

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 36, Number 5

May 2020



Meetings

Due to the “social distancing” restrictions regarding the Covid-19 virus pandemic, our face-to-face meetings have been cancelled until such time as the group meeting restrictions are lifted.



Our Monday night 2 m nets are not held on the second Monday of the month, that’s our meeting night. However, they are now, at least until our general meetings start up again.

The past two board meetings were held at the usual time and date, but *not* in person. They were held on our 2 m repeater after the Monday night net. That will continue until further notice.

The club station is closed until further notice.

What’s Good About Amateur Radio?

What Members Like About the Hobby

Nothing heard this month except the crickets.
It’s just a BUG! 🐛



ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 2, 2020

FCC Grants Temporary Emergency Authority to WISPs Operating in 5.8 GHz Band

The FCC has granted temporary permission to wireless internet service providers (WISPs) in rural portions of 29 states and the US Virgin Islands to operate in the 5.8 GHz band (5.850 - 5.895 GHz). The authorization, to help meet the temporary surge in demand for residential fixed broadband services during the COVID-19 pandemic, was one of multiple waivers issued in the past week that grant temporary access to a variety of bands in response to the uptick in residential broadband demand.

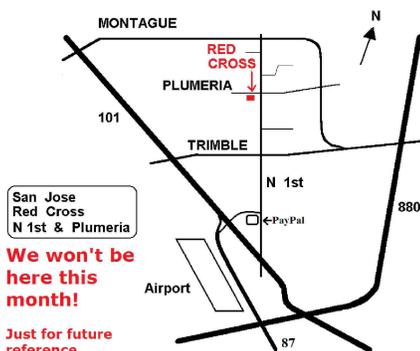
The 5.8 GHz grants were effective on March 26. Each grant is for 60 days, provided individual WISPs file STA applications within

Calendar

- 5/8 Electronic Flea Market -- **CANCELED**
- 5/11 SCCARA General Meeting -- **CANCELED**
- 5/18 SCCARA Board Meeting -- On our 2 m repeater, following the 2 m net at 7:30 PM.

General Meeting

- Day: Normally Monday, May 11, 2020, but **CANCELED** this month.
- Time: Join our 2 m net instead, 7:30 PM.
- Place:



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

10 days of March 26. Amateur radio shares this spectrum on a secondary basis with Dedicated Short-Range Communications (DSRC) systems and industrial, scientific, and medical (ISM) applications, and that status remains unchanged.

"[E]ach applicant is independently responsible for complying with the conditions of its grant," the FCC's Keith D. Harper, Associate Chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Mobility Division, wrote in granting the request. "Applicants are advised that this includes ensuring proper protection of incumbents in the 5.8 GHz band." The Commission noted that WISPs are responsible for ensuring that they do not cause interference to existing licensees.

According to the request, each of the WISPs provides fixed wireless broadband service in rural areas, primarily relying on unlicensed spectrum for last-mile connections to end users. "Many of the WISPs' customers have no other alternative to terrestrial broadband services," the request said.

The Commission's emergency grant explicitly requires that the WISP operations be conducted on a non-interference basis.

ARRL Field Day 2020 -- A Time to Adapt

Many individuals and groups organizing events for ARRL Field Day 2020 have been contacting ARRL for guidance on how to adapt their planned activities in this unprecedented time of social distancing and uncertainty.

"Due to the unique situation presented this year, this can be an opportunity for you, your club, or your group to try something new," ARRL Contest Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, said. "Field Day isn't about doing things the same way year after year. Use this year to develop and employ a new approach that is in line with the current circumstances."

Social distancing and state and local requirements very likely will impact just how -- and even whether -- you are able to participate in Field Day this year. ARRL continues monitoring the coronavirus situation, paying close attention to information and guidance offered by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>). If social distancing means that Class A with a 30-member team set up in a city park won't work this year, then it's time for a Plan B. Part of the Field Day concept has always been adapting your operation to the situation at hand. At its heart, Field Day is an emergency communication demonstration. Field Day rules are flexible enough to allow individuals and groups to adjust their participation and strategies in a way that still addresses their needs while being fun. Some possibilities include:

- Encouraging club members to operate from their home stations on emergency power (Class E).
- Using the club's repeater as a means for individual participants to keep in touch during the event.
- Setting up a portable station in the backyard with a temporary antenna for family members interested in operating Field Day, who are now unable to participate as part of a larger group.

One big impact this year will be a decline in public visibility and any interaction with the visitors. Prudence may dictate dispensing with the ham radio PR table to attract passersby, should you set up in a more public location. It's okay not to score all the bonus points you may have attempted in the past. Local and served agency officials may be unwilling to visit, which is understandable under the circumstances. Do be sure to reach out to them as part of your preparations and remind them that you look forward to continuing your working relationship with them in the future.

The impact will differ from place to place, so ARRL recommends that all amateur radio clubs participating in Field Day stay in regular contact with local or state public health officials for their advice and guidance on hosting Field Day activities.

“With any emergency preparedness exercise, it's not about adapting the situation to your operation; it's about adapting your operation to the situation that presents itself,” Bourque said. “Try something different.”

-- Thanks to Paul Bourque, N1SFE, and Dan Henderson, N1ND

USA Amateur Radio Direction Finding Championships Canceled

The ARRL ARDF Committee has made the difficult decision to cancel the 20th USA ARDF Championships, which were set to be held this summer. Contact the ARRL ARDF Committee (ardf@arrl.org) for more information on ARDF and on attending, participating in, or hosting ARDF competitions. ARDF participants do not need an amateur radio license. For more information on Amateur Radio Direction Finding, visit the Homing In website (<http://homingin.com/>) of Joe Moell, K0OV.

-- Thanks to USA ARDF Co-Coordinator Charles Scharlau, NZ0I

Upcoming ARRL Section, State, and Division Conventions

Many conventions and hamfests have been canceled or postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. Check the calendar of canceled events on the ARRL website.

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search/page:1/keywords:Canceled/model:Event>

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 9, 2020

COVID-19 Guidelines Could Affect Some IARU HF World Championship Participation

The IARU HF World Championship is just over 2 months away -- July 11 - 12. (<http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship>) The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) says that it's essential to take the global COVID-19 pandemic into account when planning participation, including by IARU member-society Headquarters (HQ) station teams. Multioperator and IARU member-society HQ station operations must adhere strictly to the regulations and physical-distancing guidelines issued by the responsible health authorities and the World Health Organization in effect at the time of the event -- even if observing those guidelines is not legally required at their locations. This requirement also applies to single-operator stations, and especially to those hosting guest operators.

“This may reduce participation, but it is vital that the IARU, its member-societies, and individual radio amateurs behave as responsible members of the global community,” the IARU said. “Radio amateurs should always look for opportunities to address communications challenges through the application of technology.”

The IARU points out that a growing number of stations, including multioperator stations, can be operated remotely, and it encourages their participation in the HF World Championship wherever national regulations permit.

The objective of the IARU HF World Championship is “to support amateur self-training in radio communications including improving amateur operating skills, conducting technical investigations, and

intercommunicating with other amateurs around the world, especially IARU member-society headquarters stations.” The event takes place on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters.

The special rules governing IARU member-society HQ stations allow multiple sites to be used, again subject to national regulations. HQ stations will still be able to participate, but possibly not at their usual level.

Plans are being developed for IARU Headquarters station NU1AW to be operated entirely remotely. W1AW will also be on the air as an HQ station, although arrangements are still being finalized.

New TQSL Version 2.5.2 Provides Better LoTW Rover Support, Other Improvements

The latest version of TrustedQSL (TQSL), version 2.5.2, offers improved Logbook of The World (LoTW) support for operations from several locations, as well as the ability to detect uploads that contain incorrect location data. The primary new feature in TQSL 2.5.2 allows logging programs, in conjunction with TQSL, to avoid incorrect contact uploads, while adding mechanisms to allow easy uploading of logs for roving stations. LoTW had required rovers to identify each location used as a separate location in TQSL. The new version of TQSL allows these operations to be handled much more smoothly by using information from the station's logging program. (<http://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world>)



When a log is signed by TQSL, the station details -- call sign, DXCC entity, grid square, and other location details provided by the selected station location (and call sign certificate) -- are compared with the details in the log. If the US state and station location in a log do not agree, TQSL 2.5.2 will reject the contact, detecting errors in instances when an incorrect station location has been chosen. This feature will necessitate changes in many logging programs, because it requires that the log provide station details previously not used by TQSL. Once a logging program supplies these (MY_STATE, MY_DXCC, MY_CQ_ZONE, etc.), then TQSL will validate them against the log. Currently, Cabrillo logs use the CALLSIGN field to verify that the contacts are for the correct call sign.

Optionally, a station performing roaming operations (e.g., from multiple grid squares) can choose to have TQSL assume that the log is correct. When call sign or home station are provided with the log, TQSL will automatically update the details on the upload. Select “Override Station Location with QTH Details from your Log” on the “Log Handling” preference page to enable this feature.

This release also includes an update to the most recent TQSL configuration file.

-- Thanks to Rick Murphy, K1MU

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 16, 2020

The transatlantic record on 2 meters has been extended to nearly 4,760 kilometers (2,951 miles).

“The incredible tropo conditions between Cape Verde Islands and the Caribbean continue to amaze with transatlantic contacts on 144 MHz and 432 MHz being made,” John Desmond, EI7GL, said in a blog post. The April 8 FT8 contact was between D4VHF in the

Cape Verde Islands and PJ2BR on Curacao. The distance covered was some 300 kilometers greater than the previous transatlantic record, set last summer by D41CV and NP4BM. The new 2-meter transatlantic record distance is about 10 kilometers short of the IARU Region 1 tropospheric propagation record on that band, Desmond said. On April 7, an operator at D4VHF and Burt Demarcq, FG8OJ, on Guadeloupe completed the first direct transatlantic contact on 70 centimeters, spanning 3,867 kilometers (2,398 miles) using FT8.

Amateur radio operators affiliated with the American Red Cross will conduct a nationwide communication drill on May 30

The drill will simulate the types of message traffic that are typical of a national disaster response, such as a hurricane or wildfire. Hams will utilize digital modes to move a variety of Red Cross data, with special focus given to methods that do not require infrastructure, such as a repeater or the internet. The drill features a local option where ARES organizations can work with local Red Cross chapters to drill local and regional functionality. For more information, contact ARRL Rhode Island Section Emergency Coordinator Paul Silverzweig, W1PJS.

-- Thanks to Brian S. McDaniel, N4AE, executive director, American Red Cross of the Illinois River Valley

The ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference (DCC) will be held online this year, due to the coronavirus pandemic

Originally planned for Charlotte, North Carolina, the 2020 ARRL-TAPR DCC will take place as an online virtual conference on the same dates, September 11 - 13. Details of the virtual DCC will be announced in the coming months as event plans are finalized. Plans call for holding the 2021 DCC in Charlotte.

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, April 13, 2020



{No minutes, meeting was cancelled}

Board Meeting, April 20, 2020



Held on the air using our 2 m repeater W6UU/R, Santa Clara County.

Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:40 PM

Attendance: President Gregg Lane KF6FNA; VP Ned Tufekcic AC6YY; Secretary Barbara Britten KD6QEI; Treasurer Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Station Trustee Don Village K6PBQ; Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Wally Britten KA6YMD, Truman Lindsey N6TRU, Janet Motha KF6PUQ. (Janet was listening but couldn't transmit, relayed votes by telephone to John K6JPP.)

Absence: James Rustermier KI6ZSK

Visitors: John W6JPP, Rich K6ZPR; Fred KC6TDJ; Kha KG6UOF; Gary WB6YRU, editor.

Announcements:

Don K6PBQ: Our 2 m net will take place on the second Monday until our regular meetings start again.

John W6JPP: There needs to be an antenna party to work on the antenna trailer.

Secretary's Report:

The previous board meeting minutes were published in the SCCARA-GRAM. No corrections. Accepted as published by acclimation.

Treasurer's Report, Goetz K6GKB: Checking = \$11716.22 savings = \$0 cash = \$196.04 Total = \$11912.26

Trustee's Report, Don K6PBQ: Nothing new. The club station is closed due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Goetz K6GKB: We received some QSL cards, some time ago I mailed them to Don.

Don K6PBQ: I haven't received them yet.

Standing Committees

Repeater chairman's report, Wally KA6YMD: Nothing new to report, repeater is working fine.

Goetz K6GKB: I did a little work on the backup batteries, they're in good shape.

Webmaster's report, Wally KA6YMD: Nothing new.

Editor's report: Gary WB6YRU: Not much new, except fewer paper copies are being printed, (5 instead of 10). We hand some out at meetings, but we aren't having face-to-face meetings now.

BBS Sysop's report: Gary WB6YRU: Nothing new. Regarding the previous report of a possible new BBS in the region, that fell through.

Old Business:

Field Day:

Gregg KF6FNA: Still no word from the Red Cross on participating in Field Day there.

Don K6PBQ: According to the ARRL, Field Day is still on.

John W6JPP: If the Red Cross falls through, we might be able to use the San Jose American Legion Post.

Gregg KF6FNA: No news about the Flea Market. (We may or may not be able to host the flea market.)

Club station:

Gregg KF6FNA: Regarding the antenna at the Red Cross, it's still a work in progress.

Ned AC6YY: The radio and keyer we decided to purchase has arrived. I made up a cable, plus there's the USB cable (to connect to the computer). It works fine on HF, but someone else will have to set it up for VHF and UHF, or we can buy the programming cable.

Truman N6TRU: There is free software that can be used to program the radio, we don't have to buy that.

New Business:

Gregg KF6FNA: This is our second board meeting on the repeater. It seems to work OK, maybe we'll do this more often.

Ned AC6YY: We need a tarp for the antenna trailer, I know of a vendor.

John W6JPP: The trailer size is 24 x 27 feet.

Gregg KF6FNA: Director Rusty KI6ZSK hasn't been to three meetings in a row.

Gary WB6YRU: According to the bylaws, that's the same as resigning, all that remains for the Board to concur.

John W6JPP: Rusty moved to Holister, but is still interested in being a director.
Discussion about the reasons.
Gregg: Let's collect more info and continue this at the next meeting.

Gary WB6YRU: Do we want to mail the newsletter to members who have trouble with internet access? Discussion followed. Consensus was to let members ask, rather than be pro-active.

Wally KA6YMD: Regarding the Covid-19 virus restrictions by the government. Motion that SCCARA cease all in-person meetings until such time as the group meeting restrictions are lifted. Don K6PBQ: Second. All except Goetz voted in favor, Goetz didn't vote. Motion carries.

Don't K6PBQ: Motion to buy a tarp for the antenna trailer, not to exceed \$300. Ned AC6YY: Second. 7 in favor, 2 opposed. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned 8:47 PM

Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, recording for the secretary

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====
Date: 27 Mar 2011 18:23
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Car Privileges

The mother and father had just given their teenage daughter family-car privileges. On Saturday night she returned home very late from a party. The next morning her father went out to the driveway to get the newspaper and came back into the house frowning. At 11:30 AM the girl sleepily walked into the kitchen.

Her father asked, "Sweetheart, what time did you get in last night?"

"Not too late, Dad." she replied nervously.

Dead-panned, her father said, "Then I'll have to talk with the paperboy about putting my paper under the front tire of the car."

=====
Date: 8 Jul 2010 01:35
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Doctor's Order

A guy says to the bartender, "A glass of your finest Less, please."

"Less? Never heard of it. Is it some kind of foreign beer?"

"I'm not sure. My doctor mentioned it. He said I should drink Less."

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

Looks like the club has run out of gas on the new "what do you like about amateur radio" column. Since we're all staying home these days because of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, this is something to do! Send in a paragraph or two.

We've got two events coming up in June, and it'll be here before you know it: The electronic flea market – which we host, and Field Day. Because of the restrictions, both are in doubt. Nothing has been decided yet. The original plan was to operate Field Day at the Red Cross again this year, but so far it looks like that won't happen. Any ideas on what we could/should do?

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor



SCCARA
 Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association
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FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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.