SCCARA-GRAM

Santa Clara County
Amateur Radio Association

Volume 29, Number 4 April 2013

Prez Sez

I hope everyone enjoyed RadioFest 2013. It's small but I think a good place to congregate or upgrade your license or just find some antique toys.

Speaking of which do you remember your first rig? It's likely you had some help in the selection of that rig by a friend or Elmer. How else are you going to learn? You can read all about the rigs in the catalog but until you use one how are you going to know what a noise blanker does? When you progressed beyond that first rig it's also likely you relied upon a friend or a review to tell you all about your next rig as well. The ads in CQ and QST help but they certainly don't tell you the whole story.

My first rig was a military BC348 receiver with a Heath DX40 transmitter, both with tubes of course. The whole novice band was two eyelashes wide on that general coverage receiver and it seemed like I could always hear at least four stations at the same time. With my birthday money I upgraded to a National NC300 receiver. It drifted a bit and it took a while to learn not to turn it off when not in use but the novice band was several inches long and I could sometimes notch out the adjacent station I didn't want to hear.

The DX40 did not belong to me. It belonged to our high school club. It was OK on CW but never got very good audio reports on phone (AM). By the next year I had a job and I didn't have to depend on birthday money. I upgraded to a Johnson Ranger which was a superb transmitter. With plate modulation and built-in VFO it was always on frequency and got good reports. I worked my first DX station HA4W with the Ranger running 60 watts. I didn't have the slightest idea where that DX was located and it was long before the Internet so I couldn't look it up there. There was the Callbook Magazine and with two versions, domestic and international. I could only afford the domestic. Sometime later I did find a library with the International Callbook and looked it up but I didn't know how to do an international QSL; Something about special stamps that were needed.

I asked myself if I were a young ham today how would things be different? First I would be learning to tune a sideband signal instead of zero beating an AM carrier and I wouldn't know how to plug-in a transmitter crystal. Second, I would be operating a transceiver and I wouldn't know what a T/R relay was or how to hook it up. Third I would have a digital read-out and I wouldn't know how to read a vernier dial or interpolate down to Kilohertz or Hertz.

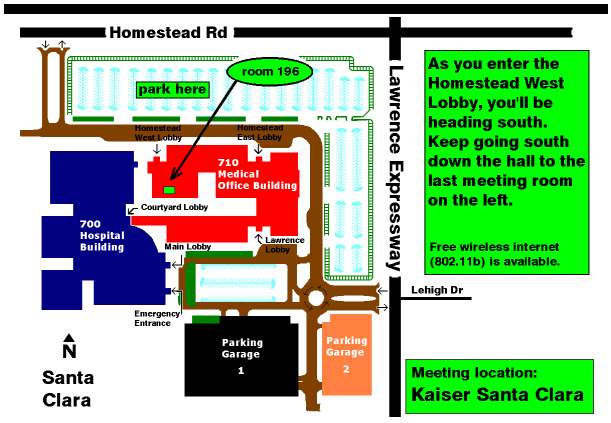
The learning curve would be almost identical. I would still need

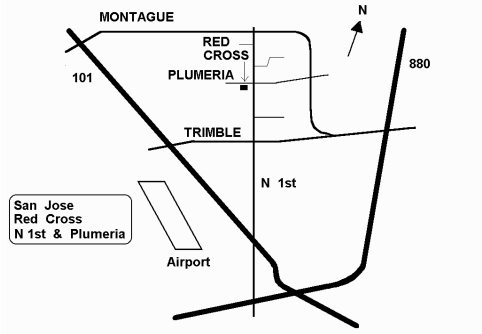
Calendar

4/13 **DeAnza electronic flea market**
4/8 **SCCARA General Meeting**
4/15 **SCCARA Board Meeting**--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting

Day: Monday, April 8, 2013
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Rm 196
Featuring: Tom Schiller N6BT, on his new book "Ray of Light"





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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.

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SCCARA REPEATERS

SCCARA owns and operates two repeaters under the call W6UU:
2 meter: 146.985 - PL 114.8
70 cm: 442.425 + PL 107.2
Phone auto-dial and auto-patch is available. The two meter repeater is located at Eagle Rock near Alum Rock Park in the foothills of east San Jose. The 70 cm repeater is located at the Regional Medical Center (formerly Alexian), east of downtown San Jose, north of 280 and 101.

SCCARA NETS

On our two meter repeater: Mondays at 7:30 PM, (not the second Monday--our meeting night). Coordinator: Don Village, K6PBQ. On ten meters, 28.385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00 PM. Net control: Wally Britten, KA6YMD. Visitors welcome.

N0ARY PACKET BBS

SCCARA hosts the packet BBS N0ARY (Mt Umunhum). User ports: 144.93 (1200 baud), 433.37 (9600 baud), telnet sun.n0ary.org (login "bbs"). Sysop: Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU (packet info: ncpa.n0ary.org)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

to look at or better yet, operate someone else's rig. It's almost impossible to get by hands-on training which mentoring clubs like ours do so well. Also being a student in school would probably mean my funds would be severely limited.

Fast forward a bit... From time to time equipment is donated to SCCARA, usually from estates. I think it is a very nice thing to do if your family members do not want the equipment. Many times, like the donating member, the equipment is very old. If the equipment is better than our current equipment we usually swap it out. If it is lessor we usually sell it off at the flea market and because the equipment is old and unknown (to the younger generation) we get a pittance for our troubles. I think it safe to say the equipment meant more to the previous owner, who perhaps purchased it new and cared for it during their lifetime, than the new owner who pays a pittance for all those stored memories.

At our last BOD meeting I proposed that instead of selling off any more equipment that we instead retain the equipment and use it to stock a lending library or rental service of equipment to members. The idea is after you get your new ticket a member can check out a rig and use it to get on the air immediately. There is presently a VHF HT, VHF mobile, and several HF transceivers available now. Perhaps we can get some antennas for lending as well.

I'd like to hear from the membership. Should we rent out or lend out this equipment? How long a period? In general I'd like to hear your views on any topic.

73, Fred, AE6QL, ae6ql@arrl.net

NVIS

I went down to Long Beach California to get some work done on my boat. This provided me with the challenge of joining the Rhubarb Net from my Camry at a distance of 400 miles. The ICOM 706 was readable, but when I added my NVIS antenna to the whip on the car, Joe (W6SNV) reported two extra "Dog Biscuits" on his S-Meter. I used this arrangement for several weeks while I waited for my "MAÑANA BOAT YARD" to complete the work.

Goetz K. Brandt, K6GKB

PL-259 attachment

I'm hoping that I am not the only one that has not heard of this simple method for attaching PL-259 connectors to coax cable. This was passed along to me by Fred (VE3FG) in Saskatoon

Canada who learned it from an old German Ham. It involves removing the outer insulation and then tinning the copper braid in place on the inner insulation. Then using a mini pipe cutter to remove the excess outer shield. After sizing the remaining protrusion, slip your work into the PL-259 connector and what appears through the soldering holes is the pre-tinned shield. Soldering through these holes is very simple, soldering the tip and removing the excess is all that remains. Screw on the outer cover and you are done. What blew me away was that this is all well described on the internet at: www.hcarc.us/articles/soldering%20PL-259%20connectors.htm. I may be the only one who hasn't been doing it this way.

Goetz K. Brandt, K6GKB

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, February 28, 2013

FCC PROPOSES MORE SPECTRUM AT 5 GHZ FOR UNLICENSED BROADBAND

On February 20, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in ET Docket No. 13-49, seeking to revise the Part 15 rules governing unlicensed national information infrastructure (U-NII) devices in the 5 GHz band. These devices presently operate in the frequency bands 5.15- 5.35 GHz and 5.47-5.825 GHz. They use wideband digital modulation techniques to provide a wide array of high data rate mobile and fixed communications for individuals, businesses and institutions. Slightly different rules apply to 5.825-5.85 GHz. Among the changes being proposed are two additional bands totaling 195 MHz for unlicensed operation: 5.35-5.47 GHz and 5.85-5.925 GHz. The Amateur Radio Service has a secondary allocation at 5.65-5.925 GHz, including an Amateur Satellite Service uplink allocation of 5.65-5.67 GHz and a downlink allocation of 5.83-5.85 GHz. Read more at www.arrl.org/news/fcc-proposes-more-spectrum-at-5-ghz-for-unlicensed-broadband.

From *The ARRL Letter*, March 14, 2013

BOB BRUNINGA, WB4APR, TAKES APRS UNDERGROUND

Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, led a group of radio amateurs earlier this month to Mammoth Cave -- the world's longest known cave system -- at Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky to test how the Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) can be used as a means to extend radio communications underground. "When used underground, VHF and UHF radios can only work within a few hundred feet of each other and only when in the line of sight of another radio," Bruninga explained. "This makes routine use of these radios of little value when underground; however, when APRS radios act as packet digipeaters, these few hundreds of feet can be extended by an order of magnitude." Bruninga, a senior research engineer at the US Naval Academy, developed APRS as a global, on-air protocol for supporting handheld position reporting and text messaging via VHF radio. Read more at www.arrl.org/news/bob-bruninga-wb4apr-takes-aprs-underground.

US POSTAL SERVICE INTRODUCES GLOBAL FOREVER STAMP

{This is for those who send QSL cards internationally. –Editor}

In addition to an increase in postal rates in January 2013, the US Postal Service introduced a new Global Forever First-Class Mail International stamp. Priced at $1.10 each and offered in a pane of 20, the new stamp offers a single price for any First-Class Mail International 1-ounce letter to any country in the world, as well as 2-ounce letters to Canada. The stamp is available online (www.usps.com/stamps), at post offices in the US or by calling 1-800-782-6724. -- Thanks to ARRL Oklahoma Section Manager Kevin O'Dell, N0IRW, for the information.

Alpha-Delta Antenna Review and Assorted Adventures

This is the saga (in Four Acts, so far) of an Alpha Delta DX-EE antenna. Briefly this is a 4 band fan dipole with loading coils on 40 M to shorten the overall length to about 40 feet (with a corresponding reduction of bandwidth on 40 M). You may recall the article in the January 2013 issue of QST (especially note the wrinkliness of the wires in their photo of the center section, which makes me feel better).

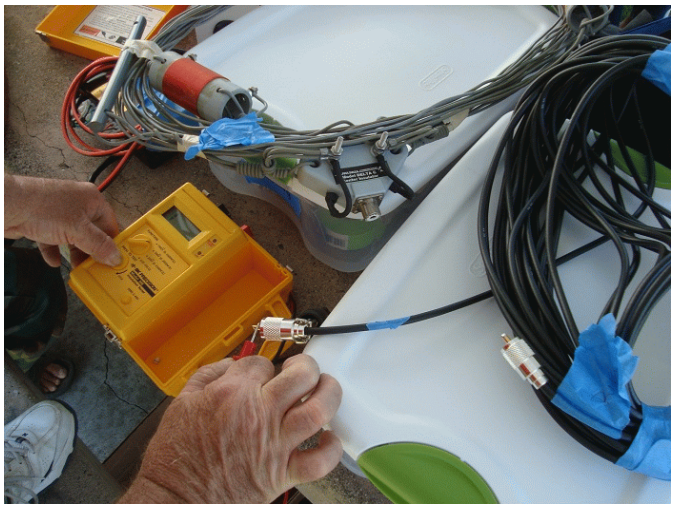
Act 1

This particular antenna surfaced last summer when Gregg (KF6FNA) spotted it for sale at the electronic flea market and helped the vendor talk me into buying it. The user manual description of "built for extreme environmental conditions" sounded like it would be a good fit for the eventual location up in the mountains of the Pacific Northwest which gets snowfall and ice loads, and has lots of tall trees to hang it from. I revealed my complete lack of haggling skills and paid the asking price, but the vendor was the flea market sponsor, so it was for a good cause. (I would blame the donuts for a sugar overload, but I had ridden my bike to the flea market, so I can also blame oxygen deprivation. On the way home, the antenna gave a hint of its future degree of cooperation when the bungee cord holding it to the bike rack got caught in the rear cog and wedged itself around the axle).

Being an absolute novice at the launching of antennas into trees, and actually antennas in general other than the simple random wire+tuner, and the "kit" form of the Bravo 5 antenna, I talked a few club members into a test flight at Henry Schmidt park in July 2012. Lou (WA6QYS), Gwen (KF6OTD) and Gregg brought canopies and chairs, Gregg brought test equipment and the generator, John (W6JPP), Clark (KE6KXO) and Goetz (K6GKB) (with two young visitors) came to help out, and Fred (AE6QL) stopped by with his antenna analyzer.

The first task was to check out the length of coax that had been out in the elements in my backyard, attached to the Bravo 5. Gregg brought his meg-ohm meter to confirm continuity, and checked the resistance between the center conductor and the outside shell to ensure insulation integrity. The coax was fine.

Gregg coordinated raising a military fiberglass sectional mast, with help from pretty much everyone. This starts with anchoring the base of a metal fence post to a stake with a hose clamp. Clamped to the fencepost is a length of 2 1/8" I.D. (inside diameter) white PVC water pipe (more hose clamps), which is placed just above the height of one of the mast sections. The first mast section is slid up through the tube, a new section is placed beneath it, and the upper section is slid down to settle onto the lower section. The tube guides the mast sections as the stack is assembled from the bottom. Three levels of guy lines were used:



Gregg using 1KV Meg-ohm meter to measure antenna between center conductor and outside shell. Note the orange and gray coil traps on the gray antenna wire, which allows the 40m band to use a short 40-ft conductor

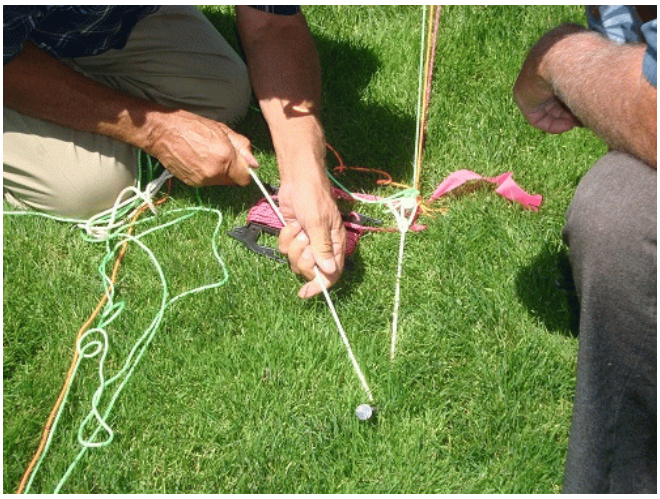
The secret to pushing up 4-ft x 2-in sections of fiberglass mast. The bottom of the 2 1/8" I.D. white PVC water pipe that John is looking at is held 4-ft 6-in above the ground by the fencepost. Lou stakes a guy line center left.

one attached to the first (topmost) section (along with a pulley and rope to the ground: don't forget to attach this before putting up the mast!), one at an intermediate point a couple of sections down, and the third just above the fencepost, attached to the top of the guide tube. Different colors of guy ropes were used for each level, which greatly simplified the communications between the 3 people controlling the guy lines during the raising, and the pair at the fencepost lifting the stack and sliding the new sections in underneath. Having extra people standing back a ways to report which way the stack is leaning as it goes up is also very helpful. There were some exciting moments as the individually substantial fiberglass mast sections took on a new flexibility and downright noodliness as the stack grew past twenty feet or so. Passers-by and the group gradually assembling across the sidewalk from us for a children's birthday party were entertained by all the hollering and the entire process, but once the staking was complete the mast was amazingly stable.

Lou (right) lifts the stack while Gregg (red shirt) slides the next 4-ft section under the PVC water pipe which stabilizes the stack.

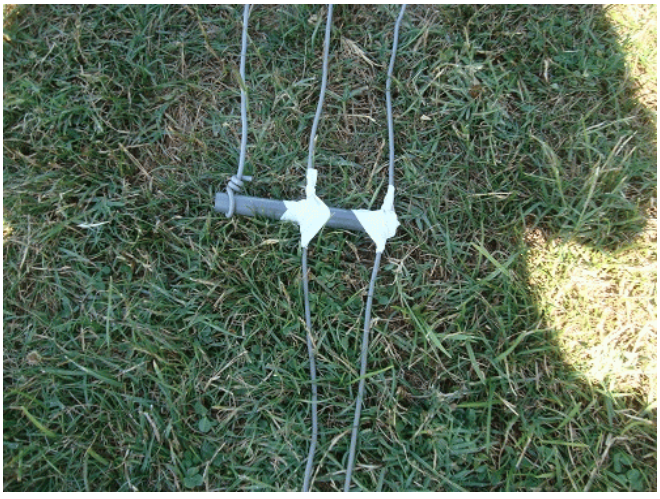
Stake and radiator clamp anchoring the fencepost.

Goetz masterminded the staking, using a double-staking technique. One stake for the guy lines is driven into the ground, ideally perpendicular to the takeoff angle of the guy line, which tries to pull the stake back to vertical (and out of the ground). So a second stake is driven in further out from the first stake, and the top of the first stake is tied down to the second stake (see pictures). This (as well as other parts of this whole process) involved lots of seamanship-like knots on Goetz' part. I am especially weak on knots, so I hope you will join me in encouraging Goetz to give a presentation on Knots for Amateur Radio Applications sometime, complete with practice session.



Goetz and Lou double-stake the guy wires: the stake in the bottom of the picture keeps the top of the upper stake from being pulled toward the mast by the guy line.

Goetz doing nautical knot-wizardry at the stakes.



Anchoring the spacers along the conductors with white tape.

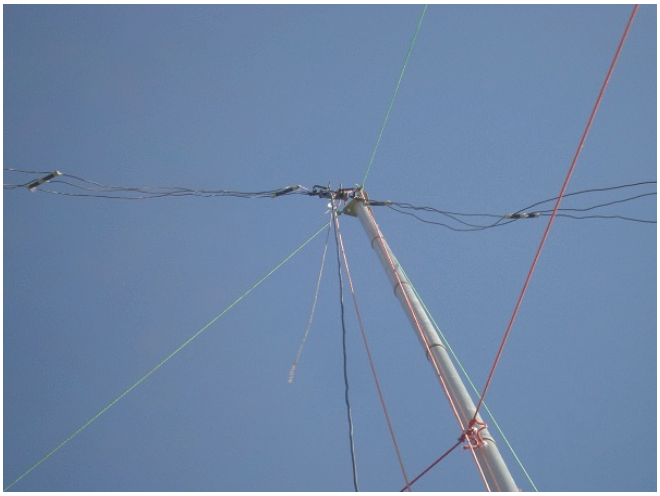
Attempting to straighten the antenna wires with a tent stake.

Closeups of spacers between band conductors.

After getting the mast up and staked, we tied flagging tape on the lower guy lines to prevent people from walking into them, and started working on the antenna. We stretched the thing out onto the grass, or tried to. The references in the QST article to the stiffness of the wires involved are a complete understatement. Working with this antenna is like wrestling with a nearly frozen octopus, but not as cold. Gregg demonstrated how to use a screwdriver (or in our case, a handy tent stake) to smooth out the wires, but these 12-ga conductors had other ideas. One modification noted for later was making additional spacers to try to enforce parallel even spacing between the fan components, but for this day we anchored the spacers it came with so they wouldn't shift, and hoped for the best.

We attached the coax to the center point, and the center point to the rope attached to the pulley, and with the coax and both fan ends dangling from the center point, ran it up the flagpole as it were.

We then walked the fan ends out to the side, and attached them to nearby trees in an inverted-V configuration. Even under tension, the wires looked like we hadn't tried very hard at all to straighten them. But at least the antenna was way up there (we estimated 36 ft 8 inches), and we could try doing something with the coax end on the ground.



The antenna at max elevation: note even under tension, the refusal of the fan conductors to assume a nice parallel alignment.

Gregg braces the base of the mast at max height of around 36.5 feet, while Goetz and Lou stake.

First we took measurements. Fred had brought his antenna analyzer (a RigExpert AA230 Pro), and he measured the SWR across the bands and confirmed it was usable across all bands.

band	SWR	freq (MHz)	notes
10 M	1.4-1.6	28.500	
15 M	1.1	21.076	very sharp
20 M	1.3-1.4	14.250	
40 M	minimum	6.994	

We then hooked it up to the Yaesu FT-857 which I had brought from home. As I had also brought the Bravo 5, we could run A/B comparison tests on signals we heard. There was noticeably less static on the fan dipole than the Bravo 5, but both seemed able to pull in signals comparably. Lou had quite a conversation with a ham in southwestern Manitoba.

Portable station: Yaesu FT-857D

By this time people were feeling weak from hunger and Goetz' young buddies were getting restless. We ordered up pizzas and got ice cream sandwiches from a passing ice cream cart, in order to get enough energy to take everything down again, well before dark and satisfied with a day of antenna adventures.

Lou, Anthony, Gwen, John (W6JPP), Cooper around the station enjoying the "other" main club function - eating: pizza and ice cream sandwiches.

Gregg, Goetz, Anthony, Gwen, Viki, Lou, Clark.

Act 2

Before heading to the mountains, there was just time for a short test of the antenna on a chimney mount here in Sunnyvale. I was trying to get a comparison with the known "performance" of a random wire antenna and the Bravo 5 in the backyard. There are power lines running through my back yard, so these antennas perform much better almost anywhere else (Clark's house, parks, Field Day) than at home.

Chimney mount

The chimney mount consists of two straps that encircle the chimney at the side of the house, and clamp a metal pole vertically to the chimney. A PVC pole is dropped over the metal pole, the flange neatly serving to overlap the metal pole, to separate the antenna from the metal pole. A pulley is attached to the top of the PVC pole. With the usual rope to the ground, an antenna center point can then be raised to the top of the PVC pole. (This same PVC pole also supports a rope attached to the end of the random wire antenna which runs from the back of the house up and across the roof, towards the street). The fan dipole would be oriented perpendicular to the street in a corridor about 6 feet wide between the house and the fence. It would be perpendicular to the power lines in the back yard, and more or less parallel to the random wire antenna on the roof. The Bravo 5 lives in the back yard, sadly close to the power lines, but presumably not interacting with the fan dipole.

Note to self: The next time I get the urge to put up THIS fan dipole, solo, in 105 degree heat, go indoors and lie down with a wet washcloth over my face until it passes. Between the inconveniently placed yucca plant whose spiky "leaves" occupied the area through which the street-side guy lines had to go, and the inherently poor plan of needing to simultaneously control 2 lines 40 some feet apart as well as the center pulley rope in order to raise the center point, and the final straw of realizing that the center pulley rope had twists in, AFTER I had gotten the center point raised (necessitating untwisting the entire non-docile mass of the antenna around the point on the ground under the pulley), there was admittedly, as Gregg would say, some non-ham vocabulary used. However, eventually it was hoisted aloft and I went into the cool to see how it sounded. My log comments report that "on 20 M, Bravo 5 and random wire and fan dipole receive similarly", but later "weak signals picked up on the Bravo 5, nothing on the fan dipole, but random wire did pick up."

After this rather confusing result, I took the antenna down in preparation for a trip up north to the mountains, where I would try hanging it from trees.

Act 3

The first attempt to test the Alpha Delta DX-EE antenna up in the mountains also took place in summer. I had a standard slingshot from Big-5, some 1-oz fishing weights, some 8-lb monofilament fishing line, and verbal instructions on how to use them. (I had missed actually watching JPP, Gregg and Lou putting up antennas with slingshots at the Powwow, and had not used a slingshot before).

I first set up the trusty Bravo 5 to make sure the transplanted station was assembled correctly (it was: I heard the Sovereign Order of Malta special event station, but they didn't reply to me). Then I went out to look at the trees. The house has a metal roof aligned along an east-west axis, so I planned on using trees along the front to hold up the center and end points along the same line, letting the roof reflect to the south, roughly where California is.

The trees along the front of the house proved to be inadequate for the task. I got the lead weight over a branch, but the leaves deflected the fishing line, and I couldn't get the line against the trunk, it ended up way out on a flexy limb, with the pulley stuck several feet below the branch. I managed to get a light-weight home built single-band dipole antenna up, but when I tried to raise the center of the DX-EE fan dipole (including the coax), the weight lowered the tree branch faster than the pulley was raising the antenna, and the center point dropped. Worse yet, I realized the pulley rope was again twisted, leading to a mad maypole dance with my Dad and sister and I revolving around under the pulley to untangle the stiff fan wires. All this was in the 105 degree heat wave that coincided with my visit.

Poor pulley placement, and poor choice of super flexy tree

Anyway, I finally got it as high as it was going, collected all my bits of fishing line and went indoors into the cool. I called up Clark and tried scheduling contacts with Lou and Gregg, but while I could hear Lou very faintly, no one could hear my voice, although Lou could hear a change in the background noise when I was transmitting (see, I should have learned CW!). I did later hear bits of the Rhubarb net, and heard JPP and Joe Castellano who were running 600 W amps. I returned home concluding that I needed to try a better antenna installation, and then possibly more power.

Act 4

The second attempt to try the antenna in the mountains was this February, when Gregg came along to help drive, scope out the tree problems, and spend the couple days of advertised fine weather fishing on the nearby river. After two days of snow and rain and no shopping for fishing gear, we gave up waiting and went out to look at the antenna possibilities. Gregg spotted a site at one end of the house, where the metal roof would be off the end of the fan dipole for minimal interference. There was a small mostly flat spot before the ground dropped off behind the house into a ravine, and in front of the house down hill to the pasture. His plan was to string up a cord between two trees holding a pulley out in the open away from the trees, which would be the center point. The actual antenna endpoints could then flat-topped (tied up level with the center point) aligned roughly east-west so its broadside is facing California, or they could be dropped in an inverted-V for more omnidirectional coverage. Gregg had 3/32" UV-resistant antenna rope, and I had lots of brightly colored guy-rope material for pulley ropes and end-point tethering.

Gregg aiming at the left fork with the broken branch on the deciduous tree on the right: he nailed it perfectly.

The tennis ball launching procedure

With the suspended center point approach in mind, we set out for the flattish clearing, which was now much more three-dimensional and slippery from the snow. Gregg found a couple trees in appropriate places that had survived the ice storm a few weeks previously and still had enough high branches left to hold up antenna cords. Most important of all, he had a “Hyperdog” tennis ball launcher (for dog owners with very fit large dogs who must need to chase tennis balls a very long way); this was a couple times larger than the Big-5 slingshot I'd used the previous summer. We

modified a few tennis balls by cutting 1/2 inch slits in them with a knife, and then running paracord through the slits to make a loop. Fishing monofilament is then tied to the loop, and it is ready to go airborne. After some humorous determination of how not to do this, we settled on having the slingshot person, aiming the tennis ball in the sling, while the second person holds the spool of fishing line carefully angled to minimize drag as it unwinds (this is where a fishing reel might have come in handy).

Capture recovered line in a bucket, and it won't tangle when fed out again.

It took a few shots to zero in the launching system. The first one went wide, the second one bounced off one limb of the tree crotch we were aiming for, about 40 feet up. The third one went perfectly between the forks, but turned out to have separated from the fishing line upon launch, and bounced out of sight down into the ravine. (Did I mention that by this time, it was snowing again? We decided to look for it later). However, the next shot went right where Gregg wanted, and we tied the antenna cord onto the fishing line and held our breaths while pulling the antenna cord up into the tree and down the other side. Gregg tied it off onto the base of the tree, and we moved over to the second tree. This tree

Gregg and Viki attaching the center point to the pulley rope.

unfortunately was related to the flexy trees I'd used the summer before along the front of the house, albeit without leaves now. But with the added power of the Hyperdog launcher, Gregg got a line through the branches at the top, about 60 feet up. After attaching a pulley to the antenna line at roughly the midpoint, the free end of the antenna line was tied to the fishing line in the second tree, and the antenna cord pulled through and tied off at the base.

One handy trick Gregg taught me: when deploying and recovering large amounts of antenna cord, let it fall into a bucket as you reel it in, and then when you have to feed it back out again, it won't be all tangled with snow, sticks, and deer pooh mixed in.

The winter version of the maypole dance: Viki, Blain (KD7UMH) and Gregg

The Alpha Delta, still lumpy at 55 feet.

Now the pulley and its rope was suspended in the middle of the clearing. We attached the center point of the fan dipole (remember the fan dipole? It didn't get any more flexible in the 33 degree weather than it was at 105 degrees) to the pulley rope, and attached

a hundred feet of coax to the center point. Happily we found that hoisting all this into the air did not cause the antenna cord and pulley to drop lower, and there is plenty of room to maneuver the ends around to aim the dipole in any direction. The ideal tethering point for flat-topping the antenna (to aim it at California) is a second story balcony rail, but as the house has strong similarities with the house in the movie "Money Pit," the balcony may not be safe to actually walk on far enough to tie it off. However with enough rope we will find something solid. There is always another tree. Or a vehicle. But not the propane tank,. Nooo.

After Gregg's masterful site plan for the antenna, and installation of the center point pulley at 55 feet, the rest of the event was less successful. I realized my recollection that I had duplicated a complete station up there was missing the small matter of the actual HF radio, of which I only have one and had meant to bring along from my home station. So the signal reports for both directions will have to wait for the next installment!

One final positive result: the next day we went down the ravine to look for the missing tennis ball and after hiking up and down a 40-degree slope amongst the arboreal carnage from the ice storm, Gregg found it!

Viki, KI6WDS

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, March 11, 2013

Kaiser Hospital, 710 Lawrence Expressway, Santa Clara CA 95051 Status: Unreviewed The SCCARA General Membership Meeting was called to order by Fred Townsend (AE6QL) at 19:30.

Introductions of members and many guests were made.

Announcements:

Fred (AE6QL) announced there will be a license cram session at Radiofest Monterey, for those studying for new licenses.

John (W6JPP) announced that several members are planning to caravan down to the annual M2 Antenna open house at their manufacturing facility in Fresno, which starts at 7am Sat Mar 16. Contact John or Gregg (KF6FNA) if you are interested.

Don (K6PBQ) announced his neighbor has a radio, beam and tower for sale: an Yaesu FT-1000D radio, a 6-band TA-53 Moseley with WARC bands, and a 55-foot tubular crankup tower. The tower need to be taken down, and the beam and antenna shouldn't be sold before the radio can be tested on them.

Don also announced the station will be open on Mar 30th, the last Saturday of the month. He has everyone needed for the MS Walkathon, but if anyone would like to help, please let Don know.

Gary (WB6YRU) announced for visitors that he has extra newsletters on the back table.

One of the new visitors has a new Icom Z1A handheld and needs help programming it; Fred (AE6QL) offered help after the meeting.

Lou announced the next SVECs breakfast will be April 27th.

Don (AE6PM) reported the new repeated is alive and well at his house.

John (W6JPP) asked for help on behalf of visitor Rick (KE6PL) getting an antenna set up; see John and Gregg (KF6FNA).

In response to a question, Lou (WA6QYS) reported the flea markets started last week (Mar 9), and that again there will be a conflict in October with Pacificon.

John (W6JPP) announced there will be 2 speakers for the evening. David Bottom (WI6R) runs Radiosport, which makes headsets for amateurs. David gave a bit of his history (see his profile on qrz.com). He was inspired to get his license by hearing Sputnik, and was licensed before high school. When he started racing cars, he realized much better headphones existed than were available to hams. He started building headsets from the best of aviation, racing, EMT, etc. and selling them to amateurs. He brought several along and showed some of the features.

After a break, Don Apte (KK6MX) gave a presentation put together by Mark Pecen, Sr VP of Research in Motion. This covered the highlights of the radio industry year-by-year with pictures of some of the historical gear.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:13.

Viki Moldenhauer, KI6WDS, Secretary

General Meeting, Feb. 11, 2013

Kaiser Hospital, 710 Lawrence Expressway, Santa Clara CA 95051 Status: Unreviewed

The SCCARA General Membership Meeting was called to order by Fred Townsend AE6QL at 19:37.

Introductions of members and two guests were made.

Announcements:
Fred AE6QL thanked John W6JPP for filling in while Fred was away. Fred couldn't discuss his mission, but he could share an opportunity he had on Oahu. On Tuesday at the USS. Missouri museum, he had breakfast with the docents and got a custom tour of the ship. Arrangements can be made to work the radio on the ship also. In response to a question about the deck, he reported they are restoring the teak deck.

Fred also thanked Lou for arranging the alternate room for the evening as Kaiser was using our usual room for a meeting. He also thanked Gwen and Gregg for bringing refreshments for the meeting.

Fred announced he wanted us to get an early start on Field Day, and encouraged everyone to get involved.

John W6JPP thanked John Glass NU6P for getting an announcement with the upcoming meeting speaker information on the repeater, and also thanked Don Steinbach AE6PM, Don Apte KK6MX, and Gary WB6YRU for bringing in a huge array of test equipment for the meeting.

Lou WA6QYS announced that WE6V who had been a very active member in the club especially in CW, had become a silent key, and passed around his obituary.

Don K6PBQ announced the club station would be open the last Saturday of the month, Feb 23, and encouraged members and

visitors to come try out the radios. He also offered for people who can't come that weekend to call him to make arrangements and he would come down in the evening or on other weekends.

Fred AE6QL asked for anyone interested in license or upgrade tests to let him know, so we can form study groups; the library can make a room available.

John W6JPP thanked everyone who came and took his beam down; now he has the new Tom Schiller beam up and transmitting.

John W6JPP introduced the evening's speaker, Bruce Jahn, of DaySaver. He provided a little history of how he came to be making battery packs for professional land surveying equipment, requiring long shelf-life and ruggedness. He described the features of his new product, the Lithium Iron Phosphate battery, and contrasted its advantages with respect to absorbent glass mat technology: much lighter for the same capacity, more recharge cycles, a long shelf life, and no lead or cobalt unlike LiIon batteries. The new batteries also do not heat up during the charging process. There was a writeup in the Feb 2013 issue of Popular Communications, and there will be a review in the March issue of CQ magazine. He offered a discount to people purchasing batteries at the meeting and answered questions before the break.

After the break, the test measurement part of the program proved very popular, as attendees brought their radios back to where the test equipment was set up to evaluate whether the radios were operating within their specifications. Equipment was tested until we had to vacate the room.

Viki Moldenhauer, KI6WDS, Secretary

Board Meeting, March 18, 2013

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

The SCCARA Board Meeting was called to order by Fred Townsend (AE6QL) at 19:35.

Attendance: President: Fred Townsend AE6QL; Vice President: John Parks W6JPP; Secretary: Viki Moldenhauer KI6WDS; Trustee: Don Village K6PBQ; Past President: Don Steinbach AE6PM; Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS; Gregg Lane KF6FNA; Gary Mitchell WB6YRU; Wally Britten KA6YMD; Absences (excused): Clark Murphy KE6KXO, Goetz Brandt K6GKB.

Announcements:
The SCCARA station will be open Saturday March 30, 2013. Fred (AE6QL) had several event announcements: the RadioFest Monterey Bay 2013 will be March 23 2013, from 8:00am to 5:00 pm at the Monterey Moose Family Center at 555 Canyon Del Rey (Hwy 218) Del Rey Oaks, CA 93940; the MS Walk April 27 at 9am (net control, SAGs, and pedestrian mobiles staffed but any more volunteers welcome); the SVECs Quarterly Breakfast Meeting also on April 27, 2013; the Sonoma Hamfest also on April 27 2013, details at http://www.vomarc.org/events.html; SCCARA Field Day June 21th to 23rd (location still TBD); and Pacificon (Pacific Division) October 11-13 2013.

Officers' Reports:

Secretary's Report: Viki (KI6WDS) apologized for the lack of minutes in last month's newsletter due to a work crunch, but will have both months' minutes in the next newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Goetz (K6GKB) had emailed in his report: checking=$1916.68, savings=$500.07, cash=$677.03, total=$3093.78.

Trustee's Report: Don (K6PBQ) reported he has the Kenwood TS440 working again (Lou (WA6QYS) found parts on eBay and Don fixed it), and he wants to donate it back to the club. Lou moved to reimburse Don for the $112 cost of the parts to repair the TS440S; John (W6JPP) seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Don also announced that the station will be open on Saturday Mar 30, and he can also open it at other times. For the MS Walk, Don has a full quota of operators. Wally (KA6YMD) agreed to bring the radio.

Vice President's Report: John (W6JPP) announced the April speaker will be Tom Schiller N6BT. Regarding the possible Field Day location off Lawrence, Gwen reported the corner log is used by the adjacent church for parking on Sundays. There being no other sites, Fred announced the decision that the site is Mt. Madonna. John has contacted Valley Christian Center (HS? to be our speakers in July (their ham club makes cube sats that they launch with weather balloons), and has invited them to join us for Field Day. Our speaker for August will be M2 Antennas. Regarding the request by SJSU amateur radio club to use our repeater, John clarified that Dennis Vernier (W7RIT) originally asked for permission to use the 2m repeater, but would like official board authorization to use both the 2m and 440 repeaters for their nets. John will get the exact times from Dennis. John moved to amend the agreement with SJSU to include the 440 repeater; Don (K6PBQ) seconded, the motion passed unanimously. John also mentioned that someone who works satellite will come to our Field Day, do an educational presentation, and make satellite contacts.

President's Report: Fred (AE6QL) will discuss Field Day programs at the GOTA station after the meeting with Gregg (KF6FNA) and Viki (KI6WDS), including demonstrations at the GOTA station, handouts, putting up a projector and videos, etc. Fred distributed the letter he had received from Akshat Agrawal (KK6BLA) expressing interest in amateur radio, and Fred's reply.

Standing Committee Reports:

Newsletter: Gary (WB6YRU) reported the newsletter is doing fine, still in color. From the latest budget numbers, it is still running a deficit but not as bad as he thought: the club needs to continue doing the flea market.

BBS: Gary reported the 220 port was broken; the new radio was installed, and forwarding is taking place. The 6m port is making slow progress.

Repeater: Wally (KA6YMD) got the Coordination Registration for the 440 repeater updated and gave the Certificate of Coordination to Viki for the files.

Special Committee Reports:
Field Day: Gregg (KF6FNA) needs to know who will make it up to Mt. Madonna to help set up. There will be activity to check out equipment and antennas before then. Lou, Don (K6PBQ), and Gregg will go look at the tower and antenna that Don's neighbor has available. The tower is self-supporting (embedded in a large block of concrete) so is not a FD candidate. Fred also has another Off-center-fed antenna available: Gregg will check with him.

New repeater: The new repeater is working temporarily at Don (AE6PM)'s house. The cabinet will be under cover but outside: this will be ok for temperature, but will need a finer screen to keep insects out.

Red Cross antennas: Gregg needs approval from George Williams

(N6NKT) for the exact location of the new mast to hold the boom antenna. The club got 500 ft of 3/16" UV-resistant antenna rope at the M2 open house event from The DX Store who gave us a nice discount. Also Viki had a price list from Austin Amateur for coax: LMR-400 is ~1$/ft, LMR ultra flex is ~1.50$/ft. We may use flexible coax from the rotor to the antenna, and regular coax from the rotor to the shack.

Old Business:
Eval of broadcast truck: John (W6JPP) reported that we are no longer pursuing the acquisition of the communications truck because the 5 years of back DMV feed make the cost prohibitive.

HT's offered from estate: Don (AE6PM) brought the equipment: one HT, IC32AT dual band FM transceiver, a non HT IC-28H 144 MHz FM transceiver, a PK-12 packrat. Fred proposed to rent these to newbie hams and supervise them to get started. After discussion, it was agreed the club needs a policy statement on loaning/renting equipment, a checkout procedure, a means of tracking (equipment officer, assistant trustee). Further discussion will be taken offline, and Fred will write up a first draft of the policy statement.

Club station RTTY: the power supply failed in the computer Bob (N3FAW) was using to set up the club RTTY station. Considering the difficulty in moving the tower computer back and forth to his home to work on it, he requested a laptop to replace it. Lou will get the requirements and identify a replacement, and Don PM and Viki will help.

New Business:
John (W6JPP) reported the American Legion Post 318 off Minnesota and Meridian have offered us a room for a ham class if we have enough interest, and have offered a site in their basement, after renovations, for a station, where we could get some of our other radios in use.

Fred (AE6QL) adjourned the meeting at 21:17.

Viki Moldenhauer, Secretary KI6WDS

Board Meeting, Feb. 18, 2013

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

The SCCARA Board Meeting was called to order by Fred Townsend (AE6QL) at 19:37.

Attendance: President Fred Townsend AE6QL; Vice President: John Parks W6JPP; Secretary: Viki Moldenhauer KI6WDS; Treasurer: Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Trustee: Don Village K6PBQ; Past President: Don Steinbach AE6PM; Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS; Gregg Lane KF6FNA; Gary Mitchell WB6YRU; Wally Britten KA6YMD; Clark Murphy KE6KXO.

Announcements:
The SCCARA station will be open Saturday February 23, 2013. Fred announced several events: the RadioFest Monterey Bay 2013 will be March 23 2013, from 8:00am to 5:00 pm at the Monterey Moose Family Center at 555 Canyon Del Rey (Hwy 218) Del Rey Oaks, CA 93940; the MS Walk April 27 at 9am, which needs volunteers for SAGs, pedestrian mobiles, and NCS; the SVECs Quarterly Breakfast Meeting also on April 27, 2013; and Pacificon (Pacific Division) October 11-13 2013.

Officers' Reports:

Secretary's Report: Corrections were read to the January minutes as published: John (W6JPP) moved to accept the January minutes as corrected, Don K6PBQ seconded, the motion passed. The September minutes will stand. Gary (WB6YRU) passed around multiple versions of the letterhead for comments; the conclusion was to use the pdf format and center the text. Fred presented email from club member Alvin Wong (W6ATW) requesting assistance renewing membership while overseas (the treasurer and secretary will work something out), and from Kevin Stoddart regarding the phone patch (the autopatch numbers have not been updated for dialing "1-408;" Fred will see Ben Vickers to get them updated). Clark (KE6KXO) needs a hard copy of the new member package; Gary and Viki (KI6WDS) will work on this.

Treasurer's Report: Goetz (K6GKB) reported checking = $3611.08, savings = $500.07, cash = $657.03, total = $4768.18. He requested the board authorize the flea market fee of $1650.00. John (W6JPP) moved to disburse the $1650 flea market funds; Lou (WA6QYS) seconded, the motion passed unanimously. Lou expects unanimous participation at the flea market also.

Newsletter Contributions: Gary (WB6YRU) is working out the problem of getting financial information to Goetz.

Trustee's Report: Don (K6PBQ) announced that the station will be open this coming Saturday, and can also open it at other times. Gregg (KF6FNA) reported that George Williams (N6NKT) requested we put our monitor on a hinge on the wall so it doesn't interfere with the Red Cross station. Gregg will research a monitor hinge; Bob (N3FAW) will put in a keyboard tray, so there will be upcoming expenses.

Vice President's Report: John (W6JPP) has two speakers lined up for March: Radiosport (details in the SCCARAgram) and Don Apte speaking on the history of Amateur Radio. Regarding the Field Day location search, John found a possible alternative site, a large open lot off Almaden Expressway (without trees). John conveyed a request from San Jose State University to use the repeater on one of Wednesday, Thursday or Friday nights for a local net (open net). They will set up for Echolink access through their station, and will yield for ARES/RACES activities. John moved to allow the San Jose State University Amateur Radio Club to be granted authorization to use the SCCARA repeater for a half hour on Thursday evenings; Gregg (KF6FNA) seconded, the motion passed unanimously. John will also invite them to join us for Field Day. John also reported that he has been in contact with the Salvation Army. While there is a general agreement in support of our establishing a radio station at their Homestead Ave site, they are having a reorganization of management, and request a 30 to 60-day extension in negotiations. John also has been contacted by an active satellite ham, who is willing to come to our Field Day and work with our members.

President's Report: Fred (AE6QL) recognized John (W6JPP)'s efforts with John Glass (NU6P) to put meeting announcements on the repeater. Fred again urged all board members to get callsign@arrl.net email addresses. Fred announced the appointment of Teresa Nemeth as the Yahoo Bulletin Board sysop. She will promote usage and admit membership to the bulletin board; she will publicize this at meetings. Fred is also looking at ideas for Field Day programs, and will coordinate with Viki (KI6WDS) and Gregg (KF6FNA).

Standing Committee Reports:

BBS: Gary (WB6YRU) reported he, Goetz (K6GKB), Gregg (KF6FNA), and Clark (KE6KXO) made a visit to the BBS site on Mt. Umunhum: the 1.25 M is installed; the 6 M was modified from 9600 to 1200 baud. Gary put a request for interest in a site visit into the newsletter, but got no response from members: if

interested, contact him.

Newsletter: Gary has identified the newsletter budget problem: the Office Depot receipts don't indicate coupons and other deals: Gary needs to annotate the receipts before giving them to Goetz to get better financial reports. Aside from the financial brouhaha, Gary reports the newsletter is going fine: Goetz' column "WIP (Works In Progress)" is good but not enough people are contributing. He will ask in the regular meeting for any contributions to the WIP column.

Webpage: Wally (KA6YMD) will update the web page to say "sccara.com.."

Repeater: The new repeater needs a second phone line (measured rate: only incoming calls). Gary will get Wally the physical location of the phone at the old repeater site.

Special Committee Reports:

Field Day: Gregg (KF6FNA) is looking for a location, to drive the antenna choices. There was discussion of a boat tank to feed the generator, but the cost was a concern.

Field Day location: John (W6JPP) reported the search is in progress.

2 M repeater changeover: Don (AE6PM) and John (NU6P) were setting the audio levels and hit a desense issue: debugging is in progress.

Red Cross antenna: Gregg (KF6FNA) reported status: the 30-foot pushup from Clark's place will be used; John (W6JPP) has loaned us the rotor and controller which will be checked out; Fred had some 6-wire cable which might be doubled up to run to the 5-band beam on the roof. When we get the go-ahead on location from George (N6NKT), we need to build a pallet and rubber mat: we need the exact location from George on where the roof beams are. We will need to purchase ~200 feet of coax at ~$400, ~100$ of rope and fittings, guy the mast at 10 and 20 feet, mount the rotor at about 2-3 feet: costs shouldn't exceed $600. Also Gary has a camera we could put up in a box to monitor the antenna down in the radio room, so we could check for antenna rotation, flapping guy wires, etc. without going up on the roof. Fred recommended we get cat 5 cable. John (W6JPP) will check into donated cable. The antenna must be 20 feet from any air conditioning units.

Old Business:

Student Akshat Agrawal KK6BLA request for assistance: Fred (AE6QL) will email him to contact Don (K6PBQ) for a station walkthrough, and invite him to Field Day. Clark had someone else to his house.

Eval of broadcast truck: John (W6JPP) and Gregg (KF6FNA) had nothing to report due to Field Day, but raised concerns of insurance costs. The club has liability insurance. Goetz (G6GKB) will check the insurance carrier to see if we can get a rider for the truck. John (W6JPP) will look at the truck.

HT's offered from estate: Don (AE6PM) got an email back in July, and has the HT's in his shop; he will bring them to the next meeting.

Club radio repair: The TS-440 radio is being sent back from the repair shop: the squelch notch control part has not been available for years, and the display is no longer working. Clark (KE6KXO) raised the point that since Don (K6PBQ) was doing club work with the radio when it broke, he should not be liable for its repair. John (W6JPP) moved to scrap the TS440 radio, and give it "as is" to the trustee and reimburse Don for shipping charges; Viki (KI6WDS) seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Clark moved that the club have a policy that indemnifies a club member using club equipment for a club function, against damages; Lou (WA6QYS) seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Gwen (KF6OTD) asked which restaurant we will use for the dinner meeting: after discussion the conclusion was since we have speakers scheduled for March and April, the dinner meeting will be postponed for now.

Gary (WB6YRU) raised lessons learned from the clinic night: it is good to have more than one person, and divide the testing into sections (receiver testing, transmitter testing, etc.), and have 2 or 3 stations.

Lou (WA6QYS) moved that SCCARA have a demonstration station at the Stanford PowWow on Mothers's Day in May; Gregg (KF6FNA) seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Fred (AE6QL) adjourned the meeting at 21:20.

Viki Moldenhauer, Secretary KI6WDS

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

==========
Date: 20 Dec 2012 23:55
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: Jokes 20/12

Biker Thoughts:

- Home is where your bike sits still long enough to leave a few drops of oil on the ground.

- The only good view of a thunderstorm is in your rearview mirror.

- Bikes don't leak oil they mark their territory.

- A bike on the road is worth two in the shed.

- Young riders pick a destination and goes. . . Old riders pick a direction and go.

- A good mechanic will let you watch without charging you for it.

- Well-trained reflexes are quicker than luck.

- If you ride like there's no tomorrow - there won't be.

- Gray-haired riders don't get that way from pure luck.

- There are drunk riders. There are old riders. There are NO old drunk riders.

- Only a Biker knows why a dog sticks his head out of a car window.

Wisdom from the military manual:

"If the enemy is in range, so are you."
- Infantry Journal

"It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed."
- U.S. Air Force Manual

"Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons."

"You, you, and you ... Panic. The rest of you come with me."
- U.S. Marine corps Gunnery Sgt.

"Tracers work both ways."
- US army Ordnance

"Five second fuses only last three seconds."
- Infantry Journal

"Any ship can be a minesweeper . . . . . Once."

"Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do."
- Unknown Marine Recruit

"If you see a bomb technician running, keep up with him."
- USAF Ammo Troop

"Though I Fly Through the Valley of Death, I Shall Fear No Evil. For I am at 80000 Feet and Climbing."

"You've never been lost until you've been lost at Mach 3."
- Paul F. Crickmore (test pilot)

"The only time you have too much fuel is when you're on fire."

"If the wings are traveling faster than the fuselage it's probably a helicopter -- and therefore unsafe."

"When one engine fails on a twin-engine airplane you always have enough power left to get you to the scene of the crash."

"Even with ammunition the USAF is just another expensive flying club."

"What is the similarity between air traffic controllers and pilots? If a pilot screws up the pilot dies. If ATC screws up.... The pilot dies."

"Airspeed, altitude, and brains. Two are always needed to successfully complete the flight."

"Mankind has a perfect record in aviation. We never left one up there!"

"Flying the airplane is more important than radioing your plight to a person on the ground incapable of understanding or doing anything about it."

"The Piper Cub is the safest airplane in the world it can just barely kill you."
- Attributed to Max Stanley (Northrop test pilot)

"There is no reason to fly through a thunderstorm in peacetime."

"If something hasn't broken on your helicopter it's about to."

"You know that your landing gear is up and locked when it takes full power to taxi to the terminal."

As the test pilot climbs out of the experimental aircraft, having torn off the wings and tail in the crash landing, the crash truck arrives and the rescuer sees a bloodied pilot and asks: "What happened?" The pilot's reply: "I don't know. I just got here myself!"

A 40-something mum was passing by her daughter's bedroom one day and was surprised to see her bed was nicely made and the room actually tidy? She then noticed an envelope propped up prominently on the middle of the bed addressed "Mum." With the worst of fears she opened the envelope and read the letter with trembling hands:

Dear Mum It is with great regret and sorrow that I'm writing you. I had to elope with my new boyfriend because I wanted to avoid a scene with you and Dad. I've been finding real passion with Ahmed he is so nice even with all his piercings tattoos beard and his motorcycle clothes. It's not just the passion Mum I'm also pregnant and Ahmed said that we will be very happy. He already owns a caravan in the woods and has a stack of firewood for the whole winter. He wants to have many more children and that's now one of my dreams too. Ahmed taught me that Marijuana doesn't really hurt anyone and we'll be growing it for us and trading it with his friends for all the coke and ecstasy we want. In the meantime we'll pray that science will find a cure for AIDS so Ahmed can get better he really deserves it!! Don't worry Mum I'm 15 years old now and I know how to take care of myself. Someday I'm sure we'll be back to visit so you can get to know your grand children.

Your loving daughter Judith xxx

P.S. Mum none of the above is true I'm over at Kirsten's house. I just wanted to remind you that there are worse things in life than my report card that's sitting on the fireplace. I love you! Call when it is safe for me to come home

==========

Date: 21 Dec 2012 12:00
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: Jokes 21/12

Plants

The teacher was telling the class about plants that have the word "dog" in front of them: dogrose, dogwood, dog violet. She asked the class if they could name another flower with the prefix "dog."

Steven raised his hand and said, "Sure, Miss Jones, a 'collie' flower!"

Boss

You may think your boss is stupid, but if he was smarter you probably wouldn't have a job.

Salesman

"This house," said the real estate salesman, "has both its good points and Its bad points. To show you I'm honest, I'm going to tell you about both.

"The disadvantages are that there is a chemical plant one block south and a slaughterhouse a block north."

"What are the advantages?" inquired the prospective buyer.

"The advantage is that you can always tell which way the wind is blowing."

==========

Date: 30 Jul 2011 02:21
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Dog Calls

Bernard, who is noted for his gracious manners, was awakened one morning at four forty four AM by his ringing telephone. . .

"Your dog's barking, and it's keeping me awake," said his angry neighbor.

Bernard thanked the caller politely.

The next morning at precisely four forty four AM Bernard called his neighbor back . . .

"Good morning, Mr. Williams.... Just called to say that I don't *have* a dog."

Need Help?

Amateurs have a long history of helping each other. An experienced amateur who helps another is traditionally called an "Elmer." If you have a question or problem, you are encouraged to ask one of SCCARA's Elmers. Below is a list of topics including who to contact for each. If your topic isn't listed, ask one of the Elmers under the topic that comes closest and we'll ask around.

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

Antennas, feed-lines, tuners: WB6EMR, W6JPP, K6PBQ, WB6YRU
Lightning protection, grounding: WB6YRU
Station set-up, equipment: K6PBQ, W6JPP
TVI/RFI: WB6YRU
Homebrew projects, construction: KD6FJI, WB6YRU
Computers: older IBM PC: WB6YRU
Packet Network (BBS, forwarding): WB6YRU
Code operating and installations: WB6EMR, K6PBQ
DX (long distance/propagation): WB6EMR
Emergency operating/preparedness: WA6QYS
HF operating techniques (SSB, CW): WB6EMR, K6PBQ
Legal/FCC rules: WB6YRU
SCCARA (club inner workings): K6PBQ, WB6YRU, WA6QYS
EchoLink: KK6MX
License testing, new amateurs: W6JPP

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

KD6FJI, Lloyd DeVaughns,
408-225-6769 e-mail: kd6fji@arrl.net

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

W6JPP, John Parks, 408-309-8709
e-mail: w6jpp@arrl.net

K6PBQ, Don Village, 408-263-2789
e-mail: donvillage7@yahoo.com

WA6QYS, Lou Steirer, 408-241-7999
e-mail: wa6qys@arrl.net

WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, 408-269-2924
packet: home BBS NOARY
e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com

Newsletter Notes

Hey, I just noticed something... The last *SCCARA-GRAM* was March 2013. My first issue as editor was March 1993. It's been two decades. Surprisingly enough, I'm still not sick and tired of it.

The thing I like the most about the newsletter, what keeps me going, is having informative technical articles from the membership. This is a technical hobby after all and, in my opinion, one of the more important functions of a club like this is to inform its membership.

Even something basic like Goetz' article on novel ways to attach a connector or Viki's antenna adventures is fine. Goetz says he might be the only one who didn't know, but I'm pretty sure where there's one such person, there will be others. I hope more people will take that example to heart and consider contributing to *your* newsletter.

You don't need a PhD in the subject to write a good article, any tip or something you've discovered is fair game.

And you don't HAVE to be informative either. If you're trying to do something and are having trouble, that's worth an article too. Tells us what you're trying to do and the problem. Chances are there are others in the club who know something about it and can give you ideas. We could even have a regular Q&A column, that might be fun. Who knows, it might even give us an idea for a talk on the subject at a future meeting.

Don't be bashful, we're all fellow amateur radio operators here. And we're in this club because we *want* to be, because we're interesting in the subject. So, you're among friends–let's hear from you.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

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American Radio Relay League

FIRST CLASS

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SCCARA Membership Form for 2013

If none of your info has changed, fill in name and call only

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

Address: _____ Licensed since (yr): _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____ - _____ Licence Expiration Date (mo/yr): _____

Telephone: ( ) _____ ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal
☐ I'm also a member of the ARRL

E-mail: _____

make sure your e-mail is legible and correct if you want the newsletter by internet

Memberships begin January 1 and expire December 31.
If renewing: annual membership dues (base rate) are: $20 Individual, $25 Family, $10 Student (under 18)
For new members:
If joining in January: base rate
If joining in February through October: base rate x (11 - month) x 10% (e.g. for June, that would be: base rate x 50%)
If joining in November or December: free for November and December if paying the base rate for the following year

$ _____ **Dues payment** for: ☐ individual ☐ family ☐ student

For family memberships (at the same address), please include a separate form for each family member.

I want the newsletter by: ☐ U.S. Mail (costs the club about $35/year) ☐ internet

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

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