

SCARC News November 2009

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the SCARC Committee. Any comments should be addressed to the secretary@scarc.org.au

How to Spot a Scam [Web Williams \(KR4WM\)](#) on October 6, 2009

The current scammers who frequent eHam, QRZ, and other websites tend to use "form" messages which are easily recognized. Looking at a number of posts to the SCAM section of eHam's classified ad section, it looks like many are being caught before any damage occurs, but it makes me wonder how many hams ARE being scammed and won't admit it!

Things to look for in a SCAM:

1. The buyer asks information about your "item" for sale. The reason they do this is that they send out dozens of e-mails, and it's easier for them to use a word they're familiar with. Because we sell technical equipment, they really have no idea what it is you're selling, and they really don't care. They're just here to bait and scam you. So they tend to use the word "item" to generically describe what it is you're selling.
2. With no variance, they tell you that their "shipper will be coming to pick up the item". They really don't want what it is you're selling anyhow, they just want you to send them the balance that they supposedly overpaid.
3. They ALWAYS want to send you an over-payment, and want you to send them or their "shipper" the difference via Western Union.
4. They usually want to pay you with a Western Union money order. Beware that a large number of these were STOLEN in Europe and never recovered, so what you receive may indeed look like a genuine Western Union money order because it IS. Plus, anyone that has access to a laser printer and magnetic ink can print their own real-looking checks at will. These scammers depend on your bank taking more than a couple of days to discover that the money order is a fake. By the time you've sent them the money, your bank is just learning that the check is fake! After several days, it's time for your bank to ding your bank account for the amount of the bad check. You'll never hear from the scammer again, and by the way, just in case you haven't realized it by now, there is no "shipper" coming by to pick up what you were selling!
5. If you really think you have a genuine money order that is not one of these fakes, tell your bank teller that you're suspicious, and you want them to confirm exactly how many days it takes for it to totally and completely clear with no recourse to you if it turns out to be bad. Get it in writing.
6. Scammers almost always tell you to put a hold on the "item" and ask you to tell all other interested buyers that whatever it is has been sold. My guess is that this is supposed to make the target feel more comfortable and at ease.
7. A lot of times, they will ask if everything concerning the transaction is "understood". I think they say this just to confuse you and make you think they're a sharp and shrewd business person.

8. They sometimes ask for your "last price".

I'm of the mindset that there is someone training these scammers to do this, or quite possibly, there is some type of "scammers guide book" that they can take pre-written messages from to use in scamming folks. The best practice to combat these scammers is to REFUSE to sell to anyone outside the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii. The great majority of these scammers seem to be in either Great Britain or Nigeria, but I have seen some scams originating in Canada as well. I can understand them coming from a corrupt country like Nigeria, but I fail to understand why Great Britain doesn't cooperate with the international community and put a halt to these scammers who are based there. If your scammer is in Nigeria, don't hesitate to call him (or her) a MUGU, which is derogatory Nigerian slang for SCAMMER.

If you feel so inclined, it's great fun playing "scam the scammer"! See if you can get them to send you the fake money order so you can frame it and hang it on your wall! It costs them postage and time to get it to you, and you can feel content in the knowledge that you took a fake or stolen money order off the street! When they pretend to be all mad that you didn't send them the money, let them know that you knew about their little game from the beginning, and have already turned them in to the U.S. Postal Service for mail fraud!

-KR4WM *[although US in origin the same scams are practiced here]*

Military radiolocation system to operate on 70 cm *[QRZ.com 8 Oct 2009]*

As described in Schedule I of RBR-4, amateur usage of the 430-450 MHz (70 cm) band is on a no-protection, non-interference basis. Amateurs may not cause interference to nor be protected from interference from stations licensed in other services operating in that band. The same is true in the United States, and amateur operations on this band in a number of areas of the United States have power limits imposed on them in order to avoid interference to radiolocation services operated by the US military.

Industry Canada has informed **Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC)** that it has authorized the Department of National Defence to use a digital system called ***Enhanced Position Location Reporting System (EPLRS)*** on these frequencies. The EPLRS system consists of mobile, fixed, transportable and airborne stations that use 5 MHz-wide spread spectrum channels to provide strategic telemetry information for military platforms. This authorization is on a no-protection, non-interference basis, which means that no new restrictions will be imposed on Canadian amateur operations in this band as a result.

Industry Canada has informed RAC that there is a slight potential for interference to amateur radio systems, typically in the form of a minor audible clicking noise. If Canadian amateurs encounter such interference, they are requested to report it to RAC at *regulatory @ rac.ca*. The information reported should include the geographical location, date, time, frequency and mode being used by the amateur station, and a description of the interference. Questions or concerns regarding the planned implementation of EPLRS may be sent to *regulatory @ rac.ca*. **Richard Ferch, VE3KI**

Vice President Regulatory Affairs Radio Amateurs of Canada

Change of Address

Dean VK5HOG Secretary of the Port Adelaide Radio Club has advised that they have changed address to St Patrick's Reserve, Melbourne Place, Alberton.

SumbandilaSat - further tests required

Initial attempts to activate the Amateur Radio payload on **SumbandilaSat** on Wednesday October 14 were unsuccessful, further tests will be scheduled. A bulletin on the Southern African Amateur Radio Satellite Association website says: SumbandilaSat failed to switch on the amateur radio payload during the first test. Sunspace will be looking at the possible cause and reschedule further tests. Stay tuned!

Southern African Amateur Radio Satellite Association
(SA AMSAT)

<http://www.amsatsa.org.za/>

Sumbandila Mission Blog

<http://sumbandilamission.blogspot.com/>

SumbandilaSat - N2YO Real-Time Satellite Tracking

<http://www.n2yo.com/?s=35870>

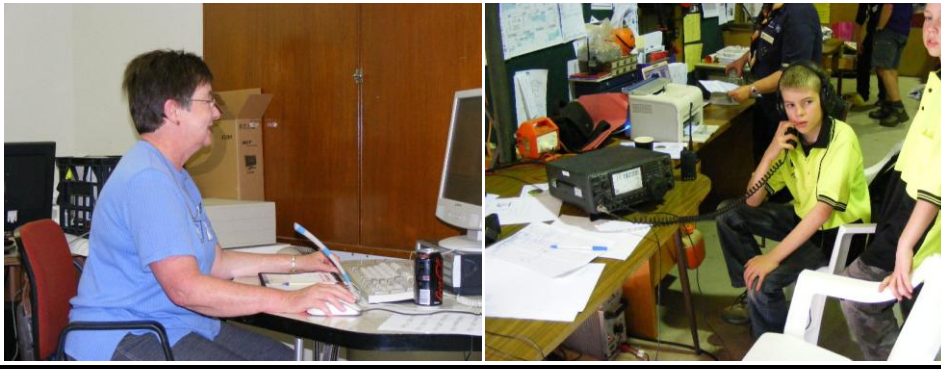
SumbandilaSat Amateur payload to be tested

http://www.southgatearc.org/news/october2009/sumbandilasat_amateur_payload_to_be_tested.htm

JOTA

Many thanks to the SCARC members Barry VK5KBJ, John VK5FTCT, Morgan VK5MMM, Stef, VK5HSX, Jim VK5JST/TR and Shirley VK5YL [Jim's XYL] , Alan VK5FADP, Phil VK5FILL and Trish VK5FGDY who assisted at the recent JOTA weekend. Your assistance made a great difference to the successful event as it gave many young people an insight into our hobby. See photos below: the 2 lads in yellow shirts are having a QSO with VK0BP in Antarctica. *[photos courtesy of Barry VK5KBJ]*





2009 Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Club is to be held Wednesday 25th November at 7.45pm sharp. All office-holder positions are declared vacant at the meeting and elections held for Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee members. I am not standing for the Secretary's position again, so an election will be needed. If you wish to be considered for any position please submit a nomination , moved and seconded to secretary@scarc.org.au The AGM is immediately followed by the regular monthly meeting. Please come along.

4:1 Balun Project

If the absence of chatter was any indication, the balun construction project was very successful. Many thanks to Peter VK5HPC who purchased the materials and made the whole process go smoothly. Thanks Peter.

Graham Thomas VK5GCT SCARC Secretary