate complaints for hearing.

The League recommended that the FCC capitalize on the volunteer resources available through the Amateur Auxiliary to relieve the evidence-gathering burden in such cases. If the rules changes are approved, the League said it would likely assist members of the Amateur Auxiliary in preparing and submitting complaints and in presenting cases at administrative hearings. "The increased use of volunteer resources would seem to be entirely appropriate in the Amateur Service, which involves avocational use of radio only," the ARRL concluded.

While noting that most hams obey the rules, the League said Amateur Radio needs the Commission's help "in a very few, persistent, serious enforcement cases" but has not been getting it in recent years because of the FCC's staff and budgetary limitations.

"Indeed, notwithstanding the best efforts of the Commission over the past several years, there has been no resolution of the four or five most serious cases brought to the Commission's attention," the League said in its petition. Even in some of the cases the FCC did act upon, the League said the Commission did not go far enough to make the problems go away permanently. The League cited a case in New Orleans where fines against several amateurs were reduced but remain unpaid and uncollected. "There is a

widespread, and growing, perception that administrative forfeitures are not collectable," the ARRL said, pointing to the complex, time-consuming method of collecting fines that is required by federal law. The ARRL noted that while the FCC suspended one ham's license in that city in 1996, it failed to look into malicious interference charges against at least two other hams in that area. The League said examples like these send a message that the FCC won't enforce Amateur Service rules in malicious interference cases. Informal mediation attempts also have failed. "Malicious interference problems, if left unchecked, tend to spread and increase in intensity," the League said. The ARRL suggested that a series of "visible, successful enforcement actions" would deter rules violations and promote self-regulation.

The ARRL also suggested that some FCC policies get in the way of timely, effective enforcement. Current Wireless Telecommunications Bureau policy requires the Commission to independently corroborate evidence gathered by Amateur Radio volunteers. "The policy often acts as an absolute obstacle to any enforcement activity whatsoever," and it demoralizes volunteers who view their efforts as wasted.

While noting that malicious interference cases often attract a lot of attention within the amateur community, the League said ham radio can be "justifiably proud" of its history of voluntary rule compliance. "The overall level of compliant behavior among amateurs has not deteriorated over the years," the League emphasized, citing fewer than 10 active malicious interference cases in the US at present.

HAM RADIO EXCLUDED FROM CB ENFORCEMENT BILL

At the request of the ARRL, Amateur Radio has been specifically exempted from a bill submitted April 17 by US Sen Russell Feingold (D-Wisconsin) that would give states and municipalities authority to enforce the FCC's CB regulations. Feingold's bill, designated Senate Bill 608, originated with efforts by the Beloit, Wisconsin, City Council--responding to long-standing CB interference complaints--to pass an ordinance allowing local authorities to enforce FCC regulations. The bill is aimed at reducing radio frequency interference stemming from the use of unauthorized equipment or frequencies by CB'ers.

In presenting his bill, Feingold told his Senate colleagues that he has received RFI complaints over the past several years from numerous Wisconsin communities "in which whole neighborhoods are experiencing persistent radio frequency interference."

If approved by Congress, Feingold's bill would amend the Communications Act to allow state or local governments to enforce regulations that prohibit the use of CB equipment not authorized by the FCC (such as high-power linear amplifiers). As it now stands, no license is required to operate on the 11-meter Citizens Band, but the FCC does

have strict requirements on the type of equipment that CB'ers can legally use. Feingold's bill would preserve the federal preemption of all other telecommunications matters. It excludes FCC-licensed services, including Amateur Radio, from state or local oversight.

Also at the ARRL's request, the bill calls upon the FCC to provide "technical guidance" to states and municipalities in detecting and determining violations. Those affected by a state or local enforcement decision would be able to appeal to the FCC. ARRL asked Feingold to add this provision as final safeguard for amateurs who might be erroneously prosecuted despite the bill's other exemptions for amateurs. Feingold's bill also would not preclude the FCC from enforcing its own regulations as they apply to CB.

Feingold called his bill "a common-sense solution to a very frustrating and real problem which cannot be addressed under existing law."

NJ JUDGE RULES HAM INTERFERENCE OUT OF HIS HANDS

A New Jersey Superior Court judge has ruled that federal law prevents him from declaring ham radio interference a nuisance. Judge Reginald Stanton made that determination in a case reported April 16 in the New Jersey Star Ledger, in which a couple sued their neighbor, Walter Kornienko, K2WK, of Lafayette, New Jersey, claiming his transmissions interfered with their telephone, TV, and garage door opener. The couple, Leopold and Karen Korins, was trying to get Stanton to declare the situation a nuisance and to direct Kornienko to cut back on his hobby. But Kornienko's lawyer claimed his client had a right to operate under a federal license and suggested the Korins do more to shield their appliances from RFI. According to the news report, Kornienko, who's been licensed since 1967, runs the maximum 1500 W PEP.

"There is no question that there has been meaningful intrusion into the Korins' home and their expectations of enjoying a reliable and reasonably high quality level of telephone and television reception," Stanton is quoted as saying in the Star Ledger report by Bill Riley.

Stanton conceded, however, that the FCC had jurisdiction and he had no authority to limit Kornienko's hamming. "If he is obeying the FCC rules and the Korins can't fix the situation in their home, that's tough and they'll have to lump it," Stanton reportedly said.

Kornienko is said to have expressed relief at the ruling. Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, said he'd discussed the problem with Kornienko, an avid contester. He described the area as rural, rather than suburban, and expressed the hope that Kornienko could somehow recover his legal expenses.

RADIO SHACK TAKES HTX-204 DUAL-BAND HT OFF THE MARKET

Radio Shack notified its stores April 17 that it's immediately recalling unsold stocks of its new HTX-204 dual-band handheld transceiver because of what a source at Radio Shack headquarters called "a regulatory compliance issue" involving the transceiver. Radio Shack said it plans to take the HTX-204 off the market and has no immediate plans to offer another dual-band HT. The HTX-204 started showing up in the chain's 7000 retail stores about six weeks ago.

A Radio Shack official at the company's Ft Worth, Texas, headquarters said the company was concerned about the "potential for illegal use" of the HTX-204. He declined to be specific, but he did emphasize that the HTX-204 is perfectly legal for use on Amateur Radio frequencies.

Radio Shack expressed disappointment with the turn of events surrounding the HTX-204 and directed any questions to local Radio Shack retail stores.

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the packet network:

Date: 30 Mar 97 18:13

From: N8QGE@N7VMR

To: INFO@USA

Subject: Corrosion Protection for Towers

Corrosion Protection of Tower Structures

Most people have a tendency to use copper as a metal for grounding because it is readily available, relatively economical to procure, a good conductor, and one of the more noble metals. It does have a significant drawback. Since it is near the upper end of the table of noble metals, copper when put in direct contact with most common metals which are lower in nobility will cause accelerated corrosion of the lesser metal. In other words, the significance of being more noble means that if you have any other metal buried (moisture) and connected to your copper ground system, it will be a better anode and thus become sacrificial. Also see Dissimilar Metals May Take Away Your Protection (my other article).

This may bring to mind the very galvanized (hot dipped zinc) tower that you are grounding. Since concrete is conductive and forms a ground, you may be thinking that the tower and its rebar reinforcement may be at risk of corrosion. Rebar is a very hard (heat treated) steel which will rust. The rust, which is a non-conductive oxide when

dry, will prevent further oxidation. Since concrete readily retains moisture for long periods of time, the rust is actually a good conductor. However, further corrosion reduction of the rebar due to this galvanic action will be limited by the oxide layer, so this should not be of much concern.

Now, a buried galvanized tower section (not the "J" bolts) or guy anchor that is embedded into concrete will have some galvanic currents which will cause the depletion of the zinc coating into the concrete. This will leave the steel bare which will continue to pit and may even de-alloy.

This type of corrosion may take 20 to 30 years or more before the structural failure of the tower may occur. In 1990, several towers were lost in Minnesota alone due to guy anchor corrosion and failure. Some contractors and manufacturers have now gone to the extent of tar/pitch dipping the anchors so this galvanic corrosion does not occur. This means that the anchor is now insulated from the ground which makes proper guy anchor grounding that much more important. The consequence of poorly grounding an insulated guy anchor is deadly arcing through the pitch which could cause structural cracking in the concrete and corresponding structural failure.

A corrosion rule of thumb is that the better your soil conductivity the more galvanic corrosion you could have. Doping your soil with salts can increase the speed of the corrosion. Consequently it is better to have an extensive radial and ground rod system in lieu of a smaller ground system with doped soil.

For existing towers, you should look at the ratio of surface areas and ground resistance. The current density for a given current will be greater for material with a smaller surface area. This means that the more extensive the copper grounding system around the anchor or tower the more the current density and consequently the more galvanic corrosion which will take place on the anchors or tower for a given earth resistance.

If you follow the recommended PolyPhaser method of using radials and ground rods that lead away from the tower base, guy anchors, and equipment hut; the resultant distributed surface area and current must return through ever increasing ground distance/resistance. This makes the currents smaller than a ground system which uses increasing concentric rings or a ground grid, for example.

It may appear obvious that the use of similar materials would eliminate the galvanic problem. While this is true, galvanized ground wire and ground rods are not normally recommended since the electric utility company will probably use a copper clad steel ground rod. Replacing the utility rod may be dangerous or impractical.

Another alternative is to install an active cathodic protection system. This simple system consists of a power supply (lightning protected of course) and a buried sacrificial anode element, such as zinc. The power supply will electrically elevate the tower section or anchor (negative) such that the galvanic currents are forced through the sacrificial zinc anode (positive) element. The

anode will deplete over time in the soil instead of your tower and guy anchors. PolyPhaser hopes to have a system which will monitor the current and alarm when the anode material is depleted or if the ground system conductivity changes adversely.

If magnesium were substituted for zinc, the power supply can be eliminated since magnesium is a better anode than galvanized steel.

=====
Date: 20 Apr 97 07:48
From: AE0Q@W0GVT
To: ALL@USA
Subject: Standardize Power Connectors!

This is the ARRL/ARES power connector standard. It uses common Molex brand two-pin Power Connectors rated for 12 Amps, and they are available at Radio Shack, packaged in pairs (RS #274-222). They will handle 50w radios and accessories, but should not be used for 100w transmitters (RS says 8 Amps, but Molex officially specs them at 12 Amps in the 2-pin connector).

The pointed edge of each connector is the positive, and the solid male plug with female pins is the cable connected to the power SOURCE (battery, power supply, cigarette lighter plug).

The female plastic plug gets the male (solid) pins, and is then connected to equipment power cables (VHF/UHF radios, TNCs, laptops and keyers).

Make Field Day and Emergency operating easier and safe, use the ARRL/ARES power connector standard!

73 Glenn AE0Q/V31RY
AE0Q @ W0GVT.#NECO.CO.USA.NOAM

=====
Date: 20 Apr 97 15:07
From: N7DXT@N7DXT
To: ALL@USA
Subject: Re: Standardize Power Connectors!

AE0Q wrote to ALL on Sun Apr 20 15:44:47 1997:

> This is the ARRL/ARES power connector standard. It
> uses common Molex brand two-pin Power Connectors
> rated for 12 A, and they are available at Radio Shack

No offense to Glenn or ARRL/ARES, but do yourself a favor and don't buy the Molex connectors.

They won't reliably handle more than about 4 Amps, from my personal experience. Even though Icom uses (or used) them, I bought the Molex connectors from Radio Shack, used them for a while and junked them. There's nothing more frustrating than having to constantly go to your unattended, automated site and re-do power

connectors all the time. It seems the small metal tabs sticking out of the male pins won't stay tight in the sleeve after repeated use and the connector opens at the very moment you need it most.

As an alternative, I suggest using the Jones 4 pin connectors, like the ones used on Yaesu HF equipment. Unlike the Molex connectors, these WILL handle a 100W (or bigger) transmitter. They are easier to make and connect/disconnect. Use two pins each for positive and negative (the same as Yaesu), and protect your gear by putting a diode across the connector to your radio, to blow the power cord fuse if you get the wrong polarity (you DID fuse it?).

And while you're at it, it's a good idea to keep a stock of connectors to use other gear in a pinch. Keep some wire, a couple high current cigar lighter plugs, some hooded (male and female) bullet and spade connectors, quick taps, a small crimping/stripping tool, and spare fuses.

73 from Dave N7DXT @ N7DXT.#EUGEN.OR.USA.NOAM

=====
Date: 22 Apr 97 04:08
From: KB2HQ@WA2UMX
To: ALL@USA
Subject: Standardized Connectors

Folks,
Glen, AE0Q mentioned "Standardized" connectors and Dave N7DXT responded with a suggestion of using Jones connectors. I agree strongly with Dave.

The 4 pin "Jones" plug make a good reliable connection device for powers in the 100 W range (they're rated at 7.5 amps per pin or around 15 total). I've used them successfully on HF rigs and high power VHF brick amps for years. They also essentially solve the cross polarization problem IF -- there is some sort of uniformity in pin usage. The protocol used locally is: The flat pins (- -) are minus, because they look like minus signs. The upright pins (| |) are plus. If you run into some one else's gear, DON'T ASSUME. Check polarity before hooking things up (Yaesu does not conform with this protocol but RF Concepts does on their amps). Radio Shack used to carry them in their stores but now they handle them on a mail order basis - ask you store manager. They are also available through the mail order parts houses. The easiest way to attach them is to bridge the pins of the same polarization with a piece of # 14-16 wire, then connect the power leads to the bridges. Just like PL259's, PUT THE SHELL ON FIRST.

Phil, KB2HQ@wa2umx.fn32aw.ny.usa.noam or kb2hq@juno.com

[Editor's note: Some people say Jones connectors have

one disadvantage--they might to vibrate apart in mobile installations. If they are the type with a locking clip or if you use a tie-wrap or something, vibration shouldn't be a problem.]

=====
Date: 21 Dec 93 18:33

From: N0AHH@NX0C

To: JOKE@ALLUS

Subject: A FUTURE LAWYER?

A boy decided he was going to rake leaves to make some money. A short time later he came to his father with \$100 he wanted to put in the bank. His father was pleasantly surprised.

"You raked a lot of leaves, son."

"Just one yard, Dad," said the boy. "And their dog bit me."

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 you consider yourself to be reasonably competent in at least one area of amateur radio and would be willing help others, please ask the club secretary for an Elmer survey form and fill it out.

Antennas, feed-lines, tuners:

WB6EMR, AC6FU, K6PBQ, K6RQ, WB6YRU

Lightning protection, grounding: WB6YRU

Station set-up, equipment: AC6FU, K6PBQ, K6RQ

TVI/RFI: WB6YRU

Homebrew projects, construction: AC6FU, KD6FJI, WB6YRU

Computers: KB6NP; IBM PC: WN6U, WB6YRU

Packet Network (BBS, forwarding): WB6YRU

Other digital modes (AMTOR, RTTY): WN6U

Code operating and installations:

WB6EMR, AC6FU, K6PBQ, K6RQ

Contesting & techniques: K6RQ

DX (long distance/propagation): WB6MER, K6RQ

Emergency operating/preparedness: WA6QYS

FM (VHF/UHF, repeaters): WA6VJY

HF operating techniques (SSB, CW):

WB6EMR, AC6FU, K6PBQ, K6RQ

Mobile operating: K6RQ, WN6U

QRP (HF low power, all modes): WN6U

TEN-TEN (10 M only): AC6FU

Classes/license upgrading: W6ACW, AC6FU

Legal/FCC rules: WB6YRU

SCCARA (club inner workings):

K06HH, K6PBQ, WA6VJY, WB6YRU, WA6QYS

Math applications: AC6FU

Children's Discovery Museum, volunteer operator:

K6PBQ

W6ACW, Ed Hajny, (408) 739-6105

WB6EMR, James D. Armstrong, Jr.,

day: (408) 995-0621, evening & msg: (408) 945-1202

KD6FJI, Lloyd DeVaughns,

day: (408) 299-8933, evening: (408) 225-6769

packet: home BBS KB6MER

AC6FU, Jack L. Ruckman, (408) 379-4846

K06HH, Don Hayden, (408) 867-4643

packet: home BBS NOARY

KB6NP, Jon Dutra, day & msg (408) 428-2058

evening (408) 867-8654

packet: home BBS NOARY

internet: jad@aol.com

K6PBQ, Don Village, (408) 263-2789

WA6QYS, Lou Steirer, (408) 241-7999

packet: home BBS NOARY

K6RQ, Frank Glass, (408) 356-1026

WN6U, Doug Eaton, (408) 377-3736

packet: home BBS NOARY

internet: wn6u@compuserve.com

WA6VJY, Stan Getsla, day: (408) 738-2888 x5929,

evening & msg: (408) 275-0735

WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, msg (408) 265-2336

also (408) 269-2924

packet: home BBS NOARY

internet: wb6yru@arasmith.com

Newsletter Notes

So, what the heck happened to the newsletter last month? Well, let me tell ya...

They were all ready to be mailed out, right on time. Tony took them to the bulk-mail center as usual, but the post office refused to accept them!

We have an account with the post office, this is where the money for postage comes from during each newsletter bulk mailing. When the amount gets low, Tony gets a check from the treasurer and we're off and running again.

Now then, as a bulk-mail customer, we have to pay an annual \$85 fee (in addition to postage). I don't know exactly how this happened or who's at fault, but our payment for this year got put into our "normal" postage account instead of being credited to this annual fee.

Everything is OK now and the April issue went out, albeit a little late. Sorry for any inconvenience.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

ARRL Pacific Division Update

May 1997

Amateur Radio Volunteer Services Act

In early March, Rep. Anna Eshoo (CA-14th), along with 21 cosponsors, introduced the Amateur Radio Volunteer Services Act of 1997 (HR 1013) into Congress. This bill, if enacted, would place volunteers in the Volunteer Examination Program and the Amateur Auxiliary under the protection of the Federal Tort Claims Act by affording them the same legal protection as employees of the Federal Government while they're carrying out such volunteer duties.

See page 15 May QST for the full details and text of the bill. Ron Dellums (CA 9th), from the Pacific Division, is one of the initial cosponsors. Please contact your Congress persons to ask them to become cosponsors. A sample letter is on page 16 of May QST.

Amateur Spread Spectrum NPRM

On March 9, 1997, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), WT Docket 97-12, proposing to make significant changes in the regulations governing Amateur Radio use of spread spectrum (SS) technology. The changes are proposed in order to encourage greater use of this mode, a mode that is expanding very rapidly in the Part 15 commercial world. This NPRM was in response to an ARRL petition submitted on Dec. 12, 1995.

The text of the Docket can be found on the FCC web site at <http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Wireless/Notices/1997/fcc97010>. See page 78 in the May QST for more information. Comments are due no later than May 5, 1997, while Reply Comments are due no later than June 5.

Committee Proposes New Licensing Plan

One of the charges given to the ARRL WRC-99 Planning Committee by the ARRL Board of Directors early last year was to study the U.S. amateur licensing structure. A full discussion of the Committee's proposals related to the U.S. licensing structure is given in March QST at page 55. Please read it and offer your comments to ARRL and to me.

My thanks to all of you who have written already. I have read each e-mail and hard copy letter and noted your thoughts. My goal is to respond to each of you in the Division who have written me directly.

Please remember that this is just a proposal and there is no certainty that the ARRL Board will adopt this or any other proposal on this matter. Further, it is not clear that the FCC is even interested in revising the Amateur Radio licensing and testing structure.

In addition to the U.S. license restructuring matters, the WRC-99 Planning Committee of the ARRL Board was charged with the task of developing recommendations to be passed on to the U.S. Government delegation to WRC-99, dealing with potential changes in the International Telecommunications Union Rules governing the Amateur Service. This activity resulted in the survey published in QST last August, as well as an additional mail survey subjected to careful statistical controls. The results of this survey were published in QST for Jan., 1997.

VEC Pacific Division Phone Number

To obtain all the Amateur Radio license testing information for the ARRL VEC Pacific Division, call (408) 984-8353. Follow the menu to obtain the necessary details.

E.R.I. '97 Again In Sacramento

You and your organization are cordially invited to participate in the Northern California Emergency Response Institute, May 17-18, 1997, in Sacramento, California. This year's Institute is once again being hosted at the Sacramento Municipal Utility District's Energy and Technology Center, and is sponsored by the Governor's Office of Emergency Service's Auxiliary Communications Service and the California Emergency Services Radio Association (CESRA).

To register, you may: (a) Visit the ERI '97 Home Page at <http://www.garlic.com/oes/eri/eri97.html>. You may download the registration form and mail or fax it back to them. The web site displays the Emergency and Technology Center site, gives transportation information, lodging and restaurant recommendations, along with links to Sacramento visitor information pages. (b) E-mail to larton@garlic.com for a registration information packet. Or (c) Drop a note with your registration to ERI '97 PO Box 301 Fair Oaks, CA 95628.

Seats tend to fill fast at the Institute, so get your \$20.00 registration in early so you don't miss out. Make out checks or money orders to ERI '97. Questions? Contact Institute Director Dave Larton, N6JQJ, at (408) 778-7265, by e-mail at larton@garlic.com, or by fax at (408) 778-3101.

Avalanche of New Antenna Ordinances

There is a huge new wave of antenna ordinances being proposed by cities and counties. These ordinances are being driven by the spectrum auctions and by new and expanding Cellular and Personal Communications Services licenses.

All of us need to be aware of this trend. When you first sense any of this action in your community, contact your Section Manager, the ARRL Regulatory Information Branch, and me immediately so that we can get help to you and the rest of the hams in your community. The key to a successful defense is to separate the commercial interests from Amateur Radio in the minds of the city officials. It's vitally important

that your city or county officials understand Amateur Radio involvement with emergency communications - this story must be told repeatedly, especially before the antenna ordinance crisis develops!

Beacons

Have you taken advantage of monitoring the NCDXF/IARU worldwide International Beacon Network? (13 beacons now in operation with 3 more to come soon and 2 more later). Monitor 14.100 - 18.110 - 21.150 - 24.930 - 28.200 MHz. How many beacons can you hear on each band? They have been put on the air during the sunspot low so you can follow them up to the peak about 4 years from now. For list of beacons and times of transmission, check the web at <http://www.ncdxf.org>. Treat yourself, tune in.

Latest Band Threat News

The Little LEO companies were not able to advance their position at the April 7-11 meeting of PCC.III (Permanent Consultative Committee III-Radiocommunications) of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) in Cartagena, Colombia. Practically none of the Little LEOs were there because their issues were stalled in Washington where they continued to be debated as part of US preparation for the 1997 Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) in Geneva the first two weeks of May. In other words, they couldn't get any paper out of Washington saying anything substantive until there is agreement between FCC and NTIA, and state how far they can go to accommodate the Little LEOs while balancing that against the opposition from land mobile, broadcasting, amateurs, and others.

The FCC is making a last-minute attempt to improve the CPM text from the Little LEO viewpoint in a small meeting on Friday, April 18. The basic decision facing the FCC is whether to give some support to the so-called 'flexible-allocation' approach (just give us up to half the spectrum below 1 GHz and trust us not to interfere) or to focus on specific bands. Then, they're likely to reassess the situation in late May after the results of the CPM are digested. Page 76, May QST contains further background information.

Thanks to all who responded to the last minute plea for comments on the flexible allocation plan. The period for public comment has ended, so no additional comments on the subject will help at this time.

Unfortunately, the future of these threats is unknown. We won't be able to breathe easily about WRC-97 issues until the final gavel comes down on Nov. 21, 1997. Monitor the progress of this unfolding drama! For the latest news on this volatile issue, read QST, Pacific Division Updates in hard copy, the ARRL Letter, Pacific Division Updates on e-mail; visit Pacific Division WWW site. Visit the ARRL home page at <http://www.arrl.org/> and select "Band Threat News."

Last Call for 1997 Scholarships

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc. plans to administer sixty college scholarships for the academic year 1997-98 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 1997 from: FAR Scholarships, 6903 Rhode Island Ave, College Park, MD 20740.

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association is now accepting applications for its 1997 college scholarships. Amateur Radio licensees graduating high school in 1997 are eligible for \$2000 scholarships. Interested students should send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for an application to DARA Scholarships, 45 Cinnamon Ct, Springboro OH 45066.

New Volunteer Counsel

Welcome Malcolm Misuraca, KO6KR to the Pacific Division Volunteer Counsel group for the Marin County area.

New Assistant Director

Ray "Nick," Hauck, K6QPE as a member of the California Senior Legislature, has agreed to provide contact and guidance on matters involving the California State Legislature. Welcome, Nick, to the Pacific Division Assistant Director group.

Coming Events

- Livermore Swap Meet - 1st Sunday of each month at Las Positas College in Livermore, CA, 7:00 AM to noon, all year. Talk in 147.045 from west, 145.35 from the east. Contact Noel Anklam, KC6QZK, (510) 447-3857 eves.
- Foothill Flea Market - 2nd Saturday of each month from March through October at Foothill College, Los Altos CA.
- San Joaquin Valley Section Convention May 17 - 18, 1997, at Bakersfield CA. Contact Ed Harlander, KO6DY, at (805) 589-4163 or charlander@aol.com. See page 92, May 1997 QST for more details.

Brad Wyatt, K6WR
Director, ARRL Pacific Division

18400 Overlook Rd. #5
Los Gatos CA 95030-5850
(408) 395-2501 (voice & fax)

Packet: K6WR @ N0ARY.#NCA.CA.USA.NOAM
Internet: k6wr@arrl.org
Pacific Division WWW Home Page <http://www.pdarrl.org/>



Field Day is coming up!

1997 Field Day contest weekend is June 28-29. Mark your calendars!

For those who are new to amateur radio: Field Day is one of the biggest radio contests of the year. The underlying idea is to give amateurs practice making contacts under disaster conditions. This means the participants are encouraged to set up and operate portable stations. You can operate at home, but it's better (worth more points) to "setup shop" elsewhere. For the past several years we have been going up to Mt. Madonna County Park (Southern end of the county). We usually have a variety of stations and antennas. The stations have included phone, CW, digital, novice, solar, VHF, etc. The antennas have been: beams on towers (one is a sizable crank-up on a specially made trailer), a long wire, and miscellaneous dipoles and verticals. The more exotic the power source, the better. We usually use batteries, generators, and solar cells. We operate under a classification where several transceivers are on the air at one time. We are allowed a certain amount of time to set up--that's why some of us go up Friday afternoon. Once set up, we have 24 hours (starting at a specific time) to make as many contacts as possible. It's a lot of fun and a great way to hone those operating skills! Everyone is encouraged to participate. You can make a weekend of it or just show up for part of it, whatever you like.

The SCCARA Field Day weekend will again be held at Mt. Madonna County Park on June 28 & 29. Anyone who joins the set-up group going up on Friday, June 27 and stays through Sunday helping with both setup and tear-down will be able to stay for free. All others need to pay the camping fee of \$8.00 per night per vehicle. Those who won't be staying overnight will be responsible for paying the "day use" fee themselves at the Park entrance.

The Field Day Committee / set-up group will be forming soon. Dan WM6M agreed to be the SCCARA 1997 Field Day Chairman. If you are interested, contact Dan.

The club will be serving a BBQ dinner at 1:00 PM on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday morning. The Saturday dinner will be your choice of steak or chicken, plus all the "fix'ns". Please indicate your choice on this sign up sheet. The cost of the dinner is \$10 per person and the Sunday breakfast is \$5 per person. You must pay for these meals in advance so that we know how much food to buy--**Monday, June 23 is the cutoff date**. All other meals are pot-luck (nobody goes hungry) or fend for yourself if you wish.

We're expecting a great Field Day this year, so please come join us!

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Overnight camping fee @ \$8.00 / night / vehicle: \$ _____

OR

_____ I will join the set-up group going up Friday, then help tear-down Sunday.

_____ Saturday steak dinner(s) @ \$10.00 / person: \$ _____

_____ Saturday chicken dinner(s) @ \$10.00 / person: \$ _____

_____ Sunday breakfast(s) @ \$5.00 / person: \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Please fill out this sign up sheet (or a copy) and get it to me before Monday, June 23. I can take it at the next club meeting or mail it with your check (payable to SCCARA) to:

Barbara Britten KD6QEI
585 S 14th ST
San Jose CA 95112

S.C.C.A.R.A. Membership Form for 1997

(Fill in name and address if there is no mailing label below; make corrections if the label is incorrect)

Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: E A G T+ T N

Address: _____ Licensed since (yr): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

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

E-mail: _____ Packet: _____

For family memberships (at the same address), please list other name(s) and call(s):

Annual membership dues are payable at the first of the year and expire the following December 31. New members joining on or after July 1, pay half the membership dues.

Annual Membership dues: Individual \$15 Family \$20 Student (under 18) \$5 _____

I want _____ SCCARA badges @ \$3 ea. Badge name & call: _____

Please send the repeater Auto-Dial/Auto-Patch codes (no charge, circle): Yes
WE MUST BE ABLE TO VERIFY YOUR AMATEUR LICENSE
BEFORE ANY REPEATER CODES WILL BE SENT TOTAL: _____

Give this completed form (or copy) with payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or mail to the return address below:

== PLEASE DO NOT TEAR/CUT ==

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY
AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**

PO BOX 6
San Jose CA 95103-0006

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