

RCARA Questionnaire Results

The compilation of the Club Member Questionnaires that were returned is shown on the next few pages. It is in the order the questions were presented. All additional comments were included. They are the participant's comments and do NOT reflect any position of the Club as a whole. Not all questions were answered. I think you will find it interesting.
Bob Wade – W6RTW

- What kind of Programs do you like?
 - Don't like Programs – **0 responses**
 - Ham Radio Operations – **16 responses**
 - Technical subjects – **13 responses**
 - Construction projects – **13 responses**
 - Contesting – **7 responses**
 - Club Member Presentations – **16 responses**
 - Outside Guest Presentations – **16 responses**
 - Equipment Presentations – **17 responses**
 - Other (please specify)
 - Ragchewing**
 - Don't Like DX-Peditions**
 - “How-To”, i.e. operation in different modes, and safely putting together a new / expanded Ham Shack. ATV, Satellite, IRLP, Echolink. Not, that our Condo's Owner's Association would allow an antenna farm to grow on our townhouse. Or, that I have the budget to build a Ham Shack to encompass these capabilities.**
 - Antennas, Station Control and Computer control of local and remote stations.**

- What do you like MOST about the Club? (please specify)
 - Most of its members are located locally**
 - Old Friends**
 - Getting together and talking Radio**
 - Camaraderie**
 - Educational Programs**
 - Opportunity to exchange information re: Amateur Radio**
 - The cooperative attitude of the members when called on for help**
 - Talks by Arlo are always a hit**
 - Historical talks – display of old rigs is great**
 - Emergency Communications type programs - Talks of past disasters and suggested equipment.**
 - Field operations like the 80 Meter balloon test. Would like to try that on 160 Meters someday.**
 - A very nice sounding Repeater and autopatch**
 - Being a ‘nuts and bolts’ kind of builder guy personality, I like the presentations that not only show WHAT someone has done, but especially ‘HOW’. That way if I have interest in doing the same thing or if it solves a problem, then the information would present a solution or a way to accomplish something. This thing I do not like is when I ask a question about the HOW and the response is ‘you can do anything you want to’. That response is useless. If the presenter does not know the answer, then they should say so and offer a resource to research for resolution for ex. A prime example of this is when a question is asked and the presenter says ‘just GOOGLE it’. This is the modern response for the same thing. Usually, if I have a problem or question, I have already GOOGLE'd it. Or if not, I already know I can do that. (Oh well).**
 - Learning more about the hobby. Listening to the “war stories” of long-time hams, be they about Amateur Radio or other subjects, relating to technology or otherwise.**

Motivating me to get out of bed, and doing something productive, instead of dwelling on my Chronic Pain and PTSD symptoms.

- What do you *dislike* MOST about the Club? (please specify)
 - Lack of participation on the Club Repeater
 - Meeting should end by 9 PM. Sometimes we get carried away with Club Business and discussion when we have guest speakers.
 - Some of the contesting/dx-pedition programs are too long and boring to me. (I have no interest in that area)
 - Club Apathy
 - Over-bearing Members (their way or the highway) Don't play well with others.
 - Long drawn-out meetings
 - I'm not into the purely social activities but I realize it is important to others.
 - Need younger members
 - Need more members
 - Nothing
 - The lack of personal participation by club members in recruiting new members and club activities.
 - I am not sure how useful "Show and Tell" is, when an experienced member shows off an overly simple device, newly constructed at home, just to be showing it off. A "J-pole" comes to mind. When that project is not a stretch of their previous capability. Unless giving a useful presentation, teaching "newbies" like myself, how to construct a similar item for our own shacks.
 - When a request for supporting a volunteer event is made and I 'sign up' to help, then they don't use my services and still say 'we need operators, we don't have enough.'
 - A few years ago I helped out with communications for a run/walk for diabetes and really enjoyed doing that. Another event came up and I wanted to do that again so when they said 'we need operators' and if interested contact us, I did. I talked to them at the club meeting, I called them on the phone and told them, I talked to them on the repeater, I signed up the signup sheet, and I sent them an email. 5 different times and ways to let them know I wanted to help out. They did not use my services, AND continued to say 'we need operators'. So that is why I do not help out anymore. I want to help out and do communications!

- Do you like or want to participate in contests?
 - Yes – **10 responses**
 - No – **6 responses**
 - One undecided**

- Do you like the Club's Field Day?
 - Yes – **14 responses**
 - No – **1 responses**
 - I have yet to attend. Too new to Club
 - It's OK
 - Yes and No. We had an issue a few years ago.

- Should the Club continue to participate in Field Day?
 - Yes – **17 responses**
 - Change the format to encourage more members to come out and operate for at least one hour, recruit a Boy Scout troop, Girl Scout troop or youth group to help participate, maybe even take over one station.
 - No – **0 responses**

- Should we continue to have the door prize raffle at meetings?
 - Yes – **11 responses**
 - No – **7 responses**

Maybe - I think door prizes should be something useful, relating to Amateur Radio, that a member might not have. Electrical tape *does not* fall under this category. Unique and / or “hard to find” memorabilia, pertaining to the hobby, such as an interesting world time clock, would qualify.

- Should we have refreshments at the meetings?
 - No – **2 responses**
 - Yes – **13 responses**
 - Coffee – **10 responses**
 - Soda – **8 responses**
 - Water – **10 responses**
 - Cookies – **11 responses**
 - Cake/Muffins/Breads – **4 responses**
But lots of work for someone
 - Other (please specify)
Not important to me but might be to others
Ask people too donate 50 cents per drink!
Doughnuts
I do not have a strong opinion, one way or the other. I usually hit a drive-thru for something to drink, on my way to the meeting.

- Do you think having the “Kitty” can for refreshment money donations is a good idea?
 - Yes – **19 responses**
 - No – **1 responses**

- Would you be interested in meeting at a local restaurant before the meeting for fellowship, eating and beverage?
 - Yes – **10 responses**
Depends on my schedule
Occasionally
 - No – **3 responses**
After the Meeting

- Do you enjoy reading the Monitor?
 - Yes – **14 responses**
 - No – **2 responses**
I have not yet had an opportunity, to get around to reading it. Emphasis on “yet”.
My Amateur Radio reading is geared more to educational material, right now.
Studying for the Element 1 & 3 Tests. Learning more about Operating, and
Emergency Communications, generally.

- Do you use the W6TJ Repeater?
 - Yes – **14 responses (rarely, sometimes)**
 - No – **3 responses**

- Do you feel the W6TJ Repeater is an important feature of the Club?
 - Yes – **17 responses**
If not for the Repeater, I would not be a Member
It gives new hams, mostly with a Technician class license a way to learn to operate,
participate in Nets, etc. It also gives us a link with the Riverside County which
helps promote the club, its RACES members, public service, etc. *Side note: I*
have taken several emergency calls over W6TJ and relayed them to the proper

officials, one just two weeks ago for a ham reporting a person having a seizure at a store in Moreno Valley.

- No – **1 responses**
- Would you support upgrading the W6TJ Repeater if necessary or needed?
 - Yes – **18 responses**

Yes, but it seems unnecessary since very few members use it as you have observed in the past.
I will help do so.
When it is needed or when we would like to upgrade the controller to add more features. I really think we need to expand the club member base to find members (younger) who would use it to support a controller upgrade just for more features and modern controls.
 - No – **0 responses**
- Should Dues remain the same, increase or decrease?
 - Remain the same – **12 responses**

Remain the same, until we have a need to increase and then I whole-heartedly support and increase. An increase should be tied to needing to expend money for a purpose supported by the membership, repeater or component replacement, repeater upgrade, continuing or rising cost to mail the monitor to those not having computers, some supported public purpose, etc. We might want a two tiered system that keeps dues low for older members when they are raised.
 - Increase – **6 responses**

How Much **\$24/yr, \$1 or \$2, \$5, \$5, \$10**
Depending on resources, I would support an increase with a 2 or 3 year sunset clause to set aside funds that will be needed to replace or upgrade the repeater.
Adjust as necessary. Not a problem for me but is it for others? Are we missing members because they can't afford dues? If so, can we do something about it?
 - Decrease – **0 responses**

Other – What, there are dues?
- What direction would you like to see the Club Leadership take?
 - Increase Membership – **13 responses**
 - Offer new Ham Radio classes – **11 responses**
 - Bring younger members into the Club – **12 responses**
 - Approach Schools to have after-school Ham Radio programs – **7 responses**
 - Other (please specify)

More involvement in local community activities
Emergency Preparedness
All of the above. I would temper that we would need to be prepared to operate a separate meeting, program and time to make it interesting for the youth.
Maybe occasionally bring both together to have a competition between the youth and the legacy (older) members.
- Would you participate in weekend Club field trips?
 - Yes – **11 responses**

Once or twice a year
Maybe
It would be great to go to the mountains or desert once or twice a year to operate from a new and quiet environment.
 - No – **3 responses**

- Would you like to participate in RACES events?
 - Yes – **10 responses**
We could encourage our members to create our own practice exercises, possibly in conjunction with the above.
 - No – **2 responses**
Maybe

- Are you a RACES member?
 - Yes – **9 responses (1 LA County)**
A participating member, not just on their operator list!
 - No – **5 responses**
 - I would like to be a RACES Member – **2 responses**
For Riverside County
Maybe – Need more info. What is commitment?
 - I would like my RACES Membership canceled – **0 responses**

- Do you attend Ham Radio swap meets?
 - Yes – **7 responses**
Once a year
 - No – **9 responses**
I would like to share rides if I knew who was going
Maybe in future
They are usually on Saturday and I am in Church

- Would you like to be an Elmer?
 - Yes – **5 responses**
Expertise in: Repeater design, Mobile installations, RACES, UHF, Internet Linking, Motorola mods for Ham band use, solar power and quick portable setup of field stations; working on QRP kit and skills, Radio Control Aircraft
 - No – **8 responses**
I need one!
Don't feel I have the skills
Except on a personal level with friends or relatives
My level and areas of expertise are not exactly relevant to the Amateur Radio hobby.

- Would you like to be contacted by an Elmer?
 - Yes – **4 responses**
 - For what kind of help? Code practice, Antennas, How to operate a 706, Upgrade to Extra, Finding my feet with both hands and a flashlight
 - No – **14 responses**
I have enough friends to help me

- Do you like electronic construction projects?
 - Yes – **13 responses**
With lots of help
Have modified older Motorola commercial radios to work in Ham bands, built low power APRS two way radio and interface, QRP tuner, QRP 40 meter transceiver and working on multi-band QPR transceiver.
I have never really undertaken a “real” electronic construction project, but I would like to learn.
 - No – **4 responses**

- Would you participate in Club electronic construction projects?

- Yes – **11 responses**
If there is a particular goal to achieve.
- No – **5 responses**
- Can you operate CW?
 - Yes – **12 responses**
Rusty
Very Slowly
Not well, about 10 wpm, need practice
I'm slow and need a crib sheet
I'm the best fist anywhere!
 - No – **3 responses**
 - I would like to learn CW – **2 responses**
- Do you want to upgrade your license class?
 - No – **8 responses**
 - Yes – to Technician Plus – **0 responses**
 - Yes – to General – **4 responses**
 - Yes – to Extra – **5 responses**
I am willing to help with classes for Technician and General.
- Do you belong to other Radio Clubs or Associations?
 - No – **2 responses**
 - Yes – QCWA – Local Chapter – **7 responses**
 - Yes – QCWA – National Association – **3 responses**
 - Yes – ARRL – **14 responses (3 life members)**
 - Yes – Southern California Contest Club – **2 responses**
 - Yes – Southern California DX Club – **2 responses**
 - Yes – Other local radio Club(s) – **3 responses**
 - Yes – Other “Out of State” Club(s) – **2 responses**
 - Yes – Other (please specify)
RACES
ARES
East County Repeater Association – San Diego
- What are your Ham Radio operational capabilities?
 - VHF – FM – **15 responses**
 - VHF – All Mode – **6 responses**
 - 6 Meters - FM – **6 responses**
 - 6 Meters – All Mode – **4 responses**
 - HF – 80 Meters through 10 Meters – **11 responses**
 - HF – 160 Meters – **3 responses**
 - Mobile VHF – **9 responses**
 - Mobile HF – **3 responses**
 - Digital Modes – **3 responses**
 - Packet – **2 responses**
 - Fast Scan TV – **3 responses**
 - IRLP – **2 responses**
 - Echolink – **4 responses**
 - Other (please specify)
UHF Base & Mobile
UHF FM, soon 10 Meters

- Can you fix your own radio equipment?
 - Yes – **5 responses**
 Minor problems
 Sometimes if I can, don't like to send it in
 - No – **4 responses**
 - Probably Not – **5 responses**

- Does the inside of your radio equipment scare you?
 - Yes – **6 responses**
 The new Yaesu's do
 Well, yes more or less
 I have an FCC Commercial license (GROL) but would not attempt to work on my FT-1000 Field, no way!
 - No – **9 responses**
 Not the old boat anchors
 Doesn't everyone take a look inside although they may wait longer on a newly purchased rig or equipment!
 - Don't know. Never been in there. – **2 responses**

- Do you have any other hobbies?
 - No – **1 responses**
 - Yes – Radio Control Cars/Planes – **3 responses**
 - Yes – Photography – **6 responses**
 Slight
 - Yes – Computer Programming – **3 responses**
 - Yes – Other (please specify)
 - Bicycling
 - Music
 - Dog Training
 - NRA Stuff
 - Drag Racing
 - Weather Spotter – NWS San Diego
 - Animal Protection Advocate
 - Aviation
 - Emergency Training
 - Woodworking
 - Boy Scouts
 - Coin Collecting
 - Flying
 - Snorkeling
 - Computers and tinkering with the internet
 - On road and adventuring motorcycle touring to out of the way places, roads, or lack thereof, trailer travel, hiking, mountain climbing, backpacking.

- Do you enjoy pot luck (food) meetings?
 - Yes – **10 responses**
 - No – **5 responses**

- Should we continue the annual August pot luck meeting?
 - Yes – **11 responses**
 If others would like
 Don't restrict only to August
 - No – **3 responses**
 Pot Luck per se, no. Restaurant meetings / restaurant food, yes. But I am strange that way. I am in the minority, as that thing goes.

- Should we continue to have a Christmas/Holiday December meeting?
 - Yes – **14 responses**
 Not at Hometown Buffet, no all you can eat places, a nice sit-down restaurant
 - No – **0 responses**

- Should we continue to have our meetings?
 - No – **0 responses**
 - Yes – Monthly (as it is now) – **19 responses**
 - Yes – Bi Monthly (once every 2 months) – **0 responses**
 - Yes – Quarterly (once every 3 months) – **0 responses**
 - Yes – Tri-annually (once every 4 months) – **0 responses**
 - Yes – Bi-annually (twice per year) – **0 responses**
 - Yes – Annually. (once per year) – **0 responses**

- Do you want to have an annual Club picnic?
 - Yes – **11 responses**
 Not for me but others might enjoy
 Combined with the August Pot luck.
 - No – **2 responses**
 Undecided – **2 responses**

- Would you participate in an HF/VHF operation held occasionally at a local park?
 - Yes – **12 responses**
 - No – **3 responses**

- Do you want to participate in Radio Finding?
 - No – **10 responses**
 - Yes – Radio Orienteering – **3 responses**
 - Yes – Mobile Transmitter Hunts – **5 responses**
 Undecided - Conducting RDF, as a practical application, has appeal. Such as locating unlawful sources of interference, such as “Pirate” transmissions and “Numbers” stations. I like my comfort, as opposed to hiking all over hill and dale.

- Should we offer for sale?
 - Nothing – **3 responses**
 Do we need the \$?
 - Club Hats – **8 responses**
 - Club Jackets – **9 responses**
 Our last vendor (Ken’s Sporting Goods in Norco) was charging about \$40 with a minimum order (10?).
 - Club Coffee Mugs – **4 responses**
 - Other (please specify)
 Polo Shirts
 Old Ham Gear
 Badges – OK
 T-Shirts, Golf Shirts
 I would support this but I would prefer a nice quality hat or jacket with style, not the cheapest we can find and that might not be supported, say \$15 or so for a hat (wool preferably) and \$50+ for a jacket; also consider a reflective zest with the club name and/or logo or a specialty vest with pockets front and rear for equipment, batteries, etc.

- Would you attend a Club Campout weekend at a local Campground?
 - Yes – **5 responses**
 - No – **10 responses**

- Would you teach some kind of Ham Radio Class?
 - Yes – **5 responses**
 - What type?
 - FM & Repeaters
 - Very elementary
 - Very limited skills but have no problem speaking to a group
 - Radio Theory
 - Morse Code
 - Theory, math, whatever is needed but as part of a team of instructors.
 - No – **12 responses**

- Do you think Club meetings should be mostly:
 - Social – **6 responses**
 - Business – **4 responses**
 - Entertaining Programs – **14 responses**
 - Technical Subjects – **16 responses**
 - Contesting Information – **8 responses**
 - Other (please specify)
 - Ham Radio Fun
 - Educational
 - I would be interested in seeing if there was a better way to handle some club meeting activity, announcements, past activities, future activities, so we would have sufficient time for programs or technical subjects

Please add any other information regarding the Club.

1 - Taking the Membership's opinions with this questionnaire is an excellent idea. I wish other Clubs did this. I would like the Club's Repeater Autopatch calling area expanded to include Calimesa which is in Area Code 909.

2 - I think the Board members should participate more on the Monday night net – be placed at the top of the roll call and give any reports such as new members that joined, etc.

3 - Starting the meetings at 7:00 PM would be better for me.

4 - I would like to see more visits from the ARRL SW Division folks and have updates on what is going on.

5 - Club meeting start time recommended 1900 – adjourn at 2100 hours sharp.

6 - Have the annual Club Picnic occur on Field Day in June.

7 - To be blunt, participants in the Amateur Radio hobby are a dying breed. At one end of the spectrum, some uninformed people in government would shut down Amateur Radio as a National Security risk. At the opposite end of the spectrum, Hams are literally dying off. We have a duty to protect the hobby, by promoting, recruiting and educating the next generation of Amateur Radio operators and enthusiasts.

8 - Long-time hams, can share both their knowledge and their experiences, giving presentations during Club Meetings on the History of Amateur Radio, with their unique first-hand knowledge. Before their knowledge and experiences are lost forever. Those of us who are younger and more mobile, can take advantage of the opportunities to go out amongst the next generation, with presentations and exhibits on those aspects of Amateur Radio, that can attract and hold the interest of kids from the internet, cell phone and Play station generation. Fighting high-tech with high-tech, using Amateur TV, satellite radio, packet radio, etc.

9 - Just as kids are learning to build their own computers, or at least upgrade the components they already have. Demonstrations can show kids how it is possible for them to build their own Amateur Radio equipment. Young adults who are trying to figure out what to do for the rest of

their lives, can be shown how to use Amateur Radio as an entrée into a career in Electronics, Communications or Broadcasting.

10 - I hope we can get more of the young generation into amateur radio. Toward that end, I'm hoping we can do more with the W6TJ repeater by adding such features as internet linking to amuse those potential and possibly current hams who feel the internet is the only way to communicate and sounds better.

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