

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 36, Number 2

February 2020



President's Prose

SCCARA's meeting on Jan. 13 2020 featured Marcel Stieber AI6MS with his presentation Everything you need to know about lithium batteries. Marcel's job as an EE designing chargers for lithium batteries keeps him in touch with the latest news and advances in batteries. Check out his page at qrz.com.

On Saturday, Jan. 25th Don K6PBQ opened SCCARA's ham station at the San Jose American Red Cross (corner of N. 1st. St. and Plumeria). Goetz K6GKB seems to be establishing a tradition of bringing a box of donuts to the Red Cross on the last Saturday of each month when the club station is open. Some of the station visitors included Truman N6TRU, Lou WA6QYS, Gwen KF6OTD, and Gregg KF6FNA. The Winter Field Day was in progress and contacts were made on 20 m and 40 m. If you want to check out the station, listen to SCCARA's 2 m repeater on the last Saturday of each month for Don K6PBQ to announce his arrival at the Red Cross, usually around 10 A.M.

The SVECS Quarterly Breakfast was also on Jan. 25th. and featured Frank Fraone, PG&E Senior Public Safety Specialist. Thanks goes out to the SCCARA members who responded to Lou's WA6QYS request for help and showed up at 7:30 A.M. to help with set-up and to help in the kitchen (many hands make light the work.) You can go to svecs.net for information about the upcoming April 25, 2020 SVECS Quarterly Breakfast.

73, Gregg KF6FNA, kf6fna@comcast.net



Member Roster

The printed SCCARA roster is now available to members at the meetings. If you can't make it to a meeting, we'll be happy to send one to you for free, just contact the editor.

What's Good About Amateur Radio?

What Members Like About the Hobby

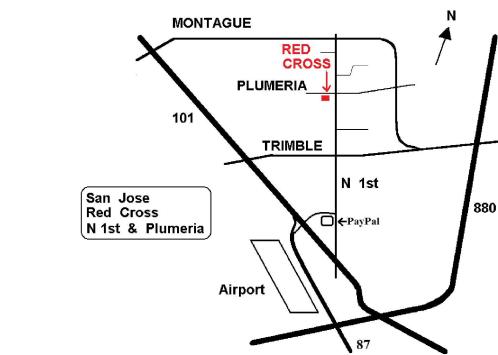
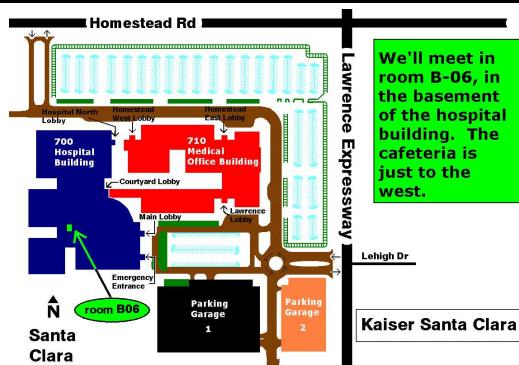
This is the first of what hopefully will be a long-running column featuring your thoughts on that subject.

Calendar

- 2/10 SCCARA General Meeting
2/17 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting

Day: Monday, Feb. 12, 2020
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Hospital bld, B06
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/scarra
club email: w6uw@arrl.net or w6uw@sbcglobal.net

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(officers are also directors)

President	Gregg Lane KF6FNA	408-393-5607 e-mail: kf6fna@comcast.net
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Webmaster	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	408-293-3847 e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net

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

This isn't so much about how you got started, although that's OK too, but rather: *What do you like about amateur radio, what aspects keep you interested?*

Thanks to our treasurer, Goetz Brandt K6GKB, for supplying this first installment.

And now, without further ado...

Amateur radio is not just one hobby, but a myriad of hobbies cloaked under one name. Most obviously it deals with electronics and those educated in this field of physics make the greatest contributions. But there are opportunities for Luddite like myself to join the ranks and enjoy others in the fun.

So what part of the sport attracts me? Well, there's all that gorgeous equipment one can buy. Transceivers, amplifiers, antenna switches, antennas, antenna towers, rotators, power supplies, and the list goes on. Much like buying a new car, or remodeling the kitchen, there can be great satisfaction in watching a plan come together.

My first station was a mobile rig in a motel. I was on temporary duty in Garden Grove California where my company supplied me with a gorgeous suite, two divided large rooms on the second floor and at the end of the compound. My ICOM 706MKIIG sat on a beside stand and was powered by a motorcycle battery that was on continuous trickle charge. The antenna was a cut to length dipole that was hung from the front room window valance to the back room window valance and had its midpoint BALUN suspended from the interconnecting door jam. RG8 coax ran from the door jam to the bed stand.

As a new ham I was terrified at making my first contact. One afternoon after work I overheard some people talking round table and I squeaked in the word "BREAK" during a pause in their chatter. To my surprise, an almost instant response, "Who is the Breaker?" I meekly volunteered my call sign and was immediately invited to become a member of their group. I can't tell you what a friendly bunch I joined that afternoon. One member in Saskatoon, one in Temecula California, one in the state of Washington and yet another in Alaska to mention just a few. Thereafter, every afternoon for several years to come I would join in and share whatever trivial event had occurred that day.

After twelve years of this on the road life I returned to my home in San Jose and began building a permanent station. It consists of two duplicate ICOM IC-775DSP transceivers, two ICOM IC-4KL amplifiers, and an ICOM EX-627 antenna switch that connects to my antenna farm. My property is large enough to accommodate full length dipoles for the lower bands and a forty foot tower supports a HYGAIN TH3-MK4 three element beam which sits on a HYGAIN CD4511 rotator. The beauty of this setup is that when I waltz from one band to another, sweep a band from edge to edge for signals, everything automatically follows my selections. Even the correct antenna gets connected and matched without me doing anything to help.

So what do I do with all this equipment? I participate in the morning Rhubarb Net. It starts at 9:30AM, the net controller takes check ins and then we go through the list twice. Members are located all over the far west and many are consistent contributors while others pop in and out over time. On occasion, as many as 20 people check in, several are members of our own SCCARA. There is nothing too trivial to bring up, but mostly the subjects are quite interesting. The beauty of this type of rag chewing is that we are all equals, regardless of our electronic or other competencies. So join us, you'll enjoy sharing with the group.



Goetz Brandt, K6GKB

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, Jan. 9, 2020

Radio Amateurs of Canada Announces a New Section

The number of Sections needed for a clean sweep in the ARRL November Sweepstakes (SS) will rise to 84 in 2020, with the addition of a new Prince Edward Island (PE) Section. Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) has announced that the new Section will become effective on April 1.

Prince Edward Island has been in the Maritimes (MAR) Section. RAC said its Prince Edward Island members have been working for some time to create a separate Section for RAC ARES activities there. The provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick will remain in the Maritimes Section.

In addition to Field Day and Sweepstakes, the new Section in Canada will affect the ARRL 160-Meter Contest but not the ARRL 10-Meter Contest, which uses individual states/provinces for US and Canadian multipliers. The change will mean that logging software developers will have to update their software to include the PE Section as a valid exchange element for any affected operating events.

RAC also announced an adjustment in two of its Ontario Sections. Effective April 1, radio amateurs in the City of Hamilton and in the

Regional Municipality of Niagara will shift to the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Section from the Ontario South (ONS) Section.

China Telecoms Regulator Proposing to Delete Some Current Amateur Allocations

China's telecommunications regulator has proposed amending the Measures for the Administration of Amateur Radio Stations, and some amateur bands are in danger of being eliminated. Lide Zhang, BI8CKU, told ARRL that the proposal would prohibit amateur operation on the 2200-meter band as well as on 146 - 148 MHz, 1260 - 1300 MHz, 3400 - 3500 MHz, 5650 - 5725 MHz, and all bands above 10 GHz.

Radio communications engineer and Chinese Amateur Satellite Group (CAMSAT) CEO Alan Kung, BA1DU, told ARRL that government efforts to eliminate some amateur bands are nothing new, but proposals that have been aired for a while now are on the regulatory agency's schedule. Kung said he does not anticipate that all of the bands proposed will be taken away, but he conceded that the climate will "undoubtedly" become increasingly more dangerous for China's amateur radio community.

"The attempt to crowd out the amateur radio bands has a long history throughout the world," he said, "but it may never have become so urgent for the amateur radio community as it is today. We all understand that radio spectrum resources have become a bottleneck for further development." He said today's radio communication industry "is working hard to share spectrum resources."

Kung characterized spectrum as "the soil on which amateur radio depends."

An international team of 10 operators will be active as W8S from Swains Island from March 10 to March 25.

The DXpedition team will be active on all HF bands on CW, SSB, FT8, and RTTY. Operation will be from two separate camps on the island -- a Red Camp and a Blue Camp -- each with two stations. The four stations will be on the air 24/7. The station equipment complements are identical. Two stations will be dedicated for 160 and 80 meters. A WiFi network will link the Red and Blue camps to network all logging laptops. Hans Griessl, DL6JGN, and Ronald Stuy, PA3EWP, are co-leaders. Swains Island (Olohega) is an atoll in the Tokelau chain. Swains is a US territory and considered part of American Samoa. Swains Island is the 34th most-wanted DXCC entity, according to Club Log.

Treasurer's Treatise

2018 Year-end Financial Statement
1/1/2019 through 12/31/2019

INCOME

Club Badges	3.50
Club Dues-2019	493.50
Club Dues-2020	385.00
Donation	20.00
Flea Market	3,215.00
Flea Market Food Booth	631.60
Flea Market Table Sales	506.30
SCCARA-GRAM	60.00

TOTAL INCOME 5,314.90

EXPENSES

Bank Charge	5.00
BBS	109.20
Business Cards	10.96
Equipment Maintenance	27.09
Equipment Purch & Maint	639.63
Flea Market	854.63
Insurance	200.00
Misc	1.55
Office Supplies	483.79
PO Box	118.00
S-100 Filing Fee	20.00
SCCARA-GRAM	81.65
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,551.50

OVERALL CASH FLOW 2763.40

Account Balances	
Checking	12,623.02
Saving	500.07
Cash	111.04
Total	13,234.13
Ending Total for 2018	10,470.73

Goetz Brandt, K6GKB

Board Meeting, Jan. 20, 2019



SCCARA Board meeting held at the American Red Cross, 2731 Plumeria, San Jose, CA.

Meeting called to order at 1935 by Gregg Lane, KF6FNA, President.

All Board members present except for Janet, KF6PUQ and James Rustermier, KI6ZSK, unexcused absence. Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, visitor.

Announcements:

1) SVECS breakfast is Saturday, January 25, at Santa Clara Senior Center, at 0900, with set up at 0730. Price: \$6.00 at the door. There will be a raffle table.

2) The Club Station will be open on January 25, after the SVECS breakfast, at 1230.

Reports:

Vice President: Ned, AC6YY, has a speaker for March but not for February. There is a possibility to get John Notor, KM6TUX, to speak on long wire transmission.

Secretary: Barbara, KD6QEJ, will have the minutes to Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, by the end of this week. Gary passed out an updated roster for 2020.

Treasurer: Goetz, K6GKB, had a handout of the financial report for last year. He has filed both State and Federal taxes for 2019, which is due every two years. Need to revise the bank records to reveal current cosigners signatures. The ending balance for year ending 2019 is: Bank Accounts: Checking: \$12,623.02; Savings: \$500.07; Total: \$13,123.09. Cash Accounts: \$111.04. Overall Total: \$13,234.13.

Station Trustee, Don Village, K6PBQ, will have the Club station open on Saturday, January 25, after the SVECS breakfast from about 1230 PM to 4PM

Committees

Repeater, Wally Britten, KA6YMD. There are no changes. It is currently working well. Goetz can program the repeater to set parameters at the next Board meeting.

Webmaster, Wally Britten, KA6YMD. Data is getting to the web site as fast as it comes in. Otherwise, there are no changes.

Editor/Newsletter, Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU. Gary would like to have members send him an article about "What do you like about amateur radio, why do you stay with the hobby." He would like to make it a regular column in the newsletter.

BBS: Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU. There are no changes to the BBS. The electricity bill for 2018 appears to have been paid; if so, we still owe it for 2019. It's rare to have access to a high-level site and only have to pay electricity. We could take better advantage of it. Gave some examples.

Old Business

1) The Flea Markets for 2020 are still expected to be held at the Fry's parking lot, even though there is practically nothing on the store shelves. The store is still open.

2) The QSL cards for the centennial celebration are still a work in progress. Rusty, James Rustermier, KI6ZSK, has not sent anything to Gary.

3) Goetz Brandt, K6GKB, says the property list and the roster have been updated and sent to Gary WB6YRU. We need to get the radios and interface them with the computers before

Meeting Minutes



General Meeting, Jan. 13, 2019

Meeting Place: Kaiser Hospital, 700 Lawrence Expressway, Santa Clara, CA Room B06.

Meeting Began: 1940, by Gregg Lane, KF6FNA.

Self introductions were made around the room. 19 people present, 1 visitor Marcel Stieber, AI6MS.

Announcements:

1) SVECS breakfast, Saturday, January 25 at Santa Clara Senior Community Center. Speaker: Greg Ferron, Sr. Safety pointers for first responders of gas and electrical problems. There will be a raffle table. Price: \$6.00 at the door.

2) The Club station will be open on Saturday, January 25 after the SVECS breakfast is over. Don Village, K6PBQ, will be there to open the door. Talk in will be on the 2 meter repeater.

3) SCCARA Grams and roster were made available to everyone.

4) Gary would like members to send him a paragraph or two on what you like about amateur radio, what keeps you interested in the hobby. ie, Talking to others, doing morse code, or television, etc.

Speaker: Marcel Stieber AI6MS. "Everything you need to know about lithium batteries."

Meeting adjourned: 2100

Barbara Britten, Secretary

Field Day, May or June. 20 and 40 meter dipole and digital stations also need to be updated. It has been pre-approved to buy a radio and/or computer that is reliable. The computer clock is likely off, unsynchronized.

New Business

1) John Parks, K6JPP, reported that some in the American Legion post wants to get rid of all ham communications there. The antenna trailer, currently stored at the Post, at no expense to SCCARA, may have to be moved soon. John already has a possible site picked out.

2) The new roster is now available.

3) Gary WB6YRU asked what people prefer to see in the archives, are individual images better or is it better to combine most text and images into pdf files?

Meeting Adjourned at 2045.

Barbata Britten, Secretary

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

Date: 2 Apr 2011 00:24
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Charitable Lawyer

Mr. Wilson was the chairman of the United Way, which had never received a donation from the most successful lawyer in town. He called on the attorney in an attempt to make him mend his ways. "Our research shows that you made a profit of over \$600,000 last year, and yet you have not given a dime to the community charities!"

The lawyer replied, "Do you know that my mother is dying of a long illness, and has medical bills that are several times her annual income? Do you know about my brother, the disabled veteran, who is blind and in a wheelchair? Do you know about my sister, whose husband died in a traffic accident, leaving her with three children?"

The charity solicitor admitted that he had no knowledge of any of this.

"Well, since I don't give any money to them, why should I give any to you?"

Date: 11 Jul 2010 01:35
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Doctor's Strike

Doctors at a hospital in Brooklyn, New York have gone on strike. Hospital officials say they will find out what the doctors' demands are as soon as they can get a pharmacist over there to read the picket signs.

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

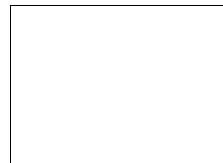
I'm happy to announce that after some misgivings about how successful it might be, the new column on what you guys like about amateur radio is off to a great start! Thanks, Goetz, for stepping up and being the first!

SCCARA has enough members to keep this column going for years. But this isn't just for members, if you're HAM, that's good enough! So, let's keep the conversation going. What do you like about amateur radio?

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

**SCCARA**

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS

SCCARA Membership Form for 2020

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% For 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 \$15 per year

(Prorated, \$1.25 per month. That's \$13.75 if starting in February, \$12.50 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.