

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 35, Number 8

August 2019



President's Prose

I would like to invite everyone to attend the

👉 SCCARA picnic 👈

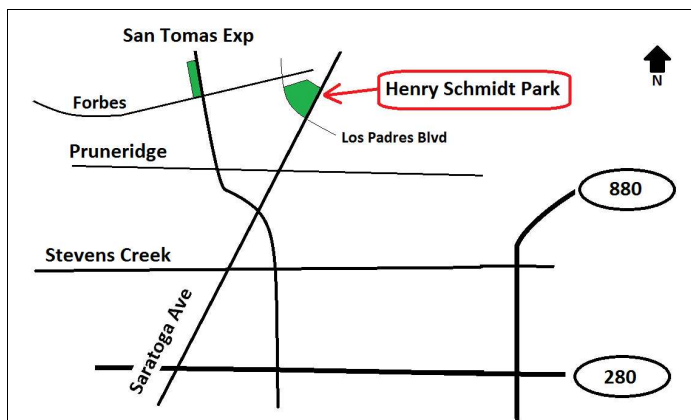
starting at 09:00, on Sunday, August 25, 2019 at Henry Schmidt Park in Santa Clara.

SCCARA will provide hot dogs, buns, condiments, sodas and charcoal for this **pot luck** event. There will be park tables and benches shaded by pop-up canopies, but attendees should consider bringing their own folding chairs for more comfort.

Several SCCARA members will be there at sunrise to claim tables and hang at least one HF antenna and to set up a 2 m station for talk-in on the SCCARA 2 m repeater. Attendees are welcome to show up early and help with set-up. There will be more information at the August 12, 2019 SCCARA General meeting.

Directions:

- **From 280**, exit Saratoga Road North. Drive 1.6 miles to the intersection of Los Padres Blvd. and Saratoga Road. Henry Schmidt Park is on your left (if you see Scott Blvd. you have gone too far).
- **From El Camino Real** take San Tomas South 1.8 miles. Turn left on Saratoga Road. Drive 0.7 miles to Henry Schmidt Park, 555 Los Padres Blvd., Santa Clara.



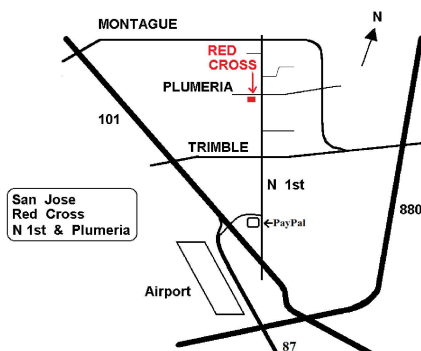
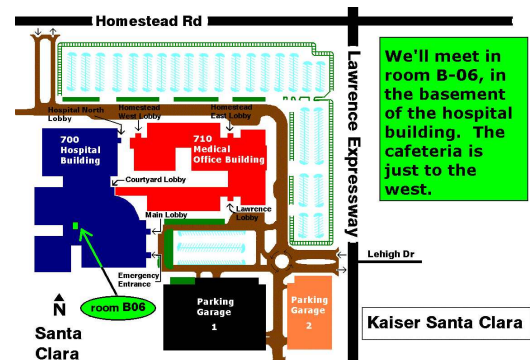
Another item of interest is the Electronics Flea Market held at Fry's Electronics, 1077 E. Arques Ave., Sunnyvale on August 10, 2019. The sponsor will be SVECS (Silicon Valley

Calendar

- 8/12 SCCARA General Meeting
- 8/10 Electronic Flea Market
- 8/19 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 8/24 Club station open, 10 AM - 4 PM
- 8/25 SCCARA Picnic, starting 9 AM

General Meeting

- Day: Monday, Aug. 12, 2019
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Hospital B-06
Featuring: {to be announced}



The **SCCARA-GRAM** is published monthly by the **SANTA CLARA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**, PO Box 106, San Jose CA 95103-0106.

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.

Permission to reprint articles is hereby granted, provided the source is properly credited.

The deadline for articles is the **last Monday of the month.**

Web page: www.qsl.net/sccara

club email: w6uw@arrl.net or w6uw@sbcglobal.net

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(officers are also directors)

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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.

AMATEUR LICENSE TESTING

ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group:

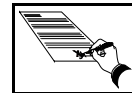
Morris Jones, AD6ZH:

408-507-4698

Emergency Communications System). SCCARA and SVECS have a long history of helping each other. If you would like to help, SVECS is looking for volunteers with time slots from 05:00 to 12:00. Please help make this a successful event by your participation. To volunteer send an e-mail to WA6QYS@arrl.net.

Hope to see you at both events.

73, Gregg KF6FNA, kf6fna@comcast.net



Electronic Flea Market

The August 10th Electronic Flea Market will be hosted by SVECS (Silicon Valley Emergency Communications System). To continue the fine tradition of our two groups (SCCARA and SVECS) assisting each others Flea Market effort please consider helping out on the Saturday, August 10th event.

Two hour shifts are available from 0500 until 1200. Multiple shifts are encouraged to gain the full Flea Market experience. Of course anyone who arrives at 0400 to help with registration at the gate and directing vendors to their spaces will be lauded profusely. Please respond to Lou at WA6QYS@ARRL.net with your preferred shift(s). I thank you in advance for your selfless generosity to help make this a successful event.

Lou WA6QYS

More Field Day Photos **at our club station at the San Jose Red Cross**

Photos courtesy of Wally KA6YMD



Our banner and sign in front of the San Jose Red Cross

{... still waiting for the results of how well we did. Stay tuned for that next month. -- Editor}



Gregg KF6 FNA, Wally KA6YMD, and Goetz K6GKB (left to right) put up the wire antenna for the GOTA station.



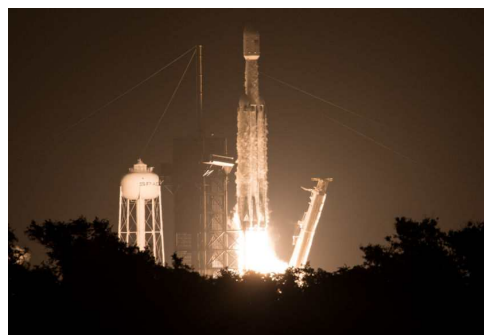
Kirsten K6WX, ARRL Pacific Division Vice Director paid a visit to our Field Day station.

2 from Prox-1, a Georgia Tech student-built spacecraft. Once deployed, LightSail 2 will automatically transmit a beacon packet every few seconds, which can be decoded into 238 lines of text telemetry describing the spacecraft's health and status, including everything from battery status to solar sail deployment motor state.



(artist conception of the LightSail 2 in orbit)

LightSail 2 lifted off from Kennedy Space Center, Florida, carried by the SpaceX triple-booster Falcon Heavy rocket. The launcher also carried aloft two dozen US Air Force spacecraft.



"During its ride to orbit, LightSail 2 was tucked safely inside its Prox-1 carrier spacecraft," The Planetary Society said post-launch. "The Falcon Heavy upper stage's payload stack released Prox-1 about an hour and 20 minutes after liftoff, at an altitude of roughly 720 kilometers (446 miles). Prox-1 will house LightSail 2 for one week, allowing time for other vehicles released into the same orbit to drift apart so each can be identified individually."

LightSail 2 team members will soon converge at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in California, where the spacecraft's mission control is located. Once LightSail 2 is released from Prox-1, the team will spend several days checking out its systems before commanding its dual-sided solar panels to deploy. Following that, the spacecraft's solar sails will be deployed in approximately 2 weeks.

Two US Naval Academy student-built satellites carrying Amateur Radio payloads were on the launch. BRICSat-2 (call sign USNAP1) will function as a 1.2/9.6 kB APRS digipeater on 145.825 MHz. Telemetry will be transmitted on 437.975 MHz. PSAT-2 also will operate on 145.825 MHz with APRS to voice

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, June 27, 2019

LightSail 2 Launches, Will Transmit CW Beacon

The Planetary Society's LightSail 2 CubeSat, launched on June 25, (<http://www.planetary.org/explore/projects/lightsail-solar-sailing/>) will transmit Morse code from space on 437.025 MHz, within the Amateur Radio 70-centimeter band. LightSail is a citizen-funded project to send a small spacecraft, propelled solely by sunlight, into Earth's orbit. The innovative satellite is due to be deployed on July

and DTMF to voice/APRS, and it will carry a 28.120 MHz up/435.350 MHz down PSK31 transponder. An SSTV camera will transmit on the same downlink.

-- Thanks to The Planetary Society, Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, and AMSAT News Service

Petition for Rulemaking Asks FCC to Create a New 8-Meter Amateur Band

The FCC has put on public notice for comment a Petition for Rulemaking, RM-11843 (<https://tinyurl.com/y57f4h54>) that seeks the creation of a new 8-meter Amateur Radio allocation on a secondary basis. The Petition suggests the new band could be centered on an industrial-scientific-medical (ISM) segment somewhere between 40.51 and 40.70 MHz. The spectrum between 40 and 41 MHz is currently allocated to the Federal Government and, as such, within the purview of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). ARRL member Michelle Bradley, KU3N, of Maryland, filed the Petition in May on behalf of REC Networks, which she founded and described in the Petition as "a leading advocate for a citizen's access to spectrum," including Amateur Radio spectrum.

"REC feels that the time is right for the Commission to open a Notice of Inquiry and eventually a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and in cooperation with the NTIA, this new band opportunity can be realized to spark the next generation of 'makers' in the fields of science, technology, education, and math (STEM), especially women and girls," Bradley told the FCC in the Petition. "The more opportunities we give to make things, the more opportunities we have to build a pool of experts in STEM, right here at home."

The Petition said the objective of a new band would be "an effort to foster experimentation into the propagation characteristics of this band midway between the 10 and 6 meter bands." An allocation in the 8-meter band is available to radio amateurs in Ireland, where the Irish Radio Transmitters Society has developed a band plan for 40 - 41 MHz.

"REC perceives this spectrum can be used for weak signal experimentation and eventually general amateur use, especially along transatlantic paths using CW, SSB, digital modes such as FT8 and digital voice," the Petition said. "As no radios are mass-produced for this band at this time, this opens up new opportunities for 'makers' to construct transmitters, receivers, and antenna systems that can be used in this spectrum."

REC anticipates "very low" usage of the new band, "with peak usage around sporadic-E episodes, operating events such as ARRL Field Day, and VHF contests, as well as during the peak of sunspot cycles," Bradley told the Commission. "[W]e feel that the sharing of 40 MHz can be accomplished in a manner that serves the needs of the Amateur Radio Service while meeting the organizational missions of Federal Government agencies that utilize this spectrum."

Interested parties may file short comments on RM-11843 with the FCC's at <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings/express>.

From *The ARRL Letter*, July 18, 2019

No Consensus Reached for FCC on "Symbol Rate" Issues

ARRL-initiated efforts for rival parties to reach consensus on

issues raised in the so-called "Symbol Rate" proceeding have ended. In April, the FCC granted ARRL's request for a 90-day hold in the proceeding, FCC Docket WT 16-239, to provide an opportunity for ARRL to lead an effort to determine whether consensus could be reached on some or all of the issues that commenters raised in the FCC's proceeding. The FCC already has issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in WT 16-239, (<https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/0728122180423/FCC-16-96A1.pdf>) which stemmed from ARRL's rulemaking petition RM-11708.

Discussions were since widened to include issues raised in another Petition for Rule Making, RM-11831, filed by Ron Kolarik, K0IDT, ([https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/100918881206/PETITION FOR RULEMAKING.pdf](https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/100918881206/PETITION_FOR_RULEMAKING.pdf)), that seeks, "to ensure Amateur Radio digital modes remain openly decodable and available for monitoring" by the FCC and by other third parties, including other radio amateurs. His petition also aims to limit Automatically Controlled Digital Stations (ACDS) to identified subbands on HF, to reduce interference. Last month, ARRL filed an interim report with the FCC summarizing its efforts to with the FCC summarizing its efforts to bring all sides to the table, and on June 28, ARRL requested an additional 60-day pause to pursue promising talks. (<https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filing/10612301212113>)

"In seeking the delay, it was the ARRL's intent to facilitate discussions between the opposing parties in an effort to explore the possibility of an agreed resolution that would better protect users of the Amateur Radio spectrum from interference and would permit all members of the Amateur Radio service to continue to contribute to the advancement of the radio art," ARRL Washington Counsel David Siddall, K3ZJ, said, summarizing the situation in a July 15 letter to the FCC. "The end purpose, if a binding agreement between the opposing parties could not be reached, was to provide the strongest possible basis for the ARRL to file its recommendations on a fair and equitable resolution of the issues."

Siddall said that despite difficulties "partially attributable to the passions of the respective parties," ARRL was able to schedule meetings with both sides and, eventually, facilitate joint discussions among the respective parties.

Siddall said in his letter, "At the beginning of our meetings there emerged consensus on the issues to be discussed. By the end, the parties had reached consensus on some of the issues, but not all. Despite our best efforts, some of the parties did not agree to submit to the Commission any of the recommendations on which there had been an apparent consensus, having negotiated with an 'all or nothing' approach."

Despite the disappointing conclusion, Siddall expressed confidence that a better understanding of issues and positions of the various interests exists among all of the parties who participated in the in-person meetings and teleconferences, and that this will have an overall positive effect upon the outcome of the proceeding.

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, July 8, 2019



{No minutes were submitted by the deadline. - Editor}



{This meeting was canceled}

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 and 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 (available from the club secretary or on our web site).

Topics:

Antennas, feed-lines, tuners: **NV6W, W6JPP, K6PBQ**
CW (Morse code): **NV6W, K6PBQ**
DX (long distance, propagation): **NV6W**
EchoLink: **K6GKB**
Emergency operating, preparedness: **WA6QYS**
HF operating techniques: **NV6W, K6PBQ**
Homebrew projects, construction: **WB6YRU**
Legal, FCC rules: **WB6YRU**
License testing, new amateurs: **W6JPP**
Lightning protection, grounding: **WB6YRU**
Packet Network (BBS, forwarding): **WB6YRU**
SCCARA (club inner workings): **K6PBQ, WB6YRU, WA6QYS**
Station set-up, equipment: **K6PBQ, W6JPP**
TVI, RFI: **WB6YRU**

Contacts:

K6GKB, Goetz Brandt, 408-259-7287
e-mail: goetz@ix.netcom.com

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

W6JPP, John Parks
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

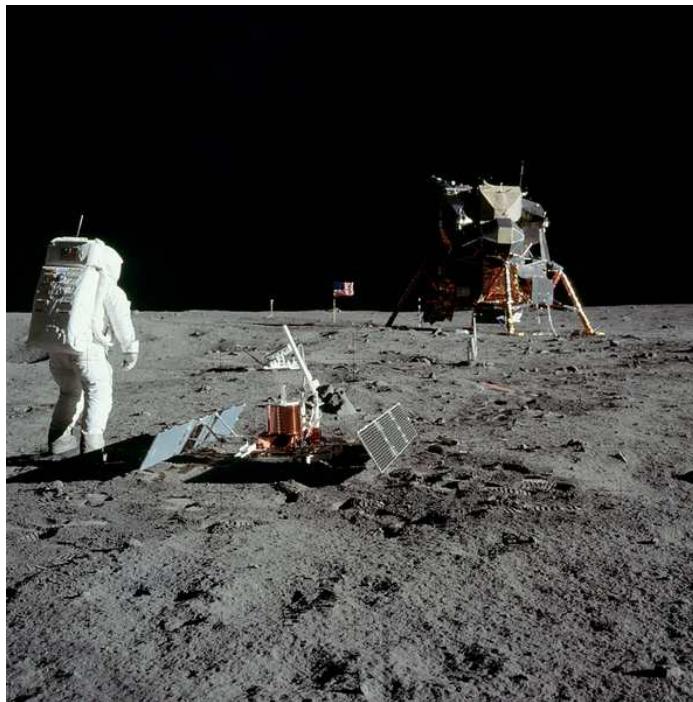
WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, 408-269-2924
packet: home BBS N0ARY
e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com

Newsletter Notes

In this edition I'm going to deviate slightly from notes about the newsletter...

After some 4.6 *billion* years had gone by,
on July 20, 1969, at 20:17:39 Universal Time,
...that's 1:17:39 PM, Pacific Daylight Time,
somewhere in the deep vastness, clever creatures gingerly ventured

forth from their home orb, and touched another world for the **first** time:

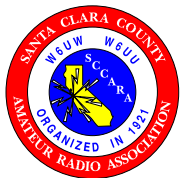


Out of the uncounted billions who have been or will ever be, your editor, who turned 12 the week after, counts himself as one of the lucky few who were alive at the time to see it happen! As I write this, it's been exactly 50 years.

Happy 50th Anniversary!

May the wonder never fade. 🤖

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

**SCCARA**

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

**FIRST CLASS**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SCCARA Membership Form for 2019

If renewing and none of your info has changed, we only need your name and call

Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____

Address: _____ Licensed since (year): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip+4: _____

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

E-mail: _____

only for club communications and the SCCARA-GRAM newsletter (pdf)

Membership type and dues: **Individual, \$20** **Family, \$25** **Student, \$10 (under 18)**

Memberships start January 1 and expire December 31.

Family memberships (more than one member per household): please include the above info for each member, use separate forms.

New members:

Dues are prorated: dues x (11 - month) x 10% (Example: July would be \$20 x (11-7) x 0.1 = \$8)

If joining in November or December: normal dues for next year, the rest of this year is included free.

I want the paper newsletter delivered by U.S. Mail for an additional \$20 per year

(Prorated, \$1.67 per month. That's \$18.33 if starting in February, \$16.67 if starting in March, etc.)

\$ _____ **Total** enclosed

Give this completed form and payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or mail to the club address.