

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County
Amateur Radio Association

Volume 28, Number 6

June 2012



Flea Market

SCCARA hosts the June Electronic Flea Market

SCCARA has the privilege of hosting the June 9th Electronic Flea Market at De Anza College. This has been the primary fund raising event for our club for many years. With the recent purchases of a repeater and generator our coffers need an infusion of cash. Come join fellow SCCARA members selling donuts, coffee, sodas and bananas....yes we have bananas....at the food booth. Let's also sell SCCARA.

he flea market is two days prior to the June 11th club meeting. Information will be handed out with every purchase inviting people to come to the meeting, join our August club and participate in SCCARA's field day event.

Sign up to be part of this worthy enterprise. Shifts are in two hour increments starting at 0500 hrs. (0500-0700, 0700-0900, 0900-1100 and 1100-1300). You can reserve your favorite time slot(s) by sending a message to Lou at WA6QYS@ARRL.NET or by leaving a message at 408-241-7999.

Lou WA6QYS

President's Prose

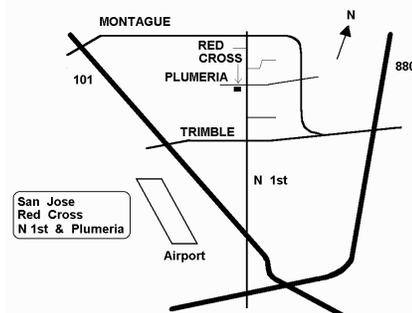
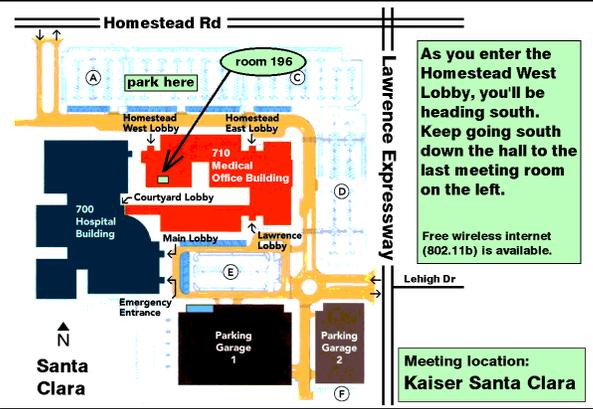
I finally managed to complete a project that I've been thinking about off-and-on for many months. Specifically, how to mount and protect a small solar panel that I purchased from Weird Stuff Warehouse some time ago. I had several schemes in mind, but they all seemed unnecessarily complicated, involving hinges with removable pins and box frames of some sort. Then the June 2012 issue of QST arrived and an article by Richard L. Huttinger, AA4RH, on page 32 had the solution I was looking for! My implementation of his design is visible in the photographs. Basically, it consists of two 24" square panels with two legs attached to each. One end of each leg from each panel is bolted together to form a hinge that was the method Richard used that I hadn't even thought of, obvious as it is now. Richard used 1/2" plywood for the panels, but I used 1/2" pegboard thinking that the additional ventilation would help keep the solar array temperature down. The two panels and legs close up like a book for transport and protect the solar panel. In use, they swing open approximately 270 degrees to expose the solar panel to the sun and allow it to be oriented at right angles to the sun. My solar panel purchase included a charge controller so I stowed that on the inner face of the opposite panel where it would be at least partially shaded when the array is exposed to maximum sunlight. The controller can be

Calendar

- 6/9 DeAnza electronic flea market--We Host!
- 6/11 SCCARA General Meeting
- 6/18 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 6/22-24 Field Day - SCCARA will be in Alviso

General Meeting

- Day: Monday, June 11, 2012
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Rm 196
- Featuring: Gregg Lane KF6FNA on Field Day



The **SCCARA-GRAM** is published monthly by the **SANTA CLARA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**, PO Box 106, San Jose CA 95103-0106. Permission to reprint articles is hereby granted, provided the source is properly credited.

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>.

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

(all officers are also directors)

President	Don Steinbach, AE6PM	867-3912
	e-mail: ae6pm@arrl.net	
Vice President	Fred Townsend, AE6QL	263-8768
	e-mail: ftownsend@sbcglobal.net	
Past President	- - -	
Secretary	Viki Moldenhauer, KI6WDS	738-8781
	e-mail: vym@comcast.net	
Treasurer	Goetz Brandt, K6GKB	259-7287
	e-mail: goetz@ix.netcom.com	
Station Trustee	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
	e-mail: donvillage7@yahoo.com	
Director	John Glass, NU6P	257-1034
	e-mail: john_glass@att.net	
Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	241-7999
	e-mail: wa6qys@aol.com	
Director	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
	e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net	
Director	Greg Lane, KF6FNA	393-5607
	e-mail: kf6fna@comcast.net	
Director	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	269-2924
	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	

COMMITTEES

Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	269-2924
	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	
Repeater	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
	e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net	
N0ARY BBS	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	269-2924
	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	

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: www.n0ary.org/ncpa)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

removed and co-located with the battery so that the controller temperature sensor more closely reflects the battery temperature. Ideally, the battery and the charge controller should be located in the shade and be at approximately the same temperature.



Photo 1. Solar panel support frame taking shape on the workbench.

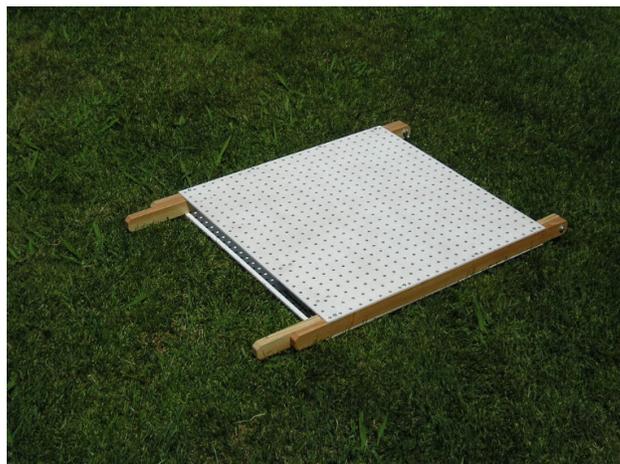


Photo 2. The finished unit folds shut for storage and transport.



Photo 3. The unit opens out like a book, shown here opened 180 degrees.



Photo 4. When the legs are folded back about 270 degrees, the panel is oriented for maximum sun exposure.

I spent the week before Memorial Day in the Phoenix/Chandler, Arizona, area. The temperature for the first two days was 108 degrees. Finally, on day five it cooled down to 88 degrees. Meanwhile, it snowed in Butte, Montana. I spend time both places and I hope the temperature cycling doesn't get to me eventually! It's hard not to like the weather here in the Bay Area. My plan a few years ago was to visit New Orleans. I was actually on the way, but Katrina got there first. At the time I was in Bronson, Missouri. We all know what happened there just a couple of months ago. Earthquakes seem pretty tame by comparison.

Last but not least, congratulations to Viki (KI6WDS), our club Secretary, for passing the Extra Class exam on the first try on May 19. Way to go!

That's it for this month. Join Don (K6PBQ) and Wally (KA6YMD) on our 2-meter and 10-meter nets. If you have a license, you can be there.

73, Don - AE6PM

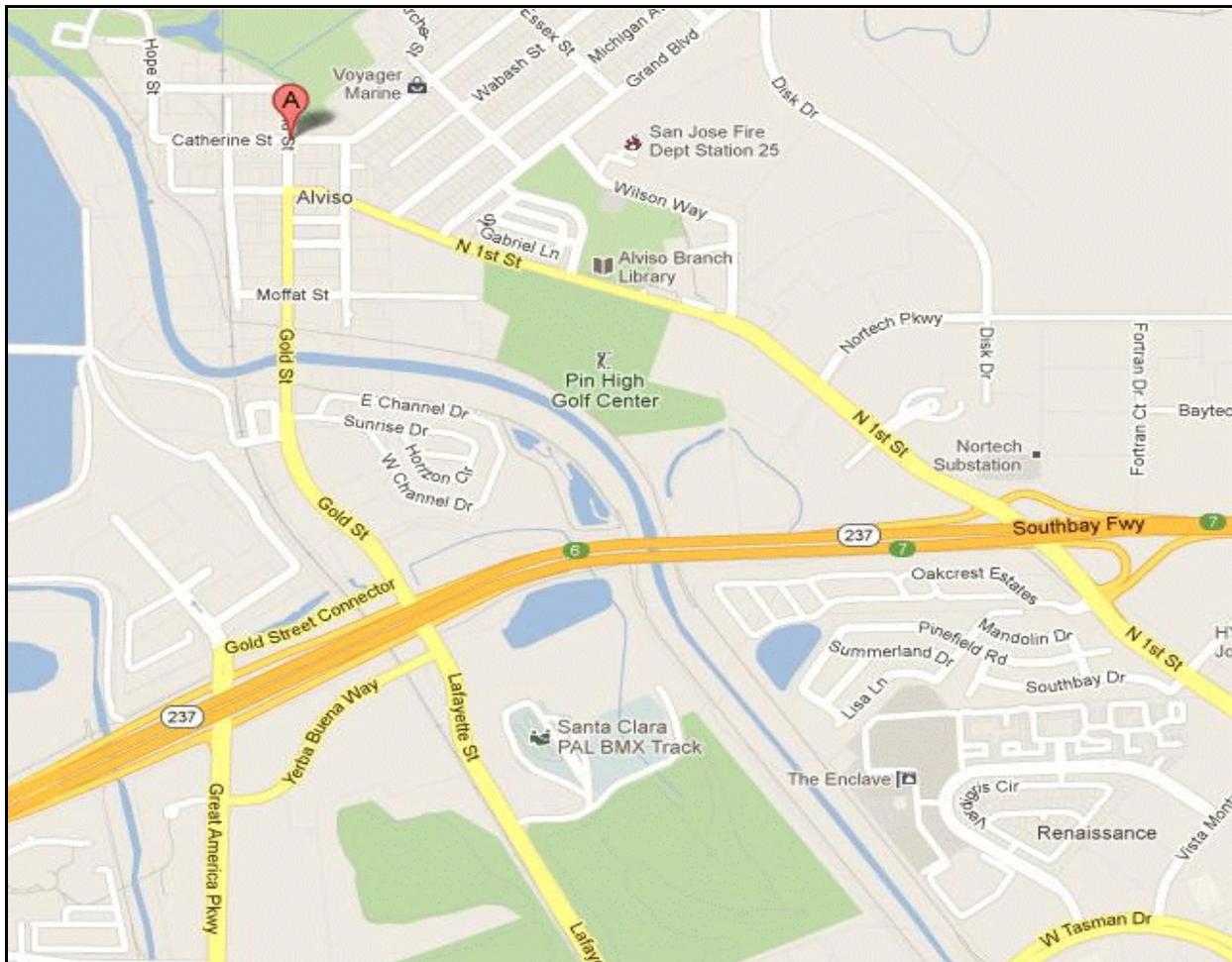


Field Day

Field Day will be discussed at the June 11 General Meeting. Since not everybody that is interested in Field Day can attend, the main details are summarized here. More details can be found on the ARRL's web site: www.arrl.org/field-day.

Those interested in helping set up will meet at Clark Murphy's residence: 1425 State St., San Jose, (Alviso) at 12:00 PM on Friday, June 22, 2012. Plans include loading Field Day equipment onto the antenna trailer and proceeding to our Field Day location several blocks away.

DIRECTIONS; From Hwy. 237 exit north on N. 1st street (becomes N. Taylor St.) Turn right on Gold St., proceed to Catherine St. We'll be at the north-east corner.





There will be ice chests for stuff that should be kept cool. There will be a table for pot-luck food. A BBQ will be available. Saturday morning will have a pancake breakfast. Don't forget to bring your folding chairs. Hope to see you there.

Gregg KF6FNA

Pow Wow

For some years now, Lou (WA6QYS) and Gwen (KF6OTD) have been instrumental in feeding the elders at the annual Native American Pow Wow held on the Stanford University Campus. Some years ago, Gwen's school was participating in a government sponsored program to encourage Native American Indians to pursue higher levels of education. Her school was one of many around the bay area participating in this program and the American Indian Alliance decided to bring them altogether in a consolidated group. An annual luncheon evolved organized by Gwen and Lou that honored the graduates. The government program petered out and the annual event morphed into a dinner for Indian Elders. Eventually it found a home at the Stanford Pow Wow. This Pow Wow puts on display some of the finest ceremonial garments and festivities one can imagine. The feathered head gear, the beaded chest plates, the beating of drums, the dancing, and the celebration of a glorious heritage are spectacles that draw a large crowd.



This has given SCCARA an opportunity to volunteer manpower to support the luncheon for the Elders and as an added benefit have a ham radio station co-located with the dining area. This was my first attendance and I learned a lot.

John (W6JPP) brought his tennis ball launcher which allows antennas to be hung in the highest tree branches. I should mention that we were just across the street from the Stanford Stadium in a eucalyptus forest with great immense trees. John's launcher is made out of PVC pipe in an over/under arrangement like a shotgun. The bottom tube is the air tank that gets pressurized to 100 PSI by a pump attached to John's truck battery. The top tube is the barrel that holds the weighted tennis ball. Around the muzzle of this gun is a spool of monofilament nylon which is attached to the tennis ball. John was able to shoot the ball over a branch at about the 60 foot level with a simple squeeze of the trigger. Substituting cord for filament, a fine large delta loop was hoisted into the air.



Beneath this canopy of trees and wire, the club set up a canvas shelter with a table and chairs. John provided his Icom 756 ProII, an LDG antenna tuner, a 4:1 balun attached to the delta loop and the station was on the air. In the distance was the club's new Honda Generator silently providing the power. The final touch was the club banner across the front of the table. A second G5RV antenna was launched into the trees and an Icom 706 and its matching AT-180 tuner attached.



The G5RV's best was Kenya and Indonesia. The Delta loop brought in K9UXZ, a Shriners Special Event Station in Illinois . W7G a Special Event Station in Promontory, Utah commemorating the junction of the transcontinental railroad at the site of the Golden Spike. K4RC a Special Event Station commemorating the 405th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown , Virginia . Also of note were a couple of DX contacts: VP5/W6NN a local ham, Anna, vacationing on Providencia Island in Turks & Caicos and PJ2/DH2AK in Netherland Antilles. All this and a luncheon with the Elders, just a splendid event.

Photos by Viki Moldenhauer
Goetz, K6GKB

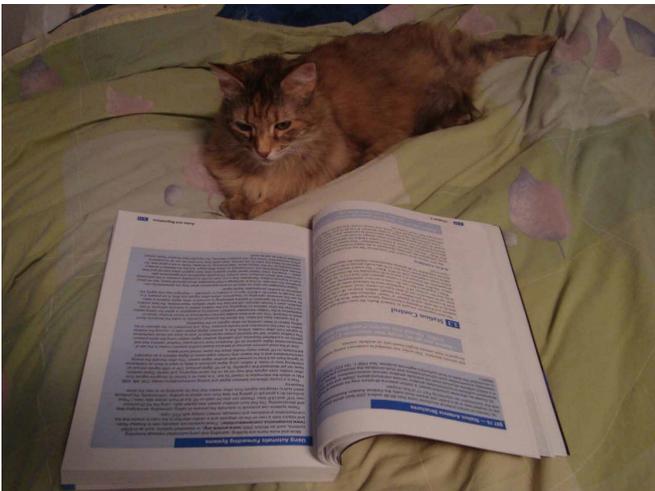
Cat Radio

“You see, wire telegraph is a kind of a very, very long cat. You pull his tail in New York and his head is meowing in Los Angeles.

Do you understand this? And, radio operates exactly the same way: you send signals here, they receive them there. The only difference is that there is no cat.”

- Albert Einstein.

(from the *Array of Light* book by Tom Schiller N6BT)



Inspired by Einstein to put the cat back into radio, Her Royal Highness the Princess Pointy-Ears studies for her Extra exam...

Viki Moldenhauer

Rotator

Our club was gifted a beautiful two section aluminum triangular tower, light as a feather and extendable to 40 feet. At the top was a rotator which, after lying on the ground for some time, had attracted an ant colony that was moving in. Having demonstrated my mechanical instincts on several previous club projects, I felt confident I could rebuild this unit. Cornell-Dubilier was the manufacturer; the model number is TR-44. Its bigger brother was called the Ham-M. The service manual is dated 2/72 which makes this unit forty years old.

The tooling and manufacture was passed on to HY-Gain who made ever larger versions and in turn sold out to MFJ which still produces them today. The design is a testament to non-precision engineering, a concept developed in the United States . The bell housing and base are made of die-cast aluminum which provides the bearing races for the 50 ball bearings. No steel inserts whatsoever! The small DC motor drives a stack of tiny pinions and stamped gears that connect to a ring gear to produce the required torque to turn large antennas. The rotating bell housing is connected to a stationary spiral rheostat that overlaps itself and gives 360 degrees of meter display. The ball bearings are captured in two rows by nylon keepers that make them look like strings of pearls. You simply remove four screws on the bottom and lift the bell housing straight up and everything is there on display.

Maintenance could not be simpler. You remove the ants, use Stoddard Fluid (kerosene) to wash the bearings and gears, some tuner tonic on the rheostat, re-grease the bearings and gears, then lower the bell housing back onto the motor base. Timing is accomplished by bringing the ring gear and the rheostat to one extreme or the other. Wiring is a no-brainer, the terminal blocks on the rotator and the control unit being identical. One goes to one, two to two and so on. Eight conductor cable, 2 larger, six smaller wires are what are used. Turns out on early models like the TR-44, two heavy and five lesser wires are used. On later models with the break feature all eight are used.



These units are extremely easy to service. Although I haven't read it, the link below will take you to the service manual which might be helpful. As for myself, I come from a long line of Germans who don't need no stinking manuals!

www.pestingers.net/PDFs/Other_radios/Rotators/CDR_TR_44.pdf

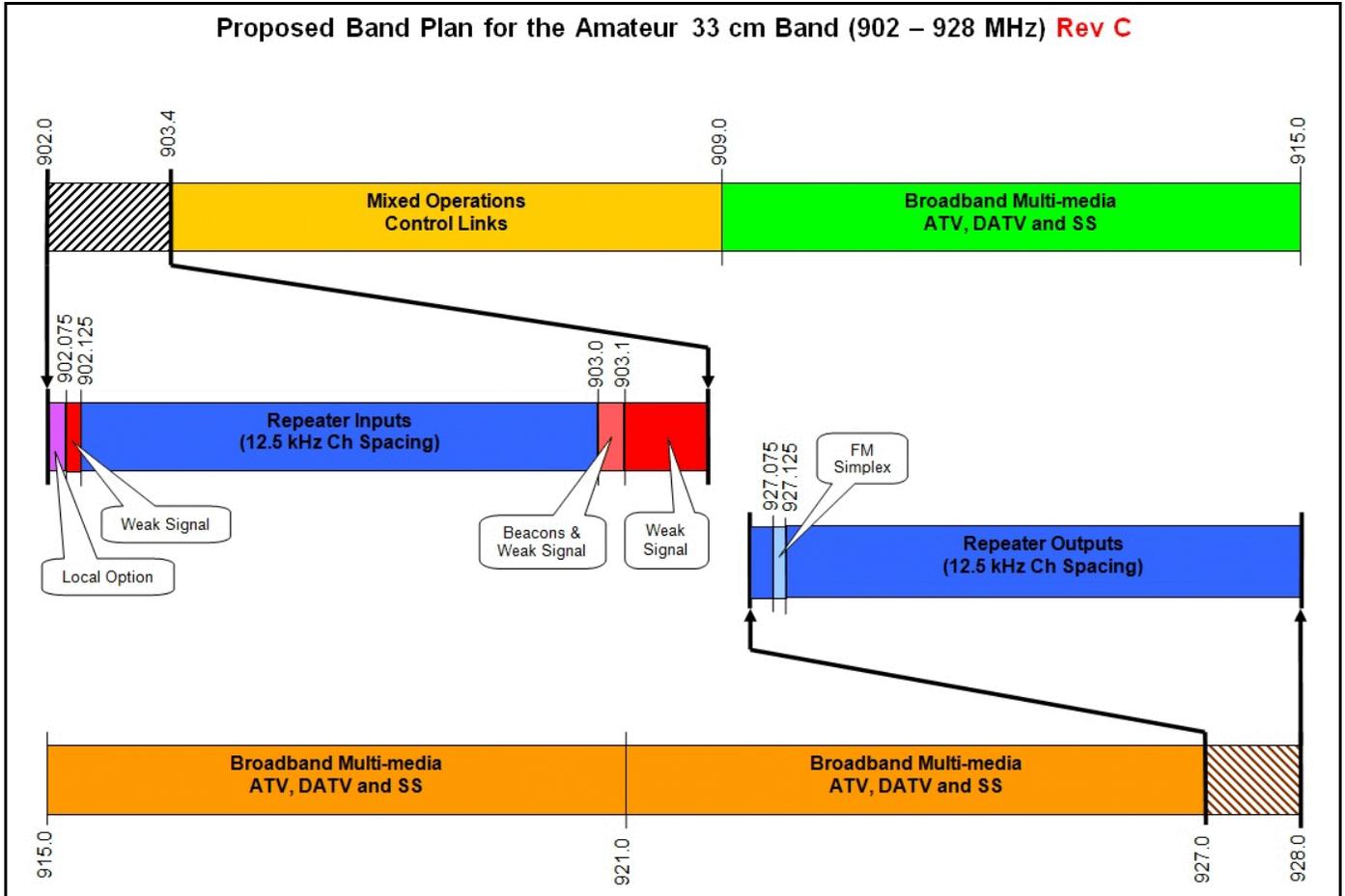
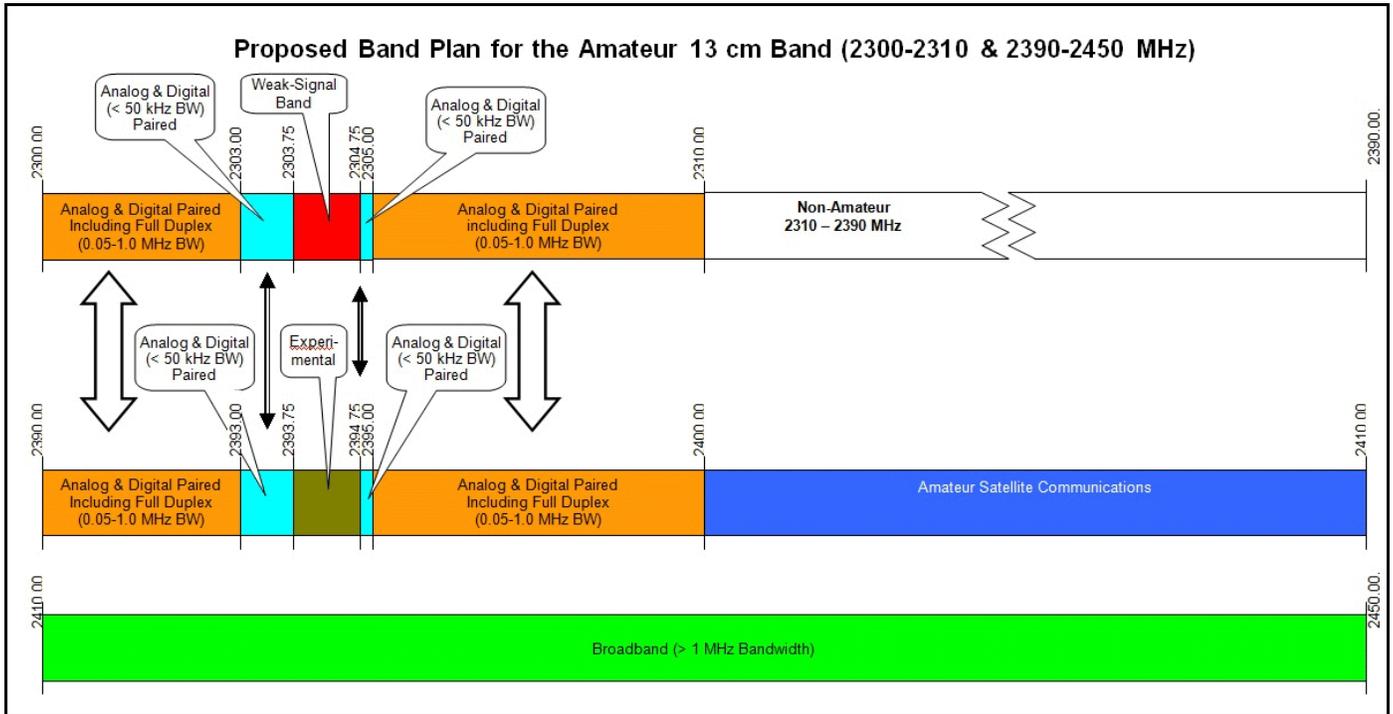
Goetz, K6GKB

ARRL News

From the ARRL Letter, May 17, 2012

ARRL MICROWAVE BAND PLANNING COMMITTEE RELEASES DRAFT BAND PLANS

The ARRL UHF-Microwave Band Plan Committee has released for comment its draft band plan for 13 cm (2.3/2.4 GHz) and welcomes comments on it. The amended draft band plan for 33 cm (902-928 MHz) has also been released. Read more at www.arrl.org/news/arrl-microwave-band-planning-committee-releases-draft-band-plans.



From *the ARRL Letter*, May 24, 2012

AMATEUR RADIO IN SPACE: AMATEURS ASKED TO LISTEN FOR HORYU-2 SATELLITE

The Japanese HORYU-2 (kitsat.ele.kyutech.ac.jp/index_e_new.html) research satellite was launched May 17 at 1639 UTC as part of a mission that included the JAXA climate observation satellite Shizuku. HORYU-2 was built by students at the Kyushu Institute of Technology (KIT) and it carries the call sign JG6YBW. The satellite will conduct a variety of experiments including high-voltage power generation and space debris measurements. Amateurs have been asked to monitor HORYU-2's Morse code and 1200-baud AX.25 packet telemetry at 437.375 MHz. Telemetry decoding software is available for download at kitsat.ele.kyutech.ac.jp/Documents/ground_station/Horyu2%20Data_Analysis_Program_japanese.zip. To encourage hams to submit reports, KIT will conduct a monthly prize drawing. Details are available at kitsat.ele.kyutech.ac.jp/Documents/ground_station/english/Receive_competition_eng.pdf.



My installation is complete, everything works better than planned. For those interested, here is the web site: <http://www.shoraipower.com/>

Goetz, K6GKB

Battery Pack

Things are still happening in the battery business. The chemistries and resulting energy densities are still improving. I decided that my new Icom 703 backpack radio needed a source of energy that would last and so the investigation began. What I came up with is a Lithium Iron Phosphate battery that is designed to replace lead acid batteries in motorcycles. Here is what the literature said: One Fifth the weight of lead-acid batteries on average. Zero sulfating, for longer service life. Will hold unloaded charge for one year without maintenance. Military spec Carbon Composite Case. Faster cranking for better starts. No explosive gasses during charge, no lead, no acid. Environmentally friendly. Two-Year Warranty!

I bought the 12 volt 18 ampere hour version and immediately began installing it into my IC-703 backpack. It fit with room to spare. For some reason, I had an extra buddy-pole style power cable with gold plated ring terminals on the end. The battery is supplied with bolts which clamped this power cable to the battery lugs quite elegantly. It all fit perfectly in the back pack except the cable was too long. The battery had left the store just two hours previously and now I gave it its first stress test. The continuity of thought broke down somewhere as I grabbed a brand new pair of Stanley side cutters and simply snipped off the excess cable.

Snipped is not quite the correct word. There was an explosion and the excess fell to the floor. The red and black insulation of the surviving wires was more like Jell-O than Plastic. It took 15 minutes for the wires to cool down and the insulation to firm up again. The pliers had two deep holes cut into the pristine cutting wedges. Clark (KE6KXO), who can no longer be surprised by my brilliance, said the Stanley side cutters would now make excellent wire strippers. Could possibly strip two wires at the same time! It's good I bought the charger that goes with this battery as it restored the battery to its previous condition. It should be pointed out that the battery can be charged with a lead acid battery charger which is what happens when installed in a motorcycle. However, the supplied charger connects to the individual cells and supposedly can stuff more energy into the battery than charging the whole thing in series.

Our new generator

The three amigos (Clark (KE6KXO) , Gregg (KF6FMA) and I (K6GKB)) went to Daly City and consummated the deal Don (AE6PM) had set up with Mission Motorcycles. A check for \$1,084.25 allowed us to leave with a 2000 watt California certified Honda generator. There was a slight confusion when they could not provide the genuine Honda Motor oil which comes with the unit, but they substituted Kawasaki motor cycle oil and we were on our way. I couldn't believe that I went with two wine snobs who actually thought this oil thing was critical, but I went along with the program.



We took the long way home, inspecting the new Oakland Bay Bridge from Treasure Island , then on to HRO in San Leandro where we found a store far superior to our own in Sunnyvale . Once back at Clark's house we serviced the generator with the Holy Oil and added some extraordinarily ordinary 89 octane gas. Gregg gave four tugs and stopped. I thought he had tired, but in fact the generator was running something I could not detect with my tin ears. After a five minute break in period, we plugged in Clark's electric lawn mower and did the front yard, can't quite bring myself to say lawn. Judging by the constant RPM during this exercise we

surmised the generator had no clue what was going on at the other end of that extension cord.

Just an awesome piece of equipment. The whole exercise of waiting till the last minute before the Annual Native American POW WOW at the Stanford University Campus was unnecessary. The 90 day guarantee turned out to be a myth, as the unit comes with a three year guarantee. The June issue of QST has a Consumer

Report type review of similar generators and the Honda comes out on top. The membership should be pleased with this purchase.

Goetz, K6GKB

Bad Antennas

P.T. Barnum said “You can fool all of the people some of the time, you can fool some of the people all of the time, but you can’t fool all the people all the time.” Well, he never met me, the seeker of the Philosopher’s Stone. Unfortunately my Alchemist’s powers seem to turn noble metals into base metals, and so it has been with ham radio. I will restrict this confession to antennas so you won’t know just how gullible I can be. My first infatuation was with the B&W BWD 1.8 - 30 MHz Broadband Folded Dipole. It was recommended by HRO, had favorable reviews on EHAM and B&W themselves claim “thousands sold to the military.” I strung it up between a tall tree and the house and “spoke” to it with 1,200 watts of power. I was never heard from again. I believe I could have done better if I flushed 100 feet of copper wire down the toilet. That’s when my ham buddies told me this thing was one of the better dummy loads on the market.

Talk about letting the cat out of the bag, trying to get this thing rolled back up and into its box was almost impossible. The wire has a memory and that includes being trapped in a box which it does not want to repeat. One slight mistake and the resulting rat’s nest is a Gordian knot that would have stopped Alexander’s greatness. It is now serving a life sentence in the original box from whence I will not let it escape.

“Fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice, shame on me.” My second seduction was the COMET CHA250B broadband vertical antenna which “amazingly covers 75/80 through 6 meters with no gaps.” Better yet, “it requires no radials.” So up it went on a 20 foot push up mast and 25 feet of coax to the rig. I might as well have been yelling into a speaking tube which terminated in the engine room of a great cargo ship. My utterances remained beneath the surface of the sea. This thing is a dummy load with the Faraday Cage missing. The best part is its construction out of purge dead soft aluminum which takes a bend with the slightest wind.

Time heals, memories fade and new opportunities come along. When Tom Schiller gave his presentation on antennas at our last club meeting I listened carefully. I heard what I wanted, and that meant empirical design amongst all the computer modeling required for today’s antennas. Of particular interest was his “light bulb” antenna with which he worked many countries. So I built one using a 300 watt bulb, a plug-in outlet bulb adaptor and a bit of coax. Tried checking into the Rhubarb net with a glowing light bulb and guess what? Twenty below S ZERO! Maybe worse as once again I wasn’t heard by anyone.



Goetz, K6GKB

Work in Progress

Joe (W6 SNV) has finally achieved liftoff. The antenna is up, the rotator rotating and Joe ecstatically making contacts in all directions. He used his new RigExperts antenna analyzer to confirm that all three bands are behaving perfectly.

Clark (KE6KXO) finally got his antenna tower mast saddle straightened. Everyone might remember that some months ago we lowered the tower without disconnecting the rotator at the bottom. Something had to give and the saddle that holds the tower got pretzelled and was pretty well destroyed. The plate that sits atop the vertical axel was bent to hell and the ears were no longer vertical to the plate.



Anyway, last week we took it to an old friend, one of the famous

bay area racing bicycle manufacturers of the 60's and 70's. He has a machine shop with lots of old beautiful lathes, milling machines, Bridgeports, etc. He took one look and before we could explain started straightening it out. He put the axel into the chuck on one of his humongous lathes, grabbed a PROTO four foot long crescent wrench and closed the jaws on the rotor plate. Using lots of body weight at the end of the four foot long wrench he iteratively forced the whole thing back into alignment. Several rotations of the chuck confirmed things were back to normal. Clark simply needs to reassemble and things should be back in order.

Lou (WA6QYS), Viki (KI6WDS), Gregg (KF6FNA), Goetz (K6GKB) and Clark (KE6KXO) have been culling through all the lockers and the club trailer to qualify equipment for Field Day. A second TR-44 rotator was found and rebuilt, it now purrs like a kitten. In addition, Gregg has measured the selected area and prepared a template for where things will go. Amazingly, an island has risen from the mud flats in total denial of the melting polar ice caps. This will be the site of our new lightweight aluminum tower. Since field day will be held in Alviso on a vacant corner fronting the bay, everyone should be able to attend. Come and see what your club is up to!

If anyone has any projects worth sharing, let me know. We could discuss it and commit it to paper. Then on to Gary (WB6YRU) our editor and out to the rest of the membership. Don't be shy, we want to know.

Goetz, K6GKB

MS Walk

On behalf of Joan and I and the MS Society we would like to thank the following SCCARA members for providing radio communication for the MS walk on Saturday April 28th: John Parks W6JPP, John Felix KI6ANW, Bill Staehle AG6EM, John Westmorland AJ6BC, and Ben Westmorland KJ6OGR.

Thanks again for your help and making this years walk a safe one.

73 Don Village K6PBQ

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, May 14, 2012



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

Don AE6PM called the meeting to order at 19:34. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Announcements:

Gregg KF6FNA will pass around a signup sheet for people interested in helping get the club equipment ready for Field Day.

Don K6PBQ announced the club station will be open the last Saturday of the month. It would be a good time to look at the club equipment at the Red Cross Station. He also thanked all the club members who helped out on the MS Walk.

Lou WA6QYS mentioned the club station got set up at the

Stanford Pow Wow, and among other interesting contacts reached special event stations for the 405th Anniversary of Jamestown, and the Golden Spike in Promontory Utah (transcontinental railway meeting point). He also sent around a signpur for the June Flea Market which our club is sponsoring.

John W6JPP reported that Pacificon has put out the call for volunteers: they will need 76-80 volunteers for all 3 days. To volunteer, send email to kj6pcm@gmail.com with a subject line of "volunteer from SCCARA". If you volunteer for more than 8 hours over the 3 days, you will get your admission fee back.

Goetz K6GKB reported he had just made a contact in the parking lot with Mike VE6A0 in Calgary, who said to tell everyone hello, so he did.

Gary WB6YRU announced there were SCCARA-grams available at the back of the room, and Don AE6PM mentioned that recent back issues are available on the web site.

Gregg KF6FNA described the Field Day efforts. There is one place in Alviso close to Clark's house that is large enough, but they also spoke with the Alum Rock Mildred Goss Elementary school principal who requested we bring education opportunities to the school: they could leave the restrooms open, having a BBQ would be ok, and we could get 24 hour access. Gregg and John W6JPP will meet with the facilities coordinator to discuss arrangements, such as whether we can drive stakes, are there sprinkler systems to worry about, etc. On the equipment front, Don AE6PM, Lou WA6QYS, Clark KE6KXO, and Gregg KF6FNA checked the club station radios and converted what wasn't already to powerpoles.

The evening's speaker was Tom Schiller N6BT, founder of Force 12 (antennas), and author of the antenna book Array of Light. He spoke on problems seen with antennas, debugging the root cause of the issues, and solutions. He had slides of antenna installations from various DXpeditions, and the more memorable tips were: don't trust barrel connectors (he's measured new ones at 1Kohm); when debugging, do simplest and easiest adjustments and corrections first; make only one adjustment at a time; make sure the ends of radials on vertical antennas aren't in contact with wood or flammable materials (he's seen lots of sparks: anchor end to the ground with a conductive spike); for verticals, put lots of cheap wire on the ground underneath, even not connected to anything: increasing the ground connectivity this way can give a 2-3 dB improvement.

The meeting ended after the speaker answered questions.

Board Meeting, May 21, 2012



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

The SCCARA Board Meeting was called to order by Fred AE6QL at 19:42.

Attendance: Vice President: Fred Townsend AE6QL; Secretary: Viki Moldenhauer KI6WDS; Treasurer: Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Trustee: Don Village K6PBQ; Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Gregg Lane KF6FNA, Gary Mitchell WB6YRU; Wally Britten KA6YMD; Visitors: Gwen Steirer KF6OTD, Clark Murphy KE6KXO Absent: President Don Steinbach AE6PM, Director John Glass NU6P

Announcements: Fred AE6QL announced that Don AE6PM is

out of town, and that the club's flea market is on June 9th.

Viki KI6WDS received an email from Mary Jane Cummings, who stopped by the booth at the Pow Wow; Viki will reply to her requests for information about the generator we used, as well as who all was at the event.

Secretary's Report: The April general and board meeting minutes were approved as published in the SCCARA-gram.

Treasurer's Report: Goetz K6GKB reported the account balances: checking = \$1970.45; savings = \$500.07; cash = \$230.95. The 2 big expenses of the flea market fee and the generator purchase have lowered the checking account.

Vice President's Report: Fred AE6QL announced the speaker for June will be Gregg KF6FNA speaking on Field Day. In July Michael Wright K6FMW will give a talk on WiFi and ATV in the Valley. Later in the fall, Eric Swartz of Elecraft will come in. Fred also announced that the San Jose EOC had saved some money even with the budget tightening, to put towards RACES and possibly redoing antennas.

President's Report: Before he left, Don AE6PM notified the board by email: "Mailed a thank you letter to Mrs. Mabel Teresi acknowledging the donation of a 40' aluminum crank-up tower, TET Model HB-43-SB 4-element beam and a CDE rotor with control box. Mailed a thank you letter to Jeff Knopow acknowledging the donation of an ICOM IC-32AT dual band FM transceiver and an ICOM IC-28H 144 MHz FM transceiver." This latter donation led to discussion on giving them to a school, such as Wilcox High School in Santa Clara (club member Karen Hardy is a math teacher there and held a ham cram class recently), or Los Altos High (where a student got a DXpedition scholarship to Costa Rica).

Fred AE6QL announced the SCCARA-gram inputs are due to Gary WB6YRU no later than May 28, 2012.

Standing Committee Reports:

Gary WB6YRU reported the newsletter and BBS are going along, nothing outstanding.

Wally KA6YMD reported the repeater and webpage are chugging along. He brought pictures of the city antenna site to show. He also reported the NARCC meeting did not hold a vote on any of the proposals; the next potential meeting is in August.

Gary WB6YRU reported that he looked at the website rules: they will publish anything online that is amateur-radio-related - there is no size limit. He got confirmation in email that we could put an archive of our back newsletters. Gary and Goetz K6GKB will discuss offline how to capture the older issues. Also Goetz needs to be put on the club re-mailer.

Don K6PBQ brought the club station licenses for Viki to file. He also sent QSL cards to the special event stations worked at the Stanford Pow Wow (except the Shriner's, which couldn't be found in QST). He will have the station open the last Saturday of the month: we will try to work the Golden Gate Bridge 75th anniversary special events station from 1pm Saturday to 3pm Sunday.

Special Committees:

Field Day: Gregg KF6FNA summarized the discussions with the elementary school that was interested in us holding Field Day at their site. The logistics turned out to be more complicated (they needed us to have 5M\$ of liability insurance, and send them an itinerary of our usage, to be reviewed by a board, etc.), so the Alviso site was chosen. We can schedule a demo at the school

during the school year, with more reasonable logistics.

The Alviso site is at the northeast corner of the intersection of Gold and Catherine Streets. It is convenient to Clark's house; we only have to tow the trailer 3 blocks, it is a short distance to any forgotten equipment, and we will likely have more people stop by than at Mt. Madonna. The site is partly paved, partly dirt.

Don K6PBQ will cancel the reservation for Mt. Madonna. Lou WA6QYS will help with getting an accessible porta potty lined up (regular ones are 125\$, handicapped-accessible 250\$). We will need portable tables and chairs. Gregg will send directions and a map to Gary WB6YRU for the newsletter. The lot is used during the week as overflow parking for a restaurant: we might want to put up a sign on Friday, saying "come back tomorrow for Field Day."

There will be a work party this weekend to check measurements for the antennas. The trailer checkout will be next month. Tasks include getting the green tower off the trailer, and the new aluminum tower put on the other side. Goetz has rebuilt a rotor for the lightweight antenna. Last year the rotors were re-wired, and the cables checked.

For antennas, we will have 2 Mosley antennas, the dipoles, the R7, and the Windom. Last weekend, Gregg, Goetz, Clark and Lou put up fiberglass push-ups for wire antennas.

Field Day purchases: Viki KI6WDS passed around the flyer for Field Day merchandise; if anyone wants in on the order, please let her know.

Gregg KF6FNA reported on the transceiver test activity at the Red Cross on May 2 by Lou, Don AE6PM, Gregg, and Clark. Don AE6PM brought an Elecraft signal generator to measure the signal reports of the various club radios. They also tested signal purity with a spectrum analyzer. All were clean except the 140: it had spurious sidebands in the ham bands (although they were down 30-40dB). We will defer until Don AE6PM is back to clarify the issue.

There was some discussion as to which transceiver is easiest to use (without menus). The tuner that works but needs recalibration might not be ready by Field Day.

Generator purchase: Gregg, Goetz, and Clark made the trip to purchase the Honda EU2000i generator. They tested it mowing the lawn at Clark's house and it was used at the Stanford Pow Wow; the plan is to use it to test some wire antennas in a park get it to 20 hours, and change the oil, before Field Day.

Gary will generate a single-page writeup for the Flea Market (oriented to hams, maybe 30-50 copies) and Field Day (general amateur radio information and SCCARA club summary). He'll also print up some SCCARA-grams for handing out.

Electronic Flea Market: Don AE6PM emailed questions discussed and resolved in the meeting: - Don AE6PM will make up new signs for the refreshment stand. - Will we have a table for members to sell their own items? Yes. - what does SCCARA have to sell this time? other than the electronic stapler that Gary WB6YRU declared redundant, we have not decided on what radios might be sold; this was deferred to next year. - Will we have handouts promoting the club? Yes.

BBS Visit: Gary WB6YRU can arrange a visit to the Mt. Umunhum with advance notice; mid-October was deemed a nice time of year to visit.

Beacon: Gary WB6YRU raised the possibility of the club setting

up a beacon to assist in detecting if the duct to Hawaii is open; he has a radio available for 2m. There was some discussion of siting (the BBS site has room for more radios, it might be best sited down near the shore), but after discussion, the consensus was that rather than take on a new project, we should first finish some of the projects still lingering on, such as adding a beam to the HF antenna.

Gregg KF6FNA reported that Archie Overton approached the club at the Pow Wow requesting help setting up a station at the Kindred hospital in San Leandro. Archie had apparently talked to someone from our club in the past. Gregg will email him and ask if he's found any help yet.

Lou WA6QYS mentioned that John Parks W6JPP heard from Pacificon that they need all kinds of help including on talk-in, to give directions.

The summer picnic was discussed. Lou WA6QYS moved to hold the picnic on August 18th, the third Saturday of August. Gregg KF6FNA seconded the motion; it was unanimously passed. The picnic will be held in Mary Gomes park as usual.

Fred AE6QL adjourned the meeting at 21:14.

Viki Moldenhauer, KI5WDS, Secretary

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====
Date: 24 May 2010 02:14
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Dating Dinosaur Bones

Some tourists in the Chicago Museum of Natural History are marveling at the dinosaur bones. One of them asks the guard, "Can you tell me how old the dinosaur bones are?"

The guard replies, "They are 3 million, four years, and six months old."

"That's an awfully exact number," says the tourist. "How do you know their age so precisely?"

The guard answers, "Well, they were three million years old when I started working here, and that was four and a half years ago."

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, 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

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

Thanks to Don AE6PM, Viki KI5WDS, and our über contributor Goetz, K6GKB for the photos and articles—it's a colorful issue this time.

We've got a new Field Day location this year. Gregg's directions indicate going up 1st St, and that's certainly one way to go. For those familiar with our board meeting location, you can just keep going north. But I've found it just as easy to go up Gold St. (See the map on page 3.) There are two ways to go on that. One is to keep going north on Lafayette St—which tuns into Gold St as you go under the 237 overpass. The other is to take Great America Pkwy north from Hwy 101, just after you go under the 237 overpass take the Gold St Connector (right turn), then left onto Gold St. Either way, once on Gold St, just keep going until you reach Catherine and there we'll be to the right.

For those wishing to stretch their legs... Gold St. continues north then curves to the west. Just a few short blocks to the north-west you'll reach the old Alviso Marina. It's a park now, with lots of hiking trails along the levies. The new boat launch ramp is there too, giving south bay boaters access to the Bay.

Don't forget SCCARA hosts the flea market this time (second Saturday of the month). We're supposed to have a table available for members if you just have one or two items.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor



SCCARA

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

Affiliate of the ARRL,
American Radio Relay League



FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SCCARA Membership Form for 2012

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 internet
(costs the club about \$35/year)

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