

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 17, Number 10

October 2001



News from the ARRL

From *The ARRL Letter*, September 14, 2001

AMATEUR RADIO RESPONDS IN FORCE IN WAKE OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

Some already are calling it "Amateur Radio's Finest Hour," as volunteers answer the call to assist in ongoing relief and recovery operations in New York City, Washington, DC, and western Pennsylvania in the wake of terrorist attacks on the US September 11. The need continues for operators to assist over the long haul, however. Current estimates suggest hams may be needed for a month or longer in the New York City area, and for at least the next two weeks in Washington, DC.

Along with most other federal agencies, the FCC closed its offices and sent its employees home following the attacks. The FCC issued no emergency declarations nor other special instructions to the Amateur Radio community. The ARRL advised amateurs to stay alert to instructions from local authorities.

New York City-Long Island Section Emergency Coordinator Tom Carrubba, KA2D, reports that hams have been supporting emergency officials and the American Red Cross relief and recovery effort. Amateurs have been staffing several Red Cross shelters in addition to a staging/National Disaster Medical System center, various Red Cross units, and the Greater New York City American Red Cross Headquarters as well as the New York City Office of Emergency Management.

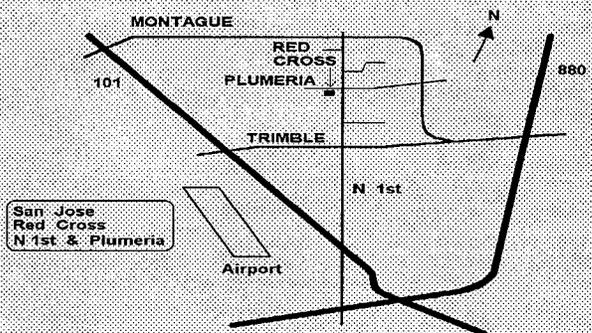
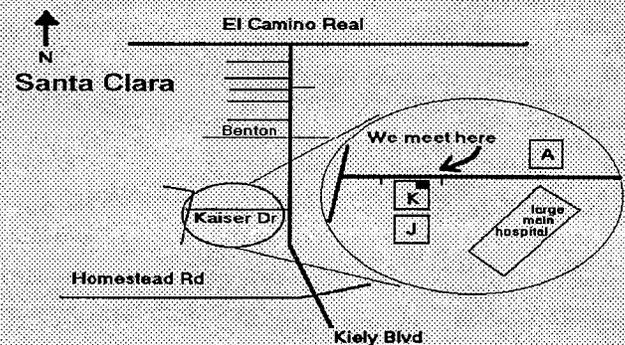
Carrubba says the telephone system in lower Manhattan continues to be problematic because of the high call volume. "American Red Cross communications are overloaded, and traffic from the shelters is coming into the New York City net at a rapid pace," he said. "The Amateur Radio ops are doing a great job under very difficult and strange conditions, but this is what they have trained for; they are getting it done

Calendar

- 10/8 SCCARA General Meeting
- 10/13 Foothill Flea Market
- 10/15 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 10/19-21 Pacificon

General Meeting:

- Day: Monday, Oct. 8, 2001
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Bld K, Rm 1
- Featuring: Officer & Director Nominations



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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>.

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	e-mail: wb6yru@aenet.net	

SCCARA REPEATERS

SCCARA owns and operates two repeaters under the call W6UU:

2 meter: 146.385 + PL 114.8 (none for basic use)
 70 cm: 442.425 + PL 107.2

Phone auto-dial and auto-patch is available. The two meter repeater is located at the Santa Teresa Hospital, south-west San Jose (near IBM). The 70 cm repeater and N0ARY BBS 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 K6PBQ. On ten meters, 28.385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00 PM. Net control: Wally KA6YMD. Visitors welcome.

N0ARY PACKET BBS

SCCARA hosts the packet BBS N0ARY (San Jose). User ports: 144.93 (1200 baud), 433.37 (9600 baud), telephone 408 259-8497, internet (by registration only, get info by sending e-mail to: info@n0ary.org). Sysop: Gary WB6YRU

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

SCCARA contact Clark KE6KXO: 408 262-9334
 ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group: 408 243-8349
me-ae6z@worldnet.att.net

well."

Red Cross Communications Officer Jay Ferron, N4GAA, agreed. "The Amateur Radio community has come out very big and very strong," he said, adding that local clubs and repeater groups have volunteered gear, frequencies and operators.

New York City District Emergency Coordinator Charles Hargrove, N2NOV, has expressed his appreciation to the amateur community. "Thank you for all the support and well wishes," he said. "This is a difficult time for all of us. We appreciate all the amateurs who have volunteered their time and equipment."

Carrubba also cited the ongoing efforts of Guy Richman, KC2AYG, who has been coordinating net controls for the ARES nets, and Manhattan ARRL EC John Kiernan, KE2UN.

Carrubba is seeking additional volunteers from the Greater New York City region. He has asked out-of-state volunteers to "stand by until we can provide for your safety and comfort." Volunteers need a VHF (2-meter) or, preferably, a VHF/UHF (2-meter/70-cm) mobile radio, power supply and cables, and mobile/portable mag-mounted gain antenna. Carrubba says hand-helds are not sufficient to deal with the difficult operating conditions.

"Operators are still needed," he said, but stressed, "This is a difficult assignment."

Amateurs are working two 12-hour shifts per day, 8 AM to 8 PM and 8 PM to 8 AM, "plus or minus three or four hours, mostly plus," Carrubba said. Additional information is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org>>.

At the scene of the Pentagon attack near Washington, DC, Virginia Section Emergency Coordinator Tom Gregory, N4NW, reports an "upbeat" crew of about two dozen amateurs is staffing six Amateur Radio stations in the immediate vicinity of the Pentagon. "What shocked me the most was the devastation you can see right there, 100 feet from the building," Gregory said. "The destruction is total."

The ARES operation is providing logistical support between the Salvation Army's relief and recovery effort on site and the agency's Arlington headquarters. The Salvation Army has deployed several mobile canteens and a feeding unit to serve military and civilian emergency personnel assigned to the recovery operation.

"What we're finding is that communication is very difficult because of the tremendous amount of noise from the construction-type equipment and the generators providing power for the lights and support staff," Gregory said. Because of the noise level, operators are being rotated frequently in and out of the immediate vicinity of the attack. "There's the emotion of it, and there's the tremendous

amount of noise, and it's very grating on you because you can hardly hear the radio to communicate," Gregory explained.

Gregory described the entire area as "very crowded with people" inside and outside the Pentagon. "People and equipment cleaning up, finding bodies, finding plane parts, fire fighters still checking for hot spots, hoses, equipment," he said. "The damage to the building looks worse when you are right next to it than it does on TV."

"I found that it took me a few minutes to realize the gravity of what was going on and the importance of what we hams are doing in our own small way to help out," Gregory said. "The devastation of that building is awesome, and it puts things in perspective and it certainly made me proud to be an Amateur Radio operator and serve the people of the United States by offering the support we could."

The Pentagon ARES operation continues to seek volunteers. "Because of the immensity of the thing, we're trying to have six amateurs on duty at all times," he said. "We need 20 volunteers every day for at least two weeks." Volunteers should e-mail Tom Gregory, N4NW, at n4nw@arrl.net.

Gregory emphasized that Pentagon site security is extremely tight. All ham volunteers must have a photo ID issued by a government entity to the secured area. "The FBI is handling issuance of ID's for access to the secured area and is doing a complete NCIC check before a photo ID is issued," Gregory said.

At the so-called "fourth" plane crash site in rural Somerset County western Pennsylvania, Kevin Custer, W3KKC, reports a busy scene as the investigation continues. Custer arranged preliminary repeater communication into and out of the crash site on Tuesday to help the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Pennsylvania State Police, the FBI and other state and federal agencies on the scene.

Custer said the investigation could continue for several weeks. "At this time we are preparing for the possibility of family members coming to the crash site--or close by," he said.

Montgomery County, Maryland, Deputy RACES Officer John Creel, WB3GXW, observed that while the enormity of the attacks is bound to touch the amateur community directly or indirectly, he has seen nothing but professionalism among the responding operators in his area. Creel advised amateurs to "just be prepared," and he echoed the sentiment of many that the events of September 11 "will be with us for the rest of our lives."

More detailed and updated information on Amateur Radio's involvement in the disaster relief and recovery efforts is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org>>.

ARRL PRESIDENT PRAISES AMATEURS' RESPONSE

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, has expressed his deep appreciation to amateurs throughout the world who have sent messages of condolence and support. Haynie also praised the actions of Amateur Radio volunteers.

"The shock and horror of yesterday morning's events are still fresh in our minds," Haynie said the day after the September 11 terrorist attacks. "Radio amateurs in New York City and elsewhere around the country are doing everything they can to support the authorities in locating and assisting victims. We know that there are many among us who have been touched personally by these tragedies, but there is comfort in knowing that we are not alone in our grief."

"Never have I felt more strongly about what a great privilege it is to be a part of the extraordinary global community of Amateur Radio," Haynie concluded.

Messages of support arrived throughout the week at ARRL Headquarters from International Amateur Radio Union member societies and from individual amateurs around the world. Japan Amateur Radio League President Shozo Hara, JA1AN, expressed "great shock and dismay" at the attacks in New York and Washington and offered "heartfelt condolences to the victims and families of the victims" as well as any assistance JARL could offer. Deutscher Amateur-Radio Club Managing Director Bernd Haefner, DB4DL, relayed similar sentiments. "At this horrible time, we all are Americans," he wrote.

ARRL Vice President Kay Craigie, WT3P, noted that, on a day when many Americans were rushing home to be with their families, many radio amateurs were assisting in the emergency response. "Compared to the sacrifices by emergency responders in New York City and at the Pentagon, it was a small thing, yet a thing that should not go without notice."

AMATEURS AMONG THE MISSING IN WORLD TRADE CENTER ATTACK

At least four Amateur Radio operators are among the many still missing in the aftermath of the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center in New York City. The attack also destroyed the major TV and radio transmitting site atop one of the twin towers.

The hams reported missing so far include:

- Steven A. "Steve" Jacobson, N2SJ, 53, of New York City, a transmitter engineer for WPIX TV, and an ARRL member.
- William V. "Bill" Steckman, WA2ACW, of W Hempstead, New York, a transmitter engineer for WNBC TV. He was well known in the NYC area and ran a number of repeaters from the World Trade Center.
- Robert D. "Bob" Cirri Sr, KA2OTD, 39, an ARRL

member from Nutley, New Jersey and the ARRL District Emergency Coordinator for Hudson County. A Port Authority police officer, Cirri was on the job helping to evacuate workers from the building when it collapsed.

- Michael G. Jacobs, AA1GO, 54, an ARRL member from Danbury, Connecticut. Jacobs worked at Fiduciary Trust Company International, which had offices in the World Trade Center.

The collapse of the World Trade Center brought down the master TV transmitting antenna that served all but one television station in New York City, as well as several radio stations and amateur repeaters. "The broadcast community is in absolute shock," said Hudson Division Vice Director Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, who works for ABC News. "We all knew transmitter engineers, we all knew people who worked up in those towers near those big television transmitters, and they're gone."

Mendelsohn said many viewers in the Greater New York City Area who are not on cable can only see WCBS, channel 2, which maintains its transmitter site on the Empire State Building. WCBS has offered assistance and space to help the other stations get back on the air from its site, he said.

"None of the other transmitters exist anymore. They're in the rubble along with the master antenna system, hundreds and hundreds of two-way radio system antennas, and boxes and, of course, untold thousands of people who perished."

There was cause for rejoicing in the case of another amateur who worked in the World Trade Center. Rob Nall, WV0S, reports that his friend, Herman Belderok, Jr, KB0EEB, managed to get out of the building just minutes before the structure collapsed.

December Meeting

Our annual Christmas meeting this year will be a luncheon again instead of a dinner. It will be held on Saturday December 15 at the Hungary Hunter in Milpitas, (Calaveras Blvd just off Hwy 680, old yellow house location).

Lunch is at 12 noon. Please note that on Saturday, there isn't a regular bar, but you will be able to order a bottle of wine for the table.

This year we will not be having the raffle prize drawings. Instead we will have a gift exchange. The way it works is that everyone brings a wrapped gift suitable for a man or woman costing about \$8-\$10. This type of gift exchange is always a lot of fun to participate in.

Reservations need to be in by Friday Dec. 7 (see sign-up sheet). Talk-in will be on our repeater, W6UU, 146.385+ (simplex if you can't hit the repeater). Why not renew your membership at the same time?

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there!

73, Don K6PBQ

My Apologies!

The database "manager" wishes to apologize to the following hams who renewed for 2001 and wound up not being recorded correctly: WA6BYB, Frank; K8ERL, Mike; KG6FCT, Lou; KE6WBQ, Kenneth; and KE6WQI, Shayne. The records were fixed 9/17/01.

73 Wally KA6YMD

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Sept. 10, 2001



{No minutes received by the deadline. --Ed.}

Board Meeting, Sept. 17, 2001



{No minutes received by the deadline. --Ed.}

Newsletter Notes

When something bad happens, we all like to look for silver linings. From the perspective of the editor, news of the terrorist attacks on the east coast helped to prevent this issue of the *SCCARA-GRAM* from being exceedingly thin.

On a more serious note, perhaps this tragedy can serve as an incentive to make sure our equipment is ready to go should something happen over here. It can also serve as an incentive to get some training in emergency communications, which is part of amateur radio.

If you aren't interested in emergency work or haven't trained for it, I believe it's best to yield to those who do. In other words, help if you can, but if you don't know what you're doing, don't make things worse by getting in the way.

One last thing... SCCARA has its annual elections in November. Nominations happen at the October meeting. *PLEASE* consider helping out *your* club by running for office. SCCARA needs YOU!

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

December Luncheon Meeting Sign-up

Our annual December christmas meeting will be a luncheon this time; on Saturday December 15, at the Hungry Hunter in Milpitas, Calaveras Blvd just east of Hwy 680 (old yellow house location), we've been there before. Luncheon is at 12 noon. Please note that on Saturday there isn't a regular bar. You will be able to order a bottle of wine for the table.

We will have a choice of three entrees. The regular lunch is \$16.50 each, children's choices are indicated below. Reservations need to be in by Friday, December 1. Talk-in on our repeater W6UU, 146.385+ (simplex if you can't hit the repeater). I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there. Why not renew your membership (back cover) at the same time? See "December Meeting" article for information on gift exchange.

-- Don K6PBQ

For the annual meeting in December, sign me up for the following lunch(es):
From the regular menu, \$16.50 each:

_____ Prime Ribs of Beef	_____ Forest Mushroom Chicken
_____ Salmon	

From the Children's menu:

_____ Deli Burger, \$7.50	_____ Chicken Strips, \$7.50
_____ Fried Shrimp, \$8.75	Total for lunches: \$ _____

Please renew your membership (over) at the same time--combine both payments here -- GRAND TOTAL: \$ _____

Give this form (or copy) with payment to the Treasurer or mail to: SCCARA PO Box 6 San Jose CA 95103-0006

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 ask the club secretary for an Elmer survey form and fill it out.

Antennas, feed-lines, tuners: WB6EMR, K6PBQ, WB6YRU
Lightning protection, grounding: WB6YRU
Station set-up, equipment: K6PBQ
TVI/RFI: WB6YRU
Homebrew projects, construction: KD6FJI, WB6YRU
Computers: KB6NP; IBM PC: WB6YRU
Packet Network (BBS, forwarding): WB6YRU
Code operating and installations: WB6EMR, K6PBQ
DX (long distance/propagation): WB6EMR
Emergency operating/preparedness: WA6QYS
FM (VHF/UHF, repeaters): WA6VJY
HF operating techniques (SSB, CW): WB6EMR, K6PBQ
Classes/license upgrading: W6ACW
Legal/FCC rules: WB6YRU
SCCARA (club inner workings):
K06HH, K6PBQ, WA6VJY, WB6YRU, WA6QYS
Children's Discovery Museum, volunteer operator:
K6PBQ

W6ACW, Ed Hajny, (408) 739-6105

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

KD6FJI, Lloyd DeVaughns,
day: (408) 299-8933, evening: (408) 225-6769
packet: home BBS KB6MER

K06HH, Don Hayden, (408) 867-4643
packet: home BBS NOARY

KB6NP, Jon Dutra, day & msg (408) 428-2058
evening (408) 867-8654
packet: home BBS NOARY
internet: jad@aol.com

K6PBQ, Don Village, (408) 263-2789

WA6QYS, Lou Steirer, (408) 241-7999
packet: home BBS NOARY

WA6VJY, Stan Getsla, day: (408) 738-2888 x5929,
evening & msg: (408) 275-0735

WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, msg (408) 265-2336
also (408) 269-2924
packet: home BBS NOARY
internet: wb6yru@aenet.net

S.C.C.A.R.A. Membership Form for 2002

(Fill in name and address if there is no mailing label below; make corrections if the label is incorrect)

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

Address: _____ Licensed since (yr): _____

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

Telephone: () _____ New Member I'm also an ARRL member
 Renewal _____

E-mail: _____ Packet: _____

For family memberships (at the same address), please fill out a separate form for each. Indicate the "primary member" (for mailing purposes) name and call:

Annual membership dues are payable at the first of the year and expire the following December 31. New members joining on or after July 1, pay half the membership dues.

Annual Membership dues: Individual \$15 Family \$20 Student (under 18) \$5 _____

I want _____ SCCARA badges @ \$3 ea. Badge name & call: _____

Please send the repeater Auto-Dial/Auto-Patch codes (no charge, circle): Yes
WE MUST BE ABLE TO VERIFY YOUR AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE
BEFORE ANY REPEATER CODES WILL BE SENT TOTAL: _____

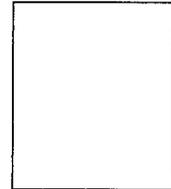
Give this completed form (or copy) with payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or mail to the return address below:

===== PLEASE DO NOT TEAR OR CUT FORM =====

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY
AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**

PO BOX 6
San Jose CA 95103-0006

Affiliate of the American Radio Relay League



FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED