

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 20, Number 8

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ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, July 2, 2004

UTILITY CUTS SHORT BPL TRIAL THAT WAS TARGET OF AMATEUR COMPLAINTS

Alliant Energy has called an early end to its broadband over power line (BPL) pilot project in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The "evaluation system" went live March 30, and plans called for keeping it active until August or September. Alliant shut it down June 25. Ongoing, unresolved HF interference from the system to retired engineer Jim Spencer, W0SR, and other amateurs prompted the ARRL to file a complaint to the FCC on Spencer's behalf demanding it be shut down and the utility fined.

Alliant Energy's BPL Project Leader Dan Hinz says the ARRL complaint "certainly was a factor" in the utility's decision to pull the plug prematurely but "not the overriding factor." The main reason, he said, was that Alliant accomplished most of its objectives ahead of schedule. The primary purpose of the Cedar Rapids evaluation was to gain an understanding of BPL technology and what issues might be involved in a real-world deployment, Hinz explained. But, he added, regulatory uncertainty and other unspecified technical issues also factored into the choice to end the pilot early.

Hinz said Alliant is "mashing the data" to compile a written evaluation of the Cedar Rapids pilot, but the company has no plans at this point to move forward with BPL. Alliant did not partner with a broadband services provider, and it has no other BPL test systems in operation. The system used Amperion BPL equipment.

According to Spencer, five fixed Amateur Radio stations within proximity of the BPL evaluation system and two mobile stations formally reported BPL interference on HF. "The radio amateurs and Alliant Energy cooperated by sharing interference information," he said. "Alliant Energy turned the BPL evaluation system off twice to allow collection of extensive BPL frequency and signal level data--with and without BPL." He said Alliant and Amperion tried various "notching" schemes to rid amateur frequencies of the BPL interference with only limited success.

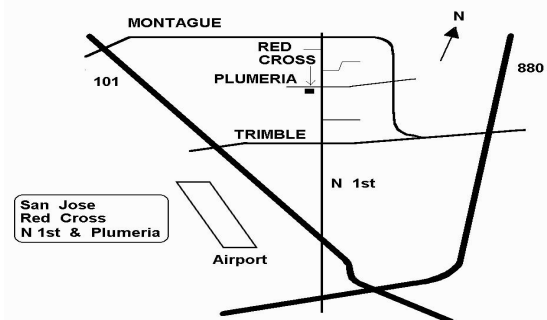
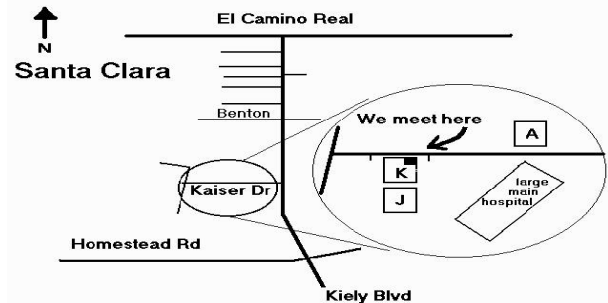
The system included both overhead and underground BPL links to feed 2.4 GHz wireless "hot spots" for end user access. Hinz said the area's topography presented some challenges, especially with the wireless links. "I think in the end, we actually over-challenged

Calendar

- 8/7 Livermore Electronic Flea Market
- 8/9 SCCARA General Meeting
- 8/14 Sunnyvale Electronic Flea Market
- 8/16 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting:

Day: Monday, August 9, 2004
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Bld K, Rm 1
Featuring: .



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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: <http://www.qsl.net/sccara>.

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| N0ARY BBS | Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU | 269-2924 |
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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 and N0ARY BBS 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 K6PBQ. On ten meters, 28.385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00 PM. Net control: Wally KA6YMD. Visitors welcome.

N0ARY PACKET BBS

SCCARA hosts the packet BBS N0ARY (San Jose). User ports: 144.93 (1200 baud), 433.37 (9600 baud), telephone 408 259-8497, internet (by registration only, get info by sending e-mail to: info@n0ary.org). Sysop: Gary WB6YRU

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| SCCARA contact Clark KE6KXO: | 408 262-9334 |
| ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group, | |
| Morris Jones, AD6ZH: | 408 507-4698 |

ourselves with this specific pilot location," he said. And, despite "substantial progress" in mitigating interference, Alliant decided at this point that "it wasn't worth the extra effort" to resolve the thornier technical issues, Hinz added.

As for any broader implications, Hinz says he's always viewed BPL as a "strategic deployment technology," not one a company could roll out just anywhere and expect to be competitive with existing broadband services such as cable and DSL. "At least that's how we were looking at it," he said. "You have to find the right areas with the right topography with the right concentration of certain types of customers," he said.

"It's never been in my mind that BPL has to compete with the speeds of cable today," Hinz added. "It has to compete with the speeds of cable and the next best thing tomorrow as well, if it's going to be usable well into the future." He hinted that Alliant might want to take another look at BPL once the FCC has put BPL rules and regulations into place, and the technology has further evolved.

The ARRL's formal complaint to FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief David H. Solomon called on the Commission not only to close down Alliant's BPL field trial system but to fine the utility \$10,000 for violating the Communications Act of 1934 and FCC Part 15 rules. Commenting on the termination of the Cedar Rapids BPL trial, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, pointed out that Alliant had tried for more than 12 weeks to fix the interference problem to a station 600 feet from its installation.

"In the end," Sumner said, "the interference was not eliminated except by shutting down the BPL system. Could the case against BPL deployment be any clearer?"

Spencer said he was happy with Alliant's decision, and he was gracious in expressing appreciation to the utility for working with him. "And thanks also to the ARRL and the Cedar Rapids BPL Steering Committee for their knowledge and efforts in making a truly professional evaluation," he added.

Still outstanding are some chronic power line noise problems Spencer has experienced.

For additional information, visit the "Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) and Amateur Radio" page on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/bpl>>. To support the League's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>>.

UPLC COMMENT SHOWS BPL CAMPAIGN STARTING TO PAY OFF, HAYNIE SAYS

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, says a remark the United Power Line Council (UPLC) made recently about Amateur Radio shows that the League's BPL message is getting through. In its reply comments on the FCC's BPL Notice of Proposed Rule Making in ET Docket 04-37, the UPLC's Brett Kilbourne claimed that members of the BPL industry are the real experts on the technology, "not a misinformed set of armchair amateurs that still use vacuum tube transmitters." A subsequent UPLC press release repeated the swipe, drawing a storm of protest from the amateur community. Haynie said this week that he took comfort rather than offense at the intended affront.

"I thought that the comment was a good indicator that the work that the League has been doing on multiple fronts is beginning to pay off," Haynie said. The League's FCC filings, technical studies and information on BPL, he said, have made it "very embarrassing" for the BPL industry to keep insisting "that the

emperor is wearing clothes," so it's resorted to name calling instead.

Haynie said he remains puzzled that the BPL industry appears unwilling to support its claims that "the risk of interference from BPL is extraordinarily low, because it produces only minimal radio frequency energy at a few points in the system," as the UPLC's press release asserts. Any harmful interference that does occur, the UPLC claims, can be "mitigated" using a variety of techniques, "including frequency notching or frequency shifting."

"Just saying 'We said it's not going to interfere' is not going to cut it," he said. Haynie challenged the BPL industry to sponsor independent, professional engineering evaluations of the technology's interference risk. "Let's see what they've got."

Haynie said that while he found the UPLC's "armchair amateurs" remark amusing, its severe criticism of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Phase I BPL report and comments in the proceeding raised his eyebrows a bit. In its press release, the UPLC said "NTIA's recommendations and ARRL's naysaying are misguided" and that the UPLC has "forcefully replied" to interference concerns.

"For Mr Kilbourne to come out and say they [NTIA] don't know what they're talking about, he might as well shoot himself in the foot," Haynie said, pointing out that the White House, which is promoting BPL, is putting a lot of weight on the NTIA's recommendations.

In its comments, the UPLC said the NTIA's approach was "fundamentally at odds with the Part 15 rules" and "unjustified" by BPL's interference potential.

In response to the criticism leveled from the amateur community, the UPLC declared its "support for Amateur Radio remains unabated," but expressed concern for "uninformed armchair quarterbacking by a small number of amateurs." The UPLC also said it has "sought to work with ARRL," citing its offer to help resolve "a complaint in Cedar Rapids, Iowa." Alliant Energy prematurely shut down its BPL pilot system in Cedar Rapids June 25. Interference complaints from amateurs were a factor in the utility's decision.

ISS CREW PLEASES FIELD DAY CROWD WITH HAM RADIO "FIRST"

For the first time, an astronaut and a cosmonaut were on the air simultaneously from both Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) operating positions. Astronaut Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, operated during Field Day 2004 as NA1SS, while Expedition 9 Commander Gennady Padalka, RN3DT, was on the air as RS0ISS. Between them, they racked up more than five dozen QSOs.

"Mike Fincke and Gennady Padalka both participated on June 27 by making voice contacts with stations in the United States (including Alaska), Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil," said ISS Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO. "This was Mike's first time to make general contacts, and he did really well." Fincke was active during five US passes as well as during two over Central and South America.

Fincke snagged some 60 contacts on 2 meters--some of them in Spanish--using the Ericsson handheld transceiver in the Zarya Functional Cargo Block or FGB. Padalka picked up four US contacts on 70 cm using the Kenwood D700E in the ISS Zvezda Service Module. The packet system now is back in operation.

Fincke called the Field Day operation "a great experience!" and suggested he'll be on the air more frequently as a result. "Both Gennady and I were very happy to have 'met' so many different people in North, Central and South America," he said. "I know I will be using the ham radio more often, now that I could feel the warmth of the community."

ARISS mentor Tim Bosma, W6MU (ex-W6ISS) said his Field Day crew worked Fincke on three consecutive passes. "He impressed a lot of scouts and hams here at our Field Day site and made a very positive impression for ARISS and AMSAT," he said on the SAREX reflector.

Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, was one of the stations fortunate enough to work Padalka. "What an awesome signal on 70 cm!" he exclaimed. "Forty over S9."

Speaking on behalf of the ARISS Team, Scott Stevens, N3ASA, expressed appreciation for the Field Day operation. "Thank you gentlemen for your time and outstanding effort in making the 2004 Field Day an excellent experience."

AMSAT-OSCAR ECHO SATELLITE LAUNCHED!

A Russian Dnepr LV rocket carrying the AMSAT-OSCAR Echo Amateur Radio satellite and several other payloads launched on schedule June 29 at 0630 UTC from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. Ground controllers made their first contact with Echo at 1452 UTC and collected some telemetry for analysis before shutting down the 435.150 MHz digital downlink transmitter.

"This achievement is due to many individuals around the world, who have helped in the design, building, integration, testing and launching of this satellite," said AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH. "Also the members of AMSATs in many countries who have helped us by funding this 'electronic adventure.' Without your financial support the satellite could not have been completed and would never have been launched. Give yourselves a pat on the back for a job well done."

Jim White, WD0E, of the AO-Echo project team reports that an initial analysis of Echo's telemetry indicates everything is looking good. "The battery, solar panels and temperatures were all as expected," he said. Housekeeping software now is uploaded and running, and the transmitter was left on at a power level of 1.2 W.

Earth stations should not attempt to transmit on the satellite's uplink until checkout and commissioning are complete and AO-Echo has been made available for general use. White says that won't happen for at least one week. AMSAT will release bulletins when the satellite becomes available.

A telemetry decoding program, TLMEcho, is available for those who would like to view and report data from Echo. It may be downloaded from the "Echo Satellite User Software and Documentation page." AMSAT-NA requests that anyone recording Echo telemetry to send the CSV files to Mike Kingery, KE4AZN. A telemetry database has been established and will be tested over the next few days. When testing is complete it will be made available to directly upload telemetry files and query all data.

AO-Echo's sun-synchronous orbit is some 800 km (nearly 500 miles) above Earth. Among other capabilities, the 10-inch-square microsat--equipped with a transmitter capable of up to 7 W output--will allow voice communication using handheld FM transceivers. Echo will feature V/U, L/S and HF/U operational configurations, with V/S, L/U and HF/S also possible. FM voice and various digital modes--including PSK31 on a 10-meter SSB

uplink--also will be available.

At last report, the AO-Echo project was still some \$12,500 shy of its \$110,000 fund-raising goal. AMSAT--a 501(c)(3) organization--welcomes additional donations to bridge the funding gap. Visit the AMSAT AO-Echo Web page for additional details.--AMSAT News Service

From *The ARRL Letter*, July 16, 2004

FCC CHAIRMAN REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR BPL

Speaking in Menlo Park, California, July 15, FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell again asserted that broadband over power line technology "holds the great promise to bring high-speed Internet access to every power outlet in America." Powell's statement followed a demonstration of BPL technology at AT&T Labs co-sponsored by Pacific Gas and Electric Company and AT&T. "What I saw today has the potential to play a key role in meeting our goals to expand the availability and affordability of broadband," Powell said. "The future is bright for powerline broadband. We'll continue at the FCC to explore ways to support this technology while protecting other services from interference."

ACTOR MARLON BRANDO, KE6PZH/FO8GJ, SK

One of the best-known names in cinema--Marlon Brando, KE6PZH/FO8GJ--died in Los Angeles July 1. He was 80. Brando appears in the FCC database under his real name, "Martin Brandeaux," while his FO8GJ listing indicates both his real and his screen names. Brando held a US General class ticket. He was on the air occasionally over the years as FO8GJ from his private island in French Polynesia. In a 1994 CNN interview with Larry King, Brando affirmed his continued interest in Amateur Radio. In response to a caller's question, he said ham radio provided him with the opportunity to just be himself. Brando was best known for his roles as Stanley Kowalski in "A Streetcar Named Desire," a dockworker in "On the Waterfront," and Vito Corleone in "The Godfather." He was nominated for eight Academy Awards and won twice.

BBS suffered a severe case of "spam-itis"

The N0ARY packet BBS is humming along nicely now, without the spam-related problems we were having earlier. The solution was rather drastic--we had to shut down the BBS's internet user port.

The BBS has three user ports, including an internet port that works by e-mail. Commands are sent to the BBS via e-mail and it responds via e-mail. The BBS also can forward traffic with other BBS's via e-mail.

Unfortunately, but not unexpectedly these days, the spammers have discovered the BBS's e-mail address.

Users have to be registered before they can use the internet port. If you aren't registered, the system sends back information about it.

And therein lies the rub. Most spam does not contain a valid return address, so the BBS's response bounces back. The system enters the failure (with the bounced message) in the system log, saves the bounced message and error messages, and sends a copy to my address (on the same system).

There is so much spam that this quickly fills up all the available disk space. Furthermore, there often will be several dozen e-mail processes running simultaneously. That's just too much for a small system like this. (It's an old Sun Sparc 2 workstation).

At best, the system slows to a crawl, but more often than not the load is so high that the system resets to a kind of "safe mode" where nothing is running except the minimum processes.

So, the plug was pulled on the system's e-mail process. Things have been running smoothly ever since.

To those who use that port: sorry, but there didn't seem to be any other way. No one can send e-mail to the BBS nor can the BBS send out e-mail. There used to be other BBS's that N0ARY forwarded messages to over the internet via e-mail, but currently we don't have any e-mail forwarding partners. That made the choice a little easier.

Gary WB6YRU

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, July 12, 2004



19:30, Bldg K, Kaiser Santa Clara.

Attendance: 22, including 3 visitors.

Members present (in alphabetical order): Donald R Apte, KK6MX, Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, Wally Britten, KA6YMD, Lloyd Devaughns, KD6FJI, Clarence Garcia, KH6HMI, John Glass, NU6P, Del Harbold, KG6JPX, Eugene Hill, N6ANE, Roy Metzger, K6VIP, Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, David Paul, AE6MV, Gwen Steirer, KF60TD, Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, Douglas Turner, KG6USW, James T. Tyranski, KG6UDW, Ben Vickers, WB6FRM, El Wirt, K6ZYY, James W Wissick, KG6MSO

Visitors: Michael Wright, K6MFW, Rob Vance, N6ROB, Bob Armstrong, K6TBN, Debee Norling, KF6BKR, and Boston, #1 Dog.

President Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, opened the meeting at 19:37. Barbara welcomed everyone and introduced the speakers, John Glass, K6RQ and Debee Norling, KF6BKR.

John is a member of SCCARA, but is not related to Frank Glass, but is a friend of his. John's dad was a Navy Pilot during the Korean War. John's dad first bought him a code oscillator and code key. John learned code on his own, and practiced by wiring his dad's key to his and sending code back and forth across the house. Three years later they moved across town, and John acquired a friend three years older than he, who had his ticket. At teacher at their school was a ham and taught license classes, and it became known that earning your Novice license earned you an "A" in his class. So of course, John got his Novice. For his first rig, John had to decide between a Yaesu FP101 or a Kenwood. John went with the Yaesu because it featured a 25 kHz calibrator plus a 100 kHz calibrator, this was before digital.

For his license test, the FCC set up a special appointment time. The code was at 13 wpm, using a reel-to-reel tape deck. You had to copy one minute solid of the five minute tape û no multiple-choice questions back then. Then he had to demonstrate

he could send, using a straight key. So John sent for a while, using the straight key. The examiner, however, said that John was ending at about 25 wpm and the examiner couldn't copy that fast, so John was asked to slow down. Then they read him the multiple-choice test. John passed the first time. An interesting note is that back then, the paging system at the FCC system was by code. A secretary sent the initials of the person being paged by very-slow-speed code. Later John earned his Advanced license in 1978, then his Extra in 1981.

After college, John went to Advanced Computer Controls, a ham company: SCCARA's 440 repeater has one of their controllers. John was looking for a broadcast-industry job, but those were few and far between and often meant that you must move, perhaps across the country. So John took the job as Customer Service for Advanced Computer Controls. It was supposed to be a part-time job, but soon became full-time. Later, John worked at Palomar, then Arkenstone. Arkenstone specialized in equipment for the blind or visually-impaired, turning a printed page into synthesized speech. Interestingly, the VP of manufacturing at Arkenstone was a Ham, who had been inactive for a while, so he and John spent the entire interview discussing the relative merits of various Ham radio equipment.

Debee was born in the late fifties. Her grandfather was a ham, and repaired TV's but he was the only Technical person in the family. At seven, visiting her grandma in San Bernardino, she well remembers the hot summer, she got to see her grandpa only once per week. He gave her a Hallicrafters short wave to keep. She really liked listening to it & she became well-informed in foreign affairs and current events. Debee was the first blind foreign-exchange student (that she knew of). Debee became interested in CB in High School, but had no desire to transmit, no interest in ham Radio.

Then one day she was riding home on CalTrain. Her dog, dog #3, jumped into a man's lap. While Debee was apologizing and trying to get her dog off the man, she learned that he was a Ham, and was teaching a Ham license class that Saturday, at Sony. Debee took the class and earned her license, then got an FT-7 and an HT. She also used the crystal calibrator. Debee taught herself some CW, about 10 wpm. She learned more at Handi-Hams, at a week-long camp at Malibu. Handi-Hams teaches Ham radio to the deaf, blind folks, and even quadriplegics. Debee is the Net Coordinator for Milpitas ARES and is active in Emergency Communications. When Debee decided to go for her Advanced license, she studied the books, then took her Advanced test in Braille!

Next, John Glass demonstrated a Braille Light with an Elecraft K2. Much like a Palm Pilot, the Braille Light featured a Braille keyboard and a refreshable Braille display. It can be used on packet, either with the Braille display or a speech synthesizer. It was developed by Eric, WA6HQ, who John has known for about 25 years. Connected by a serial port, a computer program causes the radio's functions to talk. It is good, but it is not very portable, needing a serial computer link to operate, and not all functions talk. The next step was for all the functions to be read back in CW. The Kenwood TSX-50 has an optional speech synthesizer.

Debee has a talking laptop computer. Her first rig was an FT-7, with the Xtal calibrator, which worked pretty well. She also had an SWR meter with audio readout, see QST July 1994. It's not plans for an audible SWR, just an optional readout, which can be built for about \$10 in parts. Or Handi-Hams sells an audible-output SWR readout. Then she got a TS440 with an auto-tuner, but it wasn't half as much fun. Debee shipped her FT-7 to her in-laws in Indiana, so she could get on the air when visiting them, without having to keep moving her radio. Impressively, in Indiana, using 12 watts, she was able to talk to Siberia! Debee is into computer stuff, using a screen access

program. There have been dedicated talking computers since the 1980's but now she uses a Sony laptop with a screen-access program running on top of Windows. Debee uses her VX-1 with its programming software. Debee wrote the fourth screen reader for the IBM PC "Video Voice," in Turbo-Pascal. She wrote it for her own use because she needs a way to selectively read a part of the screen, or a pop-up. She then was talked into sharing the program, and sold it for \$100 cash, or \$500 if you wanted to use a P.O.

John then demonstrated the Braille Light. It uses flash cards. John programs repeaters with it. It includes a scientific calculator and a spell-checker, as you might expect.

Break: 20:21 - 20:35

During the break, John and Debee answered questions

- What books did Debee study for her test? ARRL books, recorded, HandiHams material and other radio material on cassette.
- How do you read a circuit diagram? The National Library Service puts many books onto tape. Each reader has their own way of describing circuit diagrams. It's easier at HandiHams because the person who teaches you has their own method of describing circuit diagrams, and the same person assists with the testing, so you're accustomed to his method of describing a diagram. A lot of VEs will just assemble a test with word questions substituted for questions with diagrams.
- How did you do on Field day? John missed Field Day, attending instead his 20th College Reunion. John usually gets 600-800 CW contacts on Field Day. Debee thinks that QRP Phone is fun for Field Day; you have to sneak in after and around the high-power guys. John has operated 27 of 31 Field Days since he got his license. Debee likes involving other camping skills on Field Day, such as making "Solar Chili."
- Barbara offered to teach Debee how to make CDF Chili; Debee offered to teach Barbara how to solar-ize it.

After the break, Barbara asked the new members from last week and from today to introduce themselves.

Barbara disclosed that she has as yet no speaker for August. Suggestions were out local ARRL Director, who is willing to speak to SCCARA but is not willing to offer it himself: we will need to invite him to speak. Another suggestion was Howard, the manager of Sunnyvale HRO.

The Annual Picnic will be September 25th in Mary Gomez park.

Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, BBS Chairman, warned that he might shut down the BBS's SendMail system to foil Spammers.

Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, reported that for the June Sunnyvale Electronics Flea market, we sold 350 hot dogs, 23 dozen doughnuts, 180 coffees, 396 sodas and 70 waters. The event had 173 2/3 vendors (as calculated by the \$2605 gate divided by \$15/vendor). Minus the \$1200 fee, we netted \$1405 on the gate, plus \$847.42 in food, for a total of \$2279.82 profit.

As New Business, Lou advised all that if they had lots of fun helping out at the Flea Market, they don't have to wait until July 2005 to get another chance to help. The SVECS is running the Flea Market on September 12th, and they will also need help. Lou passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help SVECS on 9/12.

Lou also announced that the next SVECS breakfast is 7/24, usual place and time. 09:00 for breakfast, 10:00 for the program, and 07:30 if you wish to help cook. Lou asked for an egg count

(somewhat like a head count), and received many responses.

In the absence of Clark Murphy, the Secretary moved that the meeting be closed, Wally Britten seconded, the President agreed, and meeting was adjourned at 21:07.

After the meeting, Michael Wright, K6MFW, shared a videotape that he recorded off the ATV BEN repeater output, including photos of SCCARA Filed day activities. If you wish to see the photos, he will post them for a while on his website. The website address is long, so he will post a link at K6MFW@QRZ.com.

During the meeting, Clarence Peter Garcia, KH6HMI, joined SCCARA and paid his dues for 2004. Clarence began the meeting as a visitor, but ended the meeting as a member, so is counted as a member in the attendance tally. Welcome, Clarence!

David Paul, AE6MV Secretary

Monthly Meeting, June 14, 2004, 19:30, Bldg K, Kaiser Santa Clara.

Attendance: 18, including 3 visitors who became members during the meeting, and our regular monthly visitor Scott Petersen KG6SPF.

Members present (in alphabetical order): Donald R Apte, KK6MX; Barbara Britten, KD6QEI; Wally Britten, KA6YMD; Lloyd Devaughns, KD6FJI; John Glass, NU6P; Del Harbold, KG6JPX; Joan Hastings, KB6LFZ; Mike Hastings, KB6LCJ; Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU; David Paul, AE6MV; Tom Root, KF6NEW; Tom Server, NT6S; Douglas Turner, KG6USU; James T Tyranski, KG6UDW; Ben Vickers, WB6FRM; Don Village, K6PBQ; James W Wissick, KG6MSO

President Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, opened the meeting at 19:37. Barbara welcomed everyone and introduced the speaker and Director in charge of Field Day for this year, Clark Murphy

Clark first mentioned that earlier this week, when he was testing his new Coleman Stove, his neighbor dropped by to razz him. After discussion of camp stoves, camping, Field Day and the club's tower trailer (which currently sits in Clark's front yard), the neighbor arranged for the club tower trailer to be stored in locked storage at Irwin Electric, across the street from Clark's house. (Our sincere thanks to Irwin Electric of Alviso.)

While SCCARA was founded in 1931, Field Day only began in 1933. Field Day is a day when everyone practices emergency transmissions. All transmissions must be made using battery or generator power - no PG&E allowed! Our club has a recent tradition of going down to Mount Madonna Park just west of Gilroy. The Club reserves the Group Campsite, so camping overnight is free for you for the weekend.

Setup for Field Day will begin Friday night. Be sure to bring both warm weather clothing and cold weather clothing. IT gets hot during the day, but if the fog comes in the nights we are there, it gets really cold & damp.

Mike Hastings, KB6LCJ, agreed to bring down the TS440, batteries (3), chargers (3), the illuminated SCCARA sign, tripods, extension cords and cables from the Storage. We will also need four laptops.

Lou & Clark agreed to get gas cans and get them filled up.

Gary Mitchell agreed to bring his long wire. Mike agreed to bring his tuner, which will tune 160M.

It was discussed that on previous Field Days we have operated on 10 and 20 meters, this year we will probably work mostly the lower frequency Ham bands - 40, 80 and 160M.

For modes, we will operate VHF/UHF FM, and CW on the HF bands. Some discussion suggested we might also use phone on the HF bands.

Break - 20:35-20:45

Old Business

- Don Village reported that the Sonoma club has objected to the coordination of W6UU on 146.985/146.385 MHz. This seems strange, since we just inverted the repeater to prevent interference between our repeater and theirs. (History - our repeater, while it has been in use for many years, required re-coordination when we moved it from Kaiser Santa Teresa to Alum Rock. In line with that, and to prevent interference between our repeater and that of the Sonoma Club which was on the inverted split of ours, we bought the extra Xtals needed, and inverted ours to prevent interference).

- Repeater codes were discussed.

New Business

- The speaker for next month will be (new member) John Glass, NU6P along with Debbie Norling, KF6BKR, speaking on Amateur Radio for the visually challenged.

- By the way, the details aren't available yet, but at the recent Flea Market hosted by SCCARA, all 180 stalls were filled, so the Club should come out well ahead.

- Del Harbold, KG6JPX, asked for anyone's opinions on the ICOM 703 QRP rig. The only responder suggested the he spend the extra few dollars and get a 706 instead. Then he can run QRP when desired, but also has more power when needed.

- Clark Murphy moved that the meeting be closed, the motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 21:06.

David Paul, AE6MV Secretary

Board Meeting, July 19, 2004



The meeting was called to order at 19:45 by the President, Barbara Britten, KD6QEI. A quorum was present.

Attendees: Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, President, Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI, Treasurer, Clark Murphy, KE6KXO, Director, Wally Britten, KA6YMD, Director, Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, Director, Don Village, K6PBQ Director, Don Apte, KK6MX, Director and Gwen Steirer, KF60TD, XYL.

President Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, spoke of Field Day û she had plenty of help with the food, and many more visitors than in recent years. The Annual Picnic will be held Saturday September 25 at Mary Gomez Park. It will be a Pot Luck. We expect to have a portable rig set up there too.

The speaker for August is still not firm. Possible speakers are Dan

Smith, K6PRK, speaking on Crystal Radios, or Howard Califf, KE6PWH, from HRO, speaking on Emergency Communications in Santa Clara, or Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, with a Show-And-Tell or Hands-On-Night.

The October meeting (October 11) will be a Pizza Night, at Everest Pizza, 301 E. Hamilton Avenue (between 17 and Winchester).

It's also time to start thinking about Officers for next year. The Treasurer and Directors Britten, Steirer, Village, Murphy and Apte are willing to run again.

- Treasurer Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI, reported the Checking balance to be \$ 3173.49 and the Savings Balance to be \$ 1932.57, total \$ 5106.06

- The Secretary was absent. In his absence, Don Village presented the minutes of last week's General meeting, which were accepted as read.

- Wally Britten, KA6YMD, reported nothing new regarding the repeaters.

- BBS Committee Chair and Newsletter Editor, Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU was absent.

Old Business

Don Apte is working on trying to get Echo Link working on the W6UU 70cm Repeater. Lou Steirer moved that we purchase a Rig Blaster board, about \$150, for Echo link, but withdrew the motion until we can contact Gary Mitchell about it.

It was discussed that we try another contest for the Club Station, maybe CA QSO or Sweepstakes.

The President, Barbara Britten, KD6QEI asked for any other items of business, new or old.

Clark Murphy moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Barbara agreed. The meeting was adjourned at 21:00.

Upcoming Meetings:

- The August General Meeting, will be held Monday August 9 at 19:30, in Bldg K, Kaiser Santa Clara.

- The next Board Meeting will be August 16 at 19:30 at the San Jose Red Cross HQ.

- The annual Picnic will be held Saturday September 25 at Mary Gomez Park.

Don Village, K6PBQ Director, for David Paul, AE6MV, Secretary

DV/dp

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association
Board Meeting Monday, June 21, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 19:37 by the President, Barbara Britten, KD6QEI. A quorum was present.

Attendees: Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, President, Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI, Treasurer, Clark Murphy, KE6KXO, Director, Wally Britten, KA6YMD, Director, Lou Steirer,

WA6QYS, Director, Don Village, K6PBQ Director, Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, Editor, Gwen Steirer, KF60TD, XYL and David Paul, AE6MV, Secretary.

President Barbara Britten, KD6QEI, spoke of the club's July General Meeting. New member John Glass, NU6P, along with Debbie Norling, KF6BKR, will speak on Amateur Radio for the visually challenged.

We have purchased a Yaesu FT-847, for \$899, to allow us to use all-modes. We need to test it thoroughly at Field Day as it has a limited Warranty.

Wally Britten, KA6YMD, reported nothing new regarding the repeaters.

The Secretary reported on four items:

Roster - handed out copies; need to add a list sorted by suffix. Need to change Eric Ankney's License Class (done).

Manteca - the club's newsletter was returned by the post office. Attempts to contact the club have gone unanswered or 404'd. The secretary will now try to phone the person ARRL lists as the contact person.

Minutes - no changes.

QSL cards - discussion concluded that this should be tabled for the next meeting.

BBS Committee Chair Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, reported no change with the BBS. It continues to be attacked by spam. Gary will try to build a remote switch to allow him to reboot the email system remotely.

Newsletter Editor (also Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU), informed us that he had priced new Business Cards for the Club. At the Copy center, they would cost \$ 0.0085 per card, but would cost only 0.0079 per card to copy from a good quality color original. Discussion ensued, with the agreement that Gary will make another hundred cards by the less-expensive method.

Gary also reported that he found old patches and pins in the locker; it was agreed that he will give them away at upcoming meetings.

Gary also showed his draft of a letter for new Hams; Clark suggested that he send some out as-is as a "Demonstration of Concept." Clark will get a list of new Hams for Gary.

Director Clark Murphy, KE6KXO spoke of the radios in the locker. He suggested that Tom Server has retail experience plus the ability to check out the radios at home.

Director Clark Murphy also spoke of Field Day:

The stove cost \$59.49. The generator is at Clark's house - it runs. The trailer's tires are low. We should get the trailer weighed. It should be the tongue weight. Lloyd suggested that we could weigh it M-F 8-5 at 1552 Berger Drive, but we would have to hurry, as he is about to retire (in two weeks).

Gwen stressed the need for mosquito spray for Field Day.

Tables for Field Day were discussed in detail.

We will meet at Carl's Jr. at 13:00 at Almaden & Branham, then drive from there together to the park. Clark will get gas then arrive at about 3:30 with the trailer tow-vehicle. Until he arrives, it was

mentioned that all others will "lollygag around".

A letter needs to be sent to Irwin Electric in Alviso, thanking them for their offer to store the club trailer for us.

The trailer needs paint, but that can be done after Field Day. He is working on the U-bolts.

Clark and Lou went shopping for Field day, and spent a total of \$ 89.26 for a DVM, screwdriver, tie-downs, pliers, a socket set, a tarp and 2 ea 5-gallon gas cans. They shopped at Wal-Mart and Harbor Freight (previously approved for a max of \$ 100). [Harbor Freight, Fremont, 510-793-5425].

- Lou Steirer, WA6QYS spoke of the Sunnyvale Electronic Flea Market we ran on June 12. We sold 350 hot dogs, 23 dozen doughnuts, 180 cups of coffee, 396 sodas and 70 waters. We made a profit of \$ 874.82 on food, and \$ 1405 on the gate (\$2605 gross gate minus the \$1200 it costs to hold the event). Gwen asked how much was in the treasury before the deposit for the flea market; Treasurer Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI, reported that before the deposit, we had \$ 447.07 in Checking and \$ 1932.57 in Savings.

The President, Barbara Britten, KD6QEI asked for any other items of business, new or old.

Clark Murphy moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Barbara agreed. The meeting was adjourned at 21:29.

Upcoming Meetings:

- The July General Meeting, will be held Monday July 12 at 19:30, in Bldg K, Kaiser Santa Clara.

- The next Board Meeting will be July 19 at 19:30 at the San Jose Red Cross HQ.

- The annual Picnic will be held Saturday September 25 at Mary Gomez Park.

David Paul, AE6MV, Secretary

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the packet network:

=====
Date: 22 Jul 2004 07:21
From: ZS6FB@ZS6FB
To: HUMOR@WW
Subject: Actual headlines
=====

With thanks to Yvonne for making my day.

Subject: Actual Headlines
From: "sg25" <sg25@mweb.co.za>
Date: Mon, 12 Jul 2004 20:20:19 +0200
To: "Yvonne van Dijk" <yvonne@silverwolfrepro.com>

Crack Found on governor's Daughter
(imagine that!)

Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert

Says
(no, really?)

Police Begin Campaign to Run down Jaywalkers
(now that's taking things a bit too far!)

Is There a Ring of Debris Around Uranus?
(Not if I wipe thoroughly!)

Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over
(What a guy!)

Miners Refuse to Work After Death
(those good-for-nuthin' lazy so-and so's!)

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant
(see if that works better than a fair trial)

War Dims Hope for Peace
(I can see where it might have that effect!)

If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last
A while
(you think?!)

Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures
(who would have thought!)

Enfield (London) Couple Slain; Police
Suspect Homicide
(They may be on to something!)

Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges
(You mean there is something stronger than
duct tape?)

Man Struck by Lightning Faces Battery charge
(He probably IS the battery charge!)

New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test
Group
(Weren't they fat enough?)

Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas In Spacecraft
(The bean and cheese Burrito for lunch I
guess)

Kids Make Nutritious Snacks
(I wonder if they taste like chicken?)

Chef Throws His Heart into Helping Feed
Needy
(That was really giving of himself!)

Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half
(Stay in school kids!)

Hospitals are Sued by 7 Foot Doctors
(Boy, are they tall!)

And the winner is.....

Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead
(I certainly hope so!)

=====
Date: 23 Jul 2004 05:51
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA

Today's Joke

When Ron went to Lynn's house for the first time she took him into the living room. Excusing herself, she went to the kitchen to make them a few drinks.

As he was standing there alone, Ron noticed a cute little vase on the mantel.

He picked it up, and as he was looking at it, Lynn walked back in.

"What's this?" Ron asked.

She replied, "Oh, my father's ashes are in there."

He put the vase back up, "Geez... ooh.... I..."

"Yeah, he's too lazy to go to the kitchen to get an ashtray when he visits."

Daily Thoughts

Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines

"Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy." Charlie McCarthy

i'M NEW TO THIS. WHAT IS THIS "cAPS LOCK" BUTTON FOR?

Last Laugh

During a friendly argument, Jill's husband asked her why she married him in the first place. "I was just stupid," she teased.

When he replied that he was happy to hear that, she requested an explanation.

"People get divorced all the time because they fall out of love," he said. "But I've never heard of anybody falling out of stupid."

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 fill out an Elmer form from the club secretary.

Antennas, feed-lines, tuners: WB6EMR, K6PBQ, WB6YRU
Lightning protection, grounding: WB6YRU
Station set-up, equipment: K6PBQ
TVI/RFI: WB6YRU

Homebrew projects, construction: KD6FJI, WB6YRU
Computers: KB6NP; IBM PC: WB6YRU
Packet Network (BBS, forwarding): WB6YRU
Code operating and installations: WB6EMR, K6PBQ
DX (long distance/propagation): WB6EMR
Emergency operating/preparedness: WA6QYS
FM (VHF/UHF, repeaters): WA6VJY
HF operating techniques (SSB, CW): WB6EMR, K6PBQ
Classes/license upgrading: W6ACW
Legal/FCC rules: WB6YRU
SCCARA (club inner workings):
K6PBQ, WA6VJY, WB6YRU, WA6QYS
Children's Discovery Museum, volunteer operator:
K6PBQ
EchoLink: KK6MX

W6ACW, Ed Hajny, (408) 739-6105

WB6EMR, James D. Armstrong, Jr.,
evening & msg: (408) 945-1202

KD6FJI, Lloyd DeVaughns,
day: (408) 918-4635, evening: (408) 225-6769
e-mail: lloyddevaughns@sbcglobal.net

KK6MX, Don Apte, (408) 629-0725
e-mail: kk6mx@aol.com

KB6NP, Jon Dutra, day & msg (408) 428-2058
evening (408) 867-8654
packet: home BBS NOARY
e-mail: jad@aol.com

K6PBQ, Don Village, (408) 263-2789

WA6QYS, Lou Steirer, (408) 241-7999
packet: home BBS NOARY

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
e-mail: wb6yru@aenet.net

Newsletter Notes

What would you say to a little color?

There is a color copier where we get the newsletter printed. At least the front page of the *SCCARA-GRAM* could be in color, (specifically the logos, perhaps other things too).

Of course this would add cost to the newsletter, and possibly a little extra work. However, it would make the newsletter visually more striking. The cost for a color copy has come down significantly from just a few years ago. Still, the cost of a color page would be comparable to the rest of the newsletter in regular B&W.

So, I'm not urging the club to do this, just letting everyone know that this option is available for the club to consider.

Another option is colored paper. We could have a different color each month, perhaps to go along with the seasons.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

SCCARA Membership Form for 2004

(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: _____ - _____ Licence Expiration
Date (mo/yr): _____

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

E-mail: _____ Packet: _____

For family memberships (at the same address), please fill out a separate form for each. Indicate the "primary member" for mailing purposes: _____

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: \$15 Individual \$20 Family \$5 Student (under 18)

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

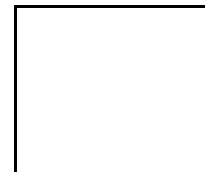
Give this completed form (or copy) with payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or mail to the return address below.

====> PLEASE DO NOT TEAR OR CUT FORM <====

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY
AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**

PO BOX 6
San Jose CA 95103-0006

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League



**FIRST CLASS
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**