SCCARA-GRAM

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 31, Number 10 October 2015

Prez Sez

Buying a New Radio: My recommendation

Elecraft has come out with what some would call a mid-life kicker, the K3S upgrade, for the familiar K3. The K3 and its little sister the KX3 have enjoyed top Sherwood ratings for some time. Many have asked is the K3S worth peddling your K3 to get a newer K3S? Several manufactures, like Flex, have also made it a competitive race of sorts; a race when number four Ten Tec is added, that is still an all American race for best rig or so you would believe by reading Sherwood.

The Sherwood ratings (http://www.sherweng.com/table.html) deal mostly with receiver quality. Unfortunately for many urban dwellers the local noise levels determine the minimum useable signal, not the radio so what does that leave to differentiate manufacturers? Answer: Bells and whistles and transmit quality. Bells and whistles are easy to evaluate. Either when you try it out you like the feature or you don't. Transmitters are a bit more difficult.

How do you define pleasing transmit audio? How do you define being a good neighbor by having a clean signal that doesn't bother nearby hams? Some say courtesy be dammed… I just want to score the most contest points and I don't care who I step on. If my dirty signal makes it harder for my neighbors, that gives me a competitive edge. Those are the guys that throw an antenna party and no one comes or perhaps they meet up with a Wouff Hong.

I am happy to say the don't give a dam contesters are rare. Courtesy is the rule rather the exception. Most have figured out the cleaner the signal the faster you get through. Then Jim Brown, K9YC, asks why do we tolerate dirty rigs as a corporate policy? Quote, "Of the major manufacturers, Yaesu transceivers are, by far, the dirtiest in every price class – indeed, there is little difference between the keying trash from their lowest and highest cost rigs. Icom mid- and high-priced rigs come next, [in terms of trash] with low cost rigs falling in with Yaesu. Moving along in the direction of cleaner comes Kenwood, with Ten Tec falling between Icom and Kenwood, as does the Elecraft KX3/KXPA100." That's pretty damming of Yaesu and Icom.

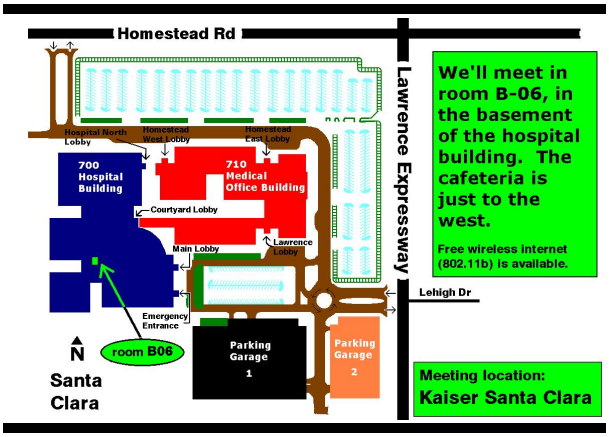
Kenwood, over the years, has always had a reputation for building a good sounding rig. An even better reputation if you count the good sounding VHF/UHF rigs noted as the only ones to pass 9600 baud packet data. They also dominate in cross band VHF/UHF repeating where clean transmit qualities are prerequisite.

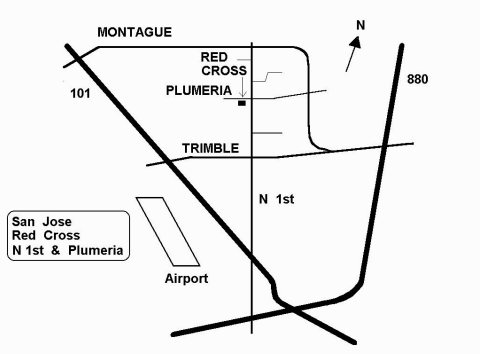
Calendar

10/12 SCCARA General Meeting
10/16-18 Pacificon, at Marriott in San Ramon
10/19 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting

Day:	Monday, October 12, 2015
Time:	7:30 PM
Place:	Kaiser Santa Clara, Hospital B-06
Featuring:	*{to be announced}*





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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 (connect to n0ary-1). User ports: 145.09 MHz at 1200 baud, 433.37 MHz at 9600 baud, and telnet sun.n0ary.org (login "bbs"). Sysop: Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU
For general packet info, see the NCPA web site ncpa.n0ary.org.

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

While major companies pay attention to what are called capital costs, the cost of their buildings and major equipment like computer systems, they pay more attention to what is called the cost of ownership. This includes the initial cost of purchase as well as maintenance cost and even the cost of energy to run the equipment.

The ideal equipment never breaks and uses minimal energy. They will pay substantially more for high reliability and will often require the equipment manufacture to back up their claims of reliability with free 24/7 onsite warranty service.

It is difficult to collect good data on the cost of ownership for amateur equipment. Some will frequent online review places like http://www.eham.net/ or consult a friend on their experiences. Many will tolerate buggy rigs if the manufacturer quickly and cheaply repairs the problem. Of course they still lack the use of the rig while it is being rehabilitated by the manufacture. Some manufactures simply ignore minor bugs or offer work-arounds. What if you get a lemon rig?

The ICOM IC-7700 is a well-liked rig but has a noted problem. Its transmitter is rated for 200 watts but will sometimes put out smoke signals because the final amplifier has fried. The factory repair will take 5 months and will be free if under warranty. On the other hand if the warranty has expired the cost will be over $800 or more if the filter has fried too. ICOM is noted for charging for out of warranty repairs even if the problem is a well-known design error.

Why so expensive to repair a rig? Ask anyone that owns a German car and they will tell you the German parts are very expensive and sometimes have long waits. Japanese car parts tend to be more expensive too. Challenge these manufacturers and they will cite the long distance freight costs. It is not too hard to find similar trends in Japanese support for their amateur radios although long distance freight would not seem to play as big a role with lighter electronic components. Service is slow and costly even though the major players have American service centers. One wonders why?

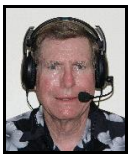
There is another fundamental change in servicing radios. In the past we have referred to dumb radios as opposed to smart radios meaning the radio didn't or did contain a computer with its attendant firmware. The good news is if the problem is caused by software, you don't have to send it back to the factory. You just issue new software but here again the oriental and the Japanese in particular have problems.

If language differences in hardware are difficult then language differences within a computer language are nearly impossible. Firmware is written in languages like C, Pascal, assembler, or machine language which also means the manuals are written in English. Manuals can sometimes be obtained in French or German but the letter symbols are not translated. They are still English. This is usually not a problem to French or German versions because they use the same subset of letters but for oriental languages both words and symbols must be translated. The result is oriental manuals for computer languages are rare. Therefore more often the Japanese programmer will be working in English his second language.

Japan has long recognized the handicap of its own languages. All high school students are required to take four years of English but this is a Conversational English that doesn't teach technical words. Japanese programmers must take additional technical English so they can program in English. Often language nuances hamper the programmer. Some companies contract their software and manuals to America to get around language issues. However this stretches the link between hardware and software engineering across the Pacific creating other problems. The result is software updates for are far less frequent for Asian produced rigs than American while

the quality of the Asian firmware is usually poorer.

If this sounds like a buy American pitch for HF rigs it is. Certainly the cost of ownership is less for American rigs because of shorter distances. I really believe the center for leading technology is on American soil. After reading this I hope you understand why. As for VHF/UHF FM rigs American manufactures have largely priced themselves out of the market. Motorola has concentrated on the government market will purchasing Yaesu to cover the amateur market.



73, Fred, AE6QL, ae6ql@arrl.net

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, September 3, 2015

ARRL Supports Maximum Flexibility for Amateur Use of New 2200 and 630 Meter Bands

The ARRL has told the FCC that Amateur Radio operation in the new 135.7-137.8 kHz (2200 meters) and 472-479 kHz (630 meters) bands should be as unfettered as possible from a regulatory standpoint. The League spelled out its case August 31 in detailed (http://www.arrl.org/files/media/News/Docket%2015-99%20Comments%20of%20ARRL.pdf) comments that argue in favor of flexible FCC Part 97 regulations in light of the exceptionally low interference potential to unlicensed power line carrier (PLC) systems that utilities use to manage the power grid. In its April Report and Order, Order, and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/comment/view?id=60001030137) in ET Docket 15-99, the FCC had raised several questions regarding how Amateur Radio and PLC systems might coexist. The ARRL said, in its view, there is little to no evidence that Amateur Radio operation would be incompatible on the LF spectrum, where the great majority of PLC systems are deployed, and that few, if any, PLCs operate in the MF band.

"The allocation of the 2200 meter band, together with the proposal to adopt flexible rules for the use of that first LF allocation, and the proposal to allocate the 630 meter band for amateur use, when implemented, will complete at least a basic complement of Amateur Radio allocations in all portions of the radio spectrum domestically," the ARRL told the FCC. "It is readily apparent from the record...that there can most assuredly be compatible operation by amateur stations in both the 2200 and 630 meter bands without adverse interaction with PLCs."

The League asserted that "well-established notification procedures conducted entirely in the private sector," as well as the sharing of available database information, should facilitate compatible operation. "Notification procedures will be necessary only in those predictably few instances in which geographic proximity and co-channel or overlapping channel operation occurs," the ARRL added.

The League requested that the FCC finalize service rules for 2200 meters that the ARRL outlined, and that it create the proposed 630 meter allocation. Operation on 2200 meters would be limited to 1 W EIRP, and operation on 630 meters held to 5 W EIRP, in both cases with an absolute EIRP transmitter output limit of 1500 W PEP and a 200 foot maximum antenna height. Assuming continued PLC compliance with Part 15 rules, the ARRL argued, "there is no significant interference potential to PLC systems, operated on an unlicensed basis, in that very small segment of the 9-490 kHz band that is available for PLC operation, even at separation distances of less than 1 kilometer from the transmission line. At distances of 1 kilometer or more, there is no chance of interference to a PLC line whatsoever, and no restrictions on Amateur operation outside of that distance need be imposed."

The ARRL said PLCs that might be operating in the two bands should be frequency agile enough to relocate to frequencies falling outside the proposed allocations, making additional regulations unnecessary. The League has conducted a lengthy and ongoing experimental operation (WD2XSH) on 630 meters. It pointed out that it was "unaware of any reports of interference to PLC systems arising from that operation, conducted pursuant to numerous Part 5 experimental licenses...in the large band utilized by PLCs."

The League agreed with the FCC's proposal to make both 2200 and 630 meters available to Amateur Extra, Advanced, and General licensees. The ARRL also said the FCC should provide "maximum flexibility with emission types" throughout 630 and 2200 meters, including CW, RTTY, data, and even phone and image, the last "especially at 630 meters."

The ARRL also commented on the FCC's proposal to amend its Part 80 rules to permanently authorize radio buoy operations in the upper half of 160 meters, which the Commission recently elevated to primary for Amateur Radio. "[S]hould the Commission proceed with its proposal...to make the 1900-2000 kHz band available to commercial fishing vessels for use by radio buoys on the open sea and to include them in the equipment authorized as part of a ship station license, it should not do so by means of a primary allocation for these devices in ITU Regions 2 and 3 as proposed," the League said. "The entitlement to utilize radio buoys should be on a secondary basis to the Amateur Service...and the buoys should be prohibited from causing harmful interference to Amateur stations without qualification."

From *The ARRL Letter*, September 10, 2015

Opponents' Representations of Parity Act's Purpose "Just Not True," ARRL President Says

ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, has taken strong exception to certain claims being made by community association organizations about the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 -- H.R. 1301 and S. 1685. In an interview with Ham Radio Now host Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, during the ARRL Roanoke Division Convention in Shelby, North Carolina over Labor Day weekend, President Craigie stressed that passage of the legislation is critical to ensuring the future of Amateur Radio. And she described as "false" recent assertions that the bills' passage would prevent community associations from requiring prior approval for 70-foot ham radio towers and from creating reasonable processes and aesthetic guidelines.

"As bills go, it's pretty short, and it's in plain English," President Craigie said. "The legislation does not say that, it does not mean that. It's just not true!" She pointed to the League's recent "Clarity on Amateur Radio Parity" posting, which attempts to separate fact from fiction regarding the legislation. The "Clarity" document explains the bill and "addresses some of these statements that have no resemblance to anything that is factual in this or any other solar system," she said.

"The only authority that [homeowners associations] would lose is the ability to say, 'No, go away,'" said President Craigie. HOAs, she explained, would at least have to negotiate "reasonable accommodation," which would depend on the circumstances

existing in a given neighborhood.

She also said that the Parity Act does not represent any sort of federal government or FCC takeover or preemption of HOAs. "It does not take their authority to regulate away," she said. "It only takes away their authority to say 'no.' There's a big difference."

"The legislation does not even come close to what they are saying," agreed ARRL Roanoke Division Director Dr Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, who was interviewed with President Craigie at the Shelby Hamfest.

President Craigie said the proliferation of antenna-restricted communities could dramatically affect the ability of young newcomers to engage in and enjoy Amateur Radio. "A lot of people who are hams today got started as young folks, and it led them into careers; it led them into all kinds of interesting opportunities in their lives," she told Pearce. If a young person's parents buy into a deed-restricted neighborhood, however, any ham radio aspirations could be shut down, she said.

"We need to make sure that whatever community their parents decide to buy a house in, that [prospective newcomers] will be able to have some kind of a functioning antenna," President Craigie said. "Otherwise, our future has got a major crimp in it."

"The world will not come to an end if the HOAs actually have to sit down and communicate with the radio amateurs who live there," President Craigie concluded.

From *The ARRL Letter*, September 17, 2015

ARES/RACES Volunteers Activate for California Wildfires

Radio amateurs responded to the ongoing wildfire emergency in California. Earlier this month, ARES volunteers in Amador County supported communications at a Red Cross shelter at the Jackson Rancheria Conference Center, which has been housing evacuees from the Butte wildfire in Northern California. ARES/Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) volunteers were called out late on September 9. Amador County ARES Emergency Coordinator Daniel Edwards, KJ6WYW, had communications set up at the shelter by midnight and began contacting other ARES members and scheduling operators to work the shelter station 24 hours a day.

During the activation, members of Yolo County and Sacramento County ARES spelled the Amador County operators at the shelter. "This gave the Amador County members a break and for some time off to help their neighbors evacuate their positions," Sacramento Valley Section District 3 EC Greg Kruckewitt, KG6SJT, told ARRL.

Edwards said 20 operators took part in the activation, with two operators per shift. The station at the shelter was active for 120 hours.

Bill Gustavson, K6BIL, who took part in the Amador County ARES response, said that at one point, with cell phone, Internet, television, and landline down, "my only source of information was ham radio. The radio was the only outside link to the world. " He also said he was amazed to learn how many nonhams listen on scanners.

As some roads in the area reopened and evacuees were able to return home, Amador County ARES was released from supporting Red Cross shelter communication early on September 14. The Butte fire also extended into Calaveras County, in the ARRL San Joaquin Valley Section.

"The heart of our county is burned," Calaveras Amateur Radio Society President Ken Sanders, AE6LA, reported, with much of the area under mandatory or advisory evacuation alerts. "We've had an informal net going since the beginning on our 145.170 repeater," he said on September 14, adding that he expected that activity to continue "for several days."

Raging southeast of Sacramento in the Stanislaus National Forest region, the Butte Fire has consumed some 71,000 acres and was 49 percent contained as of September 17. The fire has destroyed more than 250 homes, and damage assessment continues.

Meanwhile, the 70,000+ acre Valley Fire west of Sacramento has destroyed nearly 600 homes as well as many other structures. ARRL Sacramento Valley Section Manager Ron Murdock, W6KJ, said Amateur Radio operators coordinated by Charlie Porter, N6JOA, at the University of California-Davis have been collecting veterinary supplies for evacuated domestic animals and livestock. "These will be transported to Petaluma and other unspecified locations in Sonoma County by members of the Class of 2017 Veterinary Sciences Department," he told ARRL.

From *The ARRL Letter*, September 17, 2015

IARU Monitoring System Reports Increased Russian Military Traffic on Ham Bands

The September edition of the IARU Region 1 Monitoring System (IARUMS) newsletter has reported that Russian Military traffic in the Amateur Radio 7 and 14 MHz bands increased during August. At least some of these intruders were likely to be audible in other parts of the world. Monitors in Europe reported a Russian over-the-horizon (OTH) radar in Gorodezh on 14.108 MHz, causing strong interference daily and often exhibiting splatter. In addition the Russian Navy was reported active frequently on 14.192.0 MHz using FM CW. Other monitoring stations in Germany reported numerous Chinese OTH radars in other bands, including on 75 meters.

Region 1 IARUMS Coordinator and veteran monitor Wolf Hadel, DK2OM, recently told the Rusk County Amateur Radio Club in East Texas that some of the worst offenders are OTH facilities in Russia and Iran. The signals can result in broad swaths of noise in the 20 meter band, he said. During his VoIP talk, Hadel pointed out that recruiting volunteer monitors with the "right equipment" is difficult, and he encouraged club members to join the hunt for ham band intruders.

According to Region 1 monitors, intruding signals said to be coming from Spanish fishing vessels have now been reported on all amateur bands -- shared and exclusive. A beacon, reported to be in Kazakhstan, has been transmitting "V" on 7027.5 kHz continuously. Apparent North Korean diplomatic traffic from the DPRK embassy in Moscow has been heard on 14.109.5 MHz.

Mario Taeubel, DG0JBJ, observed 31 OTH radars on 20 meters, 28 OTH radars on 15 meters, and 11 OTH radars on 10 meters during August. In addition, a Chinese OTH radar has often appeared on 80 meters in IARU Region 3.

Monitors in Europe also have monitored transmissions between taxi drivers and dispatchers on Amateur Radio frequencies, primarily on 10 meters.

The ARRL recently forwarded reports from IARU Region 2 and

Hawaii to R2 Monitoring System Coordinator Jorge Del Valle, TG9ADV. These included so-called drift net beacons on 10 meters (28.281 and 28.226 MHz), as well as digital, radar, and phone intruders heard on 20 meters in Hawaii.

Authorized by the IARU Administrative Council, IARU Monitoring System volunteers work under the guidance of the IARU International Monitoring System Coordinator and regional coordinators. The IARU Monitoring System operations are coordinated under the Monitoring System Committee.

From *The ARRL Letter*, September 24, 2015

China Successfully Launches Nine Amateur Radio Satellites

After a few postponements, nine Chinese satellites carrying Amateur Radio payloads were launched on September 19 at 2300 UTC, separating from the Long March (Chang Zheng 6) launch vehicle about 15 minutes later. Four of the microsatellites and two of the CubeSats included in the launch have been designated as XW-2A through XW-2F. The other three satellites -- a CubeSat, a nanosatellite, and a picosatellite -- carry the designations CAS-3G, CAS-3H (LilacSat-2), and CAS-3I (NUDT-Phone-Sat), respectively. All of the new satellites have 2 meter downlinks and 70 centimeter uplinks. Satellite enthusiasts have been enjoying the sudden surfeit of spacecraft to work.

"So many signals, so little time," observed Tennessee resident Alan Biddle, WA4SCA, on the AMSAT-BB. China Amateur Satellite Group CAMSAT CEO Alan Kung, BA1DU, told ARRL that the anticipated life of the satellite cluster is 3 years.

"Very good copy on CW beacons on [XW-2] A, B, C, D, E, F. Strong!" Clayton Coleman, W5PFG, reported from Texas. The nine satellites are in fairly close proximity in orbits about 310 miles up, and the AMSAT Online Satellite Pass Predictions page lists all under "XW-2."

Shortly after the launch, W5PFG and fellow Texan Glenn Miller, AA5PK, worked each other via CAS-3F. He reported the CW beacons were strong on all of the CAMSAT satellites. Special event stations commemorating the US visit of Pope Francis announced plans to be active on some XW-2 passes.

The CW beacons carry individual call signs for the satellites as well as telemetry in the form of three-character text groups and the word "CAMSAT." Text copied from XW-2A through XW2-F indicated call signs BJ1SB through BJ1SG, respectively.

The satellites have been heard around the world. "Good signals from CAS-3F at 0700 UTC," reported David Bowman, G0MRF, who was at the Rugby World Cup special event station GB0RWC. He reported contacts with SP5ULN and F1AFZ.

"The polarity shifts were challenging to keep up with, but other than that, signals were strong," reported Mark Hammond, N8MH, in North Carolina, after using the XW-2E transponder on a September 20 pass. "Congratulations to CAMSAT and everyone involved in these projects."

The 200 mW FM transponder on LilacSat-2 (CAS-3H; call sign BJ1SI) was activated on the evening of September 22, and users took advantage. The transponder test was expected to last less than 24 hours. Dave Swanson, KG5CCI, in Arkansas said in an AMSAT-BB post that he checked out LilacSat-2 "on a whim" about 10 minutes after the transponder was turned on, and found the downlink "very strong. " An updated frequency table and more information are on the LilacSat website http://lilacsat.hit.edu.cn/?page_id=257.

The IARU was only able to coordinate operating frequencies for XW-2D and XW-2E, and the other seven satellites in the recent launch apparently will not be eligible for traditional OSCAR numbers. Information on the just-launched CAMSAT satellites is available on the ARRL website http://www.arrl.org/files/media/News/XW-2CAS-3%20Sats.pdf. XW2 predictions are available on the AMSAT website http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/tools/predict/index.php. In addition to the Chinese satellites, the Brazilian Serpens satellite, launched on September 17 from the ISS, has been heard.

The FCC is Now Paperless!

The ARRL VEC is reminding Amateur Radio license applicants that the FCC no longer routinely prints or mails license documents. In an effort to streamline its procedures and save money, the FCC went "paperless" in February 2015.

"Customer contact with the VEC has tripled since this change, as many amateurs have not heard of the change or do not understand the FCC procedures for obtaining a license copy," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. She said the most frequently asked question comes from Universal Licensing System users who have applied for renewal or modification, but then think the transaction was not completed because they did not get a new copy of their license in the mail.

"Once we look up the info, our answer is nearly always that the requested transaction actually was completed and appears in the FCC database, but they won't be getting a copy of the updated license in the mail," Somma said. Less frequently, her department hears from exam applicants who ask why they did not receive a copy of their license after they passed the test.

To help clarify things, Somma has created a web page, How to Obtain an Official FCC License Copy, http://www.arrl.org/obtain-license-copy, devoted to explaining the various ways a licensee can get an official license document from the FCC. An official license displays the FCC logo and the "Official Copy" watermark across each page. A printer-friendly version of the instructions is available on the ARRL website http://www.arrl.org/files/file/VEs/Obtain%20License%20Copy%202015.pdf.

Somma said the easiest way for a license holder to obtain a license copy is to call the FCC at (877) 480-3201.

Licensees can also download and print their own official license copy by logging into the Universal Licensing System (ULS) using their FCC Registration Number (FRN) and password, then clicking on "Download Electronic Authorizations" in the menu on the left, http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/. The ULS has also added a green informational banner that says, "Change your paper authorization preferences here, or download your official electronic authorizations now." Somma points out that the green banner is only temporary, and it eventually will go away.

At least for now, though, clicking the "here" hyperlink will take you to the "Paper Authorization Preferences" page. To continue receiving paper license documents, click "Yes." Clicking the "now" hyperlink will take you to the "Download Authorizations" page.

On the "Download Authorizations" page, scroll down to the "Filter by Radio Service" box (remember, the ULS is not just for the

Amateur Service). First, highlight your call sign and then click "ADD>" to put your call sign into the "Authorizations to Download" column. Scroll down a little further and click "DOWNLOAD>" to create an official FCC license PDF document that can be saved or printed.

When modifying, renewing, or requesting a duplicate license copy, a licensee who already has an FCC Registration Number (FRN) and provides a valid e-mail address under "Applicant Information" while logged into the ULS system will receive an official ULS-generated electronic authorization via e-mail.

All Amateur Radio exam applicants should include a valid e-mail address on their NCVEC 605 form, in order to receive a copy of their license electronically.

Club Station News

Our station was open on Saturday sept 26th, Lou WA6QYS and I had fun chasing DX and special event stations. We worked E6GG on NIUE IS. and K3P special event for Pope Francis.

We also worked 3 stations we need for our WAS award. WQ9H in Indiana, W0RT in Kansas and WB2XVP in New York. We are planing on operating the ARRL Sweepstakes at our club station, Nov. 7th for CW and Nov. 21st for SSB.

73 Don Village K6PBQ

December Meeting

Our annual holiday meeting will be a luncheon on Saturday December 12th at 12:00 noon. This year our luncheon will be at Michael's at Shoreline 2960 North Shoreline Blvd in Mt. View, (east on Shoreline next to the golf course).

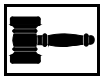
We will also be having a gift exchange. The way it works is that everyone brings a wrapped gift suitable for a man or women costing about $10.00. This type of exchange is always a lot of fun to participate in.

Reservation need to be in by Monday Dec. 7th (see the sign up sheet). Talk in will be on our repeater, W6UU 146.985(+). Why not renew your membership at the same time? I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there.

73, Don Villlage K6PBQ

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Sept. 14, 2015



KAISER SANTA CLARA, HOSPITAL ROOM B-06

President Fred Townsend AE6QL opened the meeting at 19:38. Introductions were made around the room.

Announcements: 1) Gregg KF6FNA will be planning an antenna party to install a rotor on the Beam antenna at the Red Cross. See him at break if you would like to help. 2) Wally KA6YMD said that SCCARA'S REPEATER will be used for the 16 hour URBAN SHIELD exercise. Please note that it will be running a a closed Net for the exercise. 3) Don K6PBQ will have the CLUB STATION at the Red Cross open an Sat., Sept. 26. He also reminded us that the Holiday Luncheon will be on Dec. 12 at noon and that it will have a $10 GIFT EXCHANGE. 4)Lou WA6QYS announced the Sat. Oct. 24 SVECS BREAKFAST at the Santa Clara Senior Center in Santa Clara. There will be an all you can eat $5 breakfast at 09:00 and presentation at 10:00. The speakers will be from the South County Pilot's Association. 5) Lou also advised that we check the ASVARO WEBSITE to see of there will be an Oct. Flea Market at De Anza College. 6) Fred AE6QL thanked Gregg for his work on the SCCARA PICNIC and Rusty for showing up early to cook breakfast. 7) Fred also announced that he would be out of town for 2 weeks.

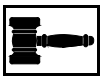
SPEAKER: Vice President Gregg Lane KF6FNA introduced JIM EAGLESON WB6JNN.
TOPIC: Using the RIGOL DSA815-TG SPECTRUM ANALISER FOR HAM RADIO HF/UHF/VHF TESTING AND EVALUATION. Jim also brought his YUESU FT-991 HF/VHF/UHF transceiver for demonstration.

Much of Jim's program can be seen at www.youtube/jimeagle1. Jim is listed on qrz.com.

Jim finished at 20:45 and the meeting was adjourned for refreshments.

Gregg Lane KF6FNA Secretary

Board Meeting, Sept. 21, 2015



Red Cross Building, 2731 N. 1st. St., San Jose, Ca. status: unreviewed

The SCCARA BOARD MEETING was called to order by Vice President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 19:47.

Attendance: Vice President / Secretary Gregg Lane KF6FNA; Treasurer Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Trustee Don Village K6PBQ; Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Wally Britten KA6YMD, Lloyd DeVaughns KD6FJI, Richard Clare WB6EWM. Excused absences: President Fred Townsend AE6QL and Director Clark Murphy KE6KXO. Guest: Gwen Steirer KF6OTD.

Announcements: 1) Pacificon , October 16-18 at the San Ramon Marriott. 2) SCCARA ELECTION NOMINATIONS OCTOBER 12, 2015. 3) SCCARA ELECTIONS NOVEMBER 9, 2015. 4) SCCARA HOLIDAY LUNCHEON DECEMBER 12, 2015 at MICHEALS, SHORELINE.

Secretary's Report: Richard moved to accept the Aug. Minutes as printed in the SCCARA-GRAM. Second by Lou. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Goetz submitted an Account Balance Sheet as of 9/21/15. Checking = $7,090.48, Savings = 500.07, Cash = 311.42, TOTAL = $7,901.97. Lou was reimbursed $69.62 for picnic expenses. Goetz has a rotor donated to SCCARA by PAARA and will drop it off at Clark's to be checked out before putting it up at the Red Cross.

Trustee's Report: 1) The CLUB STATION will be open Saturday, Sept. 26 at noon. 2) The HOLLIDAY LUNCHEON will have a GIFT EXCHANGE. 3) Herman DeKruyff KI6ETZ is recuperating at Valley House but should be going home this week and will be at the next meeting.

Vice President's Report: 1) The October Meeting will include SCCARA ELECTION NOMINATIONS for 2016. 2) After the

new rotor is checked out there will be an antenna party to install it. Volunteers were Wally, Richard, Lou, Goetz and Gregg.

Repeater Report: 1) The phone line is still down at the Eagle Rock Repeater. 2) A request was made that testing on the repeaters not be done between 2300 and 0600 hours since some members monitor the repeater 24/7 and don't want to be kept awake by testing.

Flea Market Report: Check the ASVARO WEBSITE after Oct. 1 to see if there will be an Oct. Flea Market at De Anza. (asvaro.org)

The meeting was adjourned at 20:24.

Gregg Lane, KF6FNA, Secretary

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

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Date: 25 Jun 2010 03:05
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Digging For Worms

My daughter-in-law Alma and grandson Eddy were digging for fishing bait in my garden. Uncovering a many-legged creature, Eddy proudly dangled it before his mother.

"No, honey, he won't do for bait," his mother said. "He's not an earthworm."

"He's not?" Eddy asked, his eyes wide. "What planet is he from?"

==========
Date: 25 Sep 2010 01:44
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: HAIR LINE

What do you call 10 rabbits walking backwards?

A receding hair line.

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.

Topics:
Antennas, feed-lines, tuners: NV6W, W6JPP, K6PBQ
Lightning protection, grounding: WB6YRU
Station set-up, equipment: K6PBQ, W6JPP
TVI/RFI: WB6YRU
Homebrew projects, construction: WB6YRU
Packet Network (BBS, forwarding): WB6YRU
Code operating and installations: NV6W, K6PBQ
DX (long distance/propagation): NV6W
Emergency operating/preparedness: WA6QYS
HF operating techniques (SSB, CW): NV6W, K6PBQ
Legal/FCC rules: WB6YRU
SCCARA (club inner workings): K6PBQ, WB6YRU, WA6QYS
EchoLink: KK6MX
License testing, new amateurs: W6JPP

Contacts:
NV6W, James D. Armstrong, Jr.,
evening & msg: 408-670-1680

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

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

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

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

WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, 408-269-2924
packet: home BBS N0ARY
e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com

December Meeting Sign-up

Our annual December meeting will be a luncheon on Saturday December 12th at 12 noon. This year our luncheon will be at Michael's at Shoreline.2960 North Shoreline Blvd in Mountain View. You have a choice of three entrees, $25.00 each. We need your reservations (this form) no later than Monday Dec 7th. I hope to see you all there! 73, Don Village K6PBQ

For the annual meeting in December, sign me up for the following lunch(es) at $25.00 each:

____Roast beef English cut ____Chicken Florentine ____Broiled Salmon

Name:_____ Call:_____ Total for lunch(es): $_____

Give this form (or copy) with payment to the treasurer, or mail to: SCCARA , PO Box 106, San Jose CA 95103-0106

SCCARA
Santa **C**lara **C**ounty **A**mateur **R**adio **A**ssociation
PO Box 106
SAN JOSE CA 95103-0106

FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SCCARA Membership Form for 2015

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: _____

You'll get a short e-mail notice each month letting you know a new SCCARA-GRAM (pdf) is ready for download.

Memberships start January 1 and expire December 31. Annual dues are: **$20 Individual $25 Family $10 Student** (under 18)
For family memberships (members at the same address), please include the above info for each member, (use separate forms).

New members:
If joining in January: normal dues
If joining in February through October: dues x (11 - month) x 10% (e.g. for July, that's: $20 x 4 x 0.1, which is $8)
If joining in November or December: normal dues. That's for next year, and the rest of this year is included free

☐ **I want the newsletter on paper delivered by U.S. Mail** for an additional $30 per year, prorated ($2.50 per month).
So that's $27.50 if starting in February, $25 if starting in March, $22.50 if starting in April, $20 starting in May, etc.

$ _____ Total membership payment for: ☐ individual ☐ family ☐ student

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

Rev. 02/28/2015