

# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 47, Number 3

March 2022



## Meetings & Gatherings

Our in-person meetings are still canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The board meeting will be held verbally at the normal day and time on our 2 m repeater immediately following the Monday night net.

The number of people fully vaccinated seems to be leveling off. Statewide it's 73.9% (73.3% last month); in Santa Clara County it's 84.9% (83.9% last month).

The 7-day average number of new cases in the county has been dropping rapidly lately, it's now 275. It peaked at 6488 a couple of months ago. That's the figure being watched by the health dept.



## Club Station

Our club station at the Red Cross will be open on Saturday March 26th. for our members to operate from 10:00 AM to 4PM.



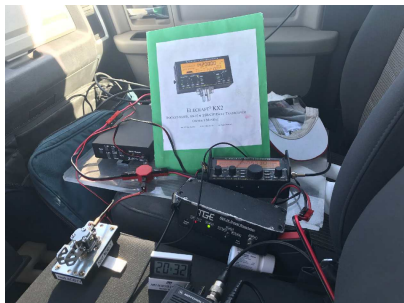
73 Don Village K6PBQ

## Winter Field Day

This year WFD was held in January 29/30, 2022. I operated from 10 AM to 5 PM in Alviso Marina.

I had an Elecraft KX2 QRP radio for HF CW, a Yaesu FT 817ND for VHF SSB and a Motorola HT 1000 for FM simplex and local repeaters.

The power source was BioennoPower LFP (LiFePO4) 12 V, 9Ah battery and 28 Watt Foldable Solar panel.

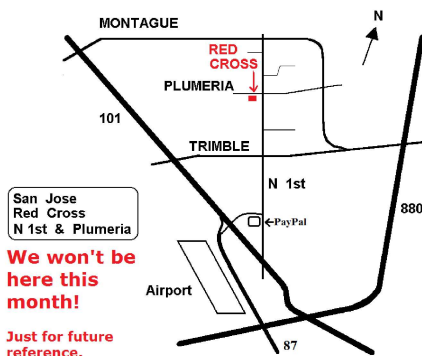
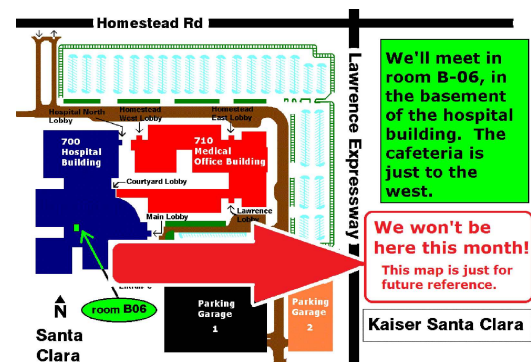


## Calendar

- 3/14 SCCARA General Meeting -- **canceled**  
3/21 SCCARA Board Meeting: On our 2 m  
repeater after the net at 7:30 PM)  
3/26 Club Station: open 10 AM - 4 PM

## General Meeting

Day: Monday, March 14 -- **Canceled**  
Time:  
Place:  
Featuring:



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](http://www.qsl.net/sccara)

club email: [w6uw@arrl.net](mailto:w6uw@arrl.net) or [w6uw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:w6uw@sbcglobal.net)

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

(officers are also directors)

President	Gregg Lane KF6FNA	408-393-5607
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:kf6fna@comcast.net">kf6fna@comcast.net</a>	
Vice President	Ned Tufekci AC6YY	408-690-7250
	<a href="mailto:t94nt@hotmail.com">t94nt@hotmail.com</a>	
Secretary	Barbara Britten, KD6QEI	408-293-3847
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:kd6qei@arrl.net">kd6qei@arrl.net</a>	
Treasurer	Goetz Brandt, K6GKB	408-259-7287
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:goetz@ix.netcom.com">goetz@ix.netcom.com</a>	
Station Trustee	Don Village, K6PBQ	408-263-2789
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:donvillage7@yahoo.com">donvillage7@yahoo.com</a>	
Director	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	408-891-1105
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:ka6ymd@arrl.net">ka6ymd@arrl.net</a>	
Director	John Parks, W6JPP	
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:w6jpp@arrl.net">w6jpp@arrl.net</a>	
Director	James Rustermier, K16ZSK	408- 972-1689
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:rustermier@gmail.com">rustermier@gmail.com</a>	
Director	Ben Shuford, KK6CCU	408-429-5370
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:bshu288519@aol.com">bshu288519@aol.com</a>	
Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	408-241-7999
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:wa6qys@aol.com">wa6qys@aol.com</a>	

#### **COMMITTEES**

Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	408-269-2924
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:wb6yru@ix.netcom.com">wb6yru@ix.netcom.com</a>	
Repeater	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	408-891-1105
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:ka6ymd@arrl.net">ka6ymd@arrl.net</a>	
N0ARY BBS	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	408-269-2924
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:wb6yru@ix.netcom.com">wb6yru@ix.netcom.com</a>	
Webmaster	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	408-891-1105
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:ka6ymd@arrl.net">ka6ymd@arrl.net</a>	

#### **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](http://ncpa.n0ary.org).

#### **AMATEUR LICENSE TESTING**

ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group:  
Morris Jones, AD6ZH: 408-507-4698



I made about 50 contacts. Don K6PBQ and Lou WAA6QYS gave me points. . I did not work any DX but had QSOs from all over the USA and Canada. VHF contacts from SF, EB and SCV.

I had my snacks with me and my XYL brought me a lunch. It was a pleasant surprise when Lou WA6QYS and Gwen came to visit me in Alviso.

Of course I was interrupted by onlookers who were curious what I was doing. The Marina was full of duck hunters with the boats since the hunting season was closing the following Monday. It was a beautiful sunny day. I wish I could have stayed longer but the park was closing at sunset and everybody had to leave.



73, Ned AC6YY

The HF antenna was my MFJ fiberglass pole on home built drive on mount with the wire and LDG 4 to 1 UNUN with one counterpoise. I used a vertical mobile antenna for FM and for SSB a five elements Yagi I built from an old TV antenna.



## **Our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Event Station Wasn't So Special**

Last year we had a special event station celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It ran during the month of February 2021 (that's the month when the club had its first meeting as best we can tell). A special QSL certificate was designed, by yours truly.

Unfortunately, things didn't work out as we had hoped. During that whole month we only made 118 contacts, much less than expected. Since the Covid pandemic was in full swing, some of us operated "the club station" from home. Wally KA6YMD made 16 contacts, Lou WA6QYS made 63 contacts, Kelly WB6AAJ made 14 contacts, and Don K6PBQ made 25 contacts.

Of the 118 contacts, only 4 were interested in a QSL, 2 of those sent a financial donation for the certificate.

Don K6PBQ, who was in charge of our special event, said it was particularly disappointing. When asked how many certificates I should get printed, he told me none, it was pretty much a bust. So no certificates were printed. Don returned the money to those two people, and sent a regular QSL card with apologies to the 4 who were interested.

Don explained that few people are interested in QSLs these days, mainly just those who need verification for something

like Worked All States or similar awards. And special event stations like ours is really only special to us.

Due to the pandemic, there was no dinner meeting. So our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary was pretty much a dud all around.

On the bright side, our ARRL Pac. Div. Dir. noticed SCCARA turned 100 and there may be some sort of recognition from the ARRL in the works. And there was a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary special edition of the *SCCARA-GRAM*. If anyone would like a paper copy as a souvenir, some will be printed and made available for free when we have in-person meetings again. If you can't make to a meeting, let me know, it will be mailed to you.



73, Gary WB6YRU

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## ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, Feb. 3, 2022

### Research on Ancient Massive Solar Storms Suggests a Need to Prepare for the Next Ones

Numerous powerful X-class solar flares occurred last fall as Solar Cycle 25 activity picked up. Jon Jones, N0JK, covered the event in his QST column, "The World Above 50 MHz," in the February issue, and he pointed out, "More powerful flares than these have taken place, such as the Carrington Event of 1859, during which aurora was seen in the South Pacific and in Cuba, and it sparked electrical fires."

Similar events took place in the 20th century, but, as Jones notes, scientists are researching spectacular solar storms that took place as early as 7176 BC and in 5259 BC. The huge solar flare some 9,200 years ago has convinced researchers that we are not ready for the next one, and our modern technology would take a major hit.

"Also worrisome is that Earth may have narrowly dodged a 'Carrington-level event' in 2012," Jones said. Daniel Baker of the University of Colorado -- speaking at a NOAA Space Weather Workshop -- said, "If it had hit, we would still be picking up the pieces."



Jones said his reading has led him to conclude that these solar superstorms occur more frequently than people think. "As more ice cores and tree rings are sampled, scientists are finding there have been more of these [major solar storms]," he said.

In his February column, Jones cited a 2013 Royal Academy of Engineering [report](https://www.raeng.org.uk/publications/reports/space-weather-summary-report) that discussed the risks of a Carrington-level event.

<https://www.raeng.org.uk/publications/reports/space-weather-summary-report>

"An extreme space weather event, or solar superstorm, is one of a number of potentially high-impact, but low-probability natural hazards," said Paul Cannon, a Royal Academy of Engineering fellow and chair of the study working group that developed the report. "Extreme space weather [can have] impacts on engineered systems and infrastructure."

Cannon said the hazard and risks of extreme space weather on the electricity grid, satellites, and air passenger safety had not previously been critically assessed. His group's report attempts to address that omission.

The Live Science article, "Ancient solar storm smashed Earth at the wrong part of the sun's cycle -- and scientists are concerned," cites a study, "[Cosmogenic radionuclides reveal an extreme solar particle storm near a solar minimum 9125 years BP](https://rdcu.be/cF8py)." Study co-author Raimund Muscheler, a geology researcher at Lund University in Sweden, said, "These enormous storms are currently not sufficiently included in risk assessments. It is of the utmost importance to analyze what these events could mean for today's technology and how we can protect ourselves."

<https://rdcu.be/cF8py>

"A Carrington Event taking place today could destroy orbiting satellites, disrupt GPS, and damage undersea cables and internet infrastructure on the ground," Jones said in his QST column. "An event in 775 AD was believed to have been 100 times stronger than the Carrington Event."

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From *The ARRL Letter*, Feb. 10, 2022

### Some New Rules Going into Effect this Year for ARRL Field Day

After taking a few detours over the past couple of years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, [ARRL Field Day](http://www.arrl.org/field-day) rules are being updated on a permanent basis starting this summer. ARRL conducted a Field Day community survey with invitations propagated far and wide, and direct emails sent to more than 15,000 individuals and ARRL-affiliated clubs. After sorting through, reviewing, and discussing the survey results, the ARRL Programs and Services Committee recommended a number of rule changes for ARRL Field Day, which will take place this year over the June 25 - 26 weekend.

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

Starting this year, the maximum PEP output for a transmitter used by anyone submitting a Field Day log will be 100 W. The power multiplier of 2 will remain in place, and the high-power category will be removed from the rules. Until this year, the maximum low-power limit had been 150 W for most ARRL-sponsored operating events. The power multiplier will remain at 5 for QRP participants running a maximum of 5 W or less. As previously announced, 100 W is now the low-power category limit for all ARRL and IARU HF Contests, effective January 1, 2022.

A couple of changes instituted initially as accommodations for the COVID-19 pandemic will remain. Class D (Home) stations will continue to be able to earn points for contacts with other Class D stations. The club aggregate scoring change initiated in 2020 as a temporary measure will become part of the permanent rules. In the aggregate scoring plan, the scores of individual stations are combined under the score of a single club.

Another change, involving Rule 7.3.2 Media Publicity, has been modified. Rules to date have offered 100 bonus points for attempting to obtain publicity and demonstrating same. With the ease of posting via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and various other media websites, Field Day participants will now be required to obtain publicity, not just try to do so. Any combination of bona fide media hits would qualify for the bonus points. For example, posting the details of your upcoming or ongoing Field Day activity, or your Field Day results, on a club or news media site, on Facebook, or via Twitter and Instagram would meet the bonus criteria. Photos and videos are encouraged as part of media posts.

### ARRL Announces New World Wide Digital Contest

The [ARRL World Wide Digital Contest](#) will debut at 1800 UTC



on June 4, ending at 2359 on June 5, 2022. All non-RTTY modes are permitted. Going forward, RTTY will be the sole mode for the ARRL RTTY Roundup, which will continue to take place in January.

<http://arrl.org/arrl-digital-contest>

In broad strokes, this will be an HF to 6-meter event, on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, and 6 meters, with single-operator and multi-single entry categories. These are Single Operator, One Radio (SO1R), Single Operator, Two Radio (SO2R), and Multi-Single (MS). Overlays in the single-operator categories will include "all enclosed antennas" and "maximum of 8 operating hours." Single-operator entries may operate for 24 hours (with off times taken in one or two breaks that are at least 60 minutes long), while MS entries may operate for the full 30 hours.

Operating assistance is permitted for all operating categories. Power categories will be:

QRP (5 W transmitter output or less)

Low Power (maximum 100 W PEP transmitter output)

The exchange for the World Wide Digital Contest will be a station's four-character grid square designation. Stations may work each other once per band, regardless of digital mode. Participants will earn 1 point for each contact, plus 1 point for each 500 kilometers (310 miles) between stations. So, a contact between stations 1,000 kilometers apart would be worth 3 points. The total score is total contact points.

ARRL makes available a grid-center [distance calculation tool](#). Options include kilometers (always rounded up), distance between pairs, and points.

<http://contest-clubs.arrl.org/griddistancecalc.php>

For instructions on how to [submit logs](#), visit the ARRL Contest page. Logs will be due 7 days after the event has concluded.

<http://contest-log-submission.arrl.org/>

In succeeding years, the World Wide Digital Contest will take place on the first full weekend of June.

Full details on the new operating event are on the ARRL website. <http://arrl.org/arrl-digital-contest>

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## Meeting Minutes

### General Meeting, Feb. 14, 2022



*{meeting was canceled}*

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### Board Meeting, Feb. 21, 2022



Held verbally on our 2 m repeater W6UW/R

Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:36 PM

#### Attendance:

President Gregg Lane KF6FNA; VP Ned Tufekcic AC6YY; Secretary Barbara Britten KD6QEI; Treasurer Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Station Trustee Don Village K6PBQ; Director Lou Steirer WA6QYS; Director Wally Britten KA6YMD; Director John Parks W6JPP; Director Ben Shuford, KK6CCU; Director James Rustemier KI6ZSK.

Visitors: Editor Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, Red Cross rep. George N6NKT, Paul KK6HWN, Truman N6TRU.

#### Announcements:

Gary WB6YRU: Last month the printed roster was mailed to each member. As an experiment, I included a membership form to those who hadn't renewed. Since then we received 22 renewals, all on that same form. That brings the current membership to 39, with just 5 not renewing yet. For SCCARA, that's extraordinary. This is convincing evidence that sending out renewal notices to members individually is very effective. So, the board should make that a standard procedure.

#### Don K6PBQ:

We have a new clock for the club station, it's small and next to the radio. At \$48.18 this is a good addition to the club station.

#### John W6JPP:

American Legion is looking for volunteers, the building needs a pressure wash. Date to be determined, they have the equipment, should take a couple of hours. Remember they're providing a storage spot for our antenna trailer.

Gregg KF6FNA: I can help

Ben KK6CCU: I may be able to help.

President's Report, Gregg KF6FNA: Nothing new to report.

Vice President's Report, Ned AC6YY: Nothing to report.

#### Secretary's Report, Barbara KD6QEI:

Gregg KF6FNA: The previous board meeting minutes were published in the SCCARA-GRAM. Any corrections? (none heard) Approved as published by acclamation.

Gregg KF6FNA: I have not heard anything yet from George about having meetings at the Red Cross.

George N6NKT: We will allow meetings soon. There may be requirements to show negative tests, have masks, vaccines, etc. That's all still to be determined.

Don K6PBQ: The conference room at the club station is small, I feel more comfortable having board meetings on the repeater.

John W6JPP: Red Cross has other bigger rooms.

George N6NKT: We are looking at possibilities for board meetings and general meetings. If I had my way, you would keep the records as to who is vaccinated, etc.

Barbara KD6QEI: If the Red Cross wants, we'll keep a log as to who is vaccinated etc., but keep it confidential to SCCARA and Red Cross.

Lou WA6QYS: How many will be allowed in the rooms?

George N6NKT: I don't have those details. Classroom 4 is a little bigger. Working on it.

Don K6PBQ: If we had a larger room, that would make me more comfortable such as for general meetings. But I'd still rather have the board meetings on the repeater, it saves some of us from traveling.

George N6NKT: You guys have more choices as to the room size since you meet in the evenings. So room size will be less of an issue.

#### Treasurer's Report, Goetz K6GKB:

Checking = \$11,426.06, Cash = \$256.04, Total = \$11,682.10

#### Trustee's Report, Don K6PBQ:

The club station will be open Saturday. There aren't any contests scheduled.

George N6NKT: Just make sure we don't have too many people there. And they all should have had their shots, although we don't need to keep records of it.

Don K6QPB: We usually only have two or three people.

#### Standing Committees

Repeater chairman's report, Wally KA6YMD: Nothing unusual, everything is working fine.

Webmaster's report, Wally KA6YMD: Nothing new, business as usual.

Editor's report, Gary WB6YRU: Not much new, except we should have had an election report, but never did.

BBS Sysop's report, Gary WB6YRU: A small problem was discovered in the date on messages forwarded to other BBSs from N0ARY. Turns out it was a Y2K bug. Thanks to Jeremy KE6JJJ it has been fixed. Jeremy is the sysop of the BBS in San Francisco, he's a programmer and runs N0ARY code.

#### Special Committee(s):

Membership, Ben KK6CCU: No updates. Last time I asked for volunteers to join the committee. We were waiting until the pandemic is over, still no input. John W6JPP and Gregg KF6FNA are on the committee.

Gary WB6YRU: What sorts of tasks or goals did you have in mind for the committee?

Ben KK6CCU: I was thinking of getting some local high schools and younger people involved, scout clubs, science clubs, that sort of thing.

George N6NKT: There are Red Cross clubs around the county, that might be a good source since you have a station at the Red Cross. I'll look into getting a list emailed to you. There is one at the San Jose Red Cross, we call them a "youth club." And we have the pandemic still going on to deal with.

Barbara KD6QEI: I noticed doors are locked passed the lobby. George N6NKT: I'll work on that. The doors are on time locks, that can be adjusted. Class room 5 has an outside door. Some of you have badges, that's an option too. Those with badges can get in 24/7 which allows access to the club station for emergencies or whatever.

Don K6PBQ: I've always found the doors to the club station are open on Saturdays.

Ben KK6CCU: Until those details get worked out, we can have notices and posters in the lobby to tell folks that we're there, have a club station, etc.

Gregg KF6FNA: We have had field day at the Red Cross with signs etc., so there is a precedence.

#### Old Business:

Gregg KF6FNA: I'll be working with George to get the approvals etc. for antenna work at the Red Cross.

George N6NKT: The only approval you need is from me, so just let me know who will be there and when. We can work on the antennas, there are just a few pandemic restrictions.

Gregg KF6FNA: The club's antenna trailer needs work. That's on hold for now, to be coordinated with John W6JPP.

Gregg KF6FNA: Goetz is stepping down as treasurer. We need someone new. So far no one has stepped forward.

#### New Business: (none)

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM

Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, recording

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](mailto:goetz@ix.netcom.com)

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

W6JPP, John Parks  
e-mail: [w6jpp@arll.net](mailto:w6jpp@arll.net)

K6PBQ, Don Village, 408-263-2789  
e-mail: [donvillage7@yahoo.com](mailto:donvillage7@yahoo.com)

WA6QYS, Lou Steirer, 408-241-7999  
e-mail: [wa6qys@arll.net](mailto:wa6qys@arll.net)

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

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## Newsletter Notes

The *SCCARA-GRAM* always has selected articles from the ARRL Letter. There's usually a lot to choose from. I include items on the legal front (FCC) and whatever new developments seem interesting. But I can only guess as to what kind of articles you would like.

Please let me know what topics are of interest and I'll keep an eye out for them. If you don't, I might skip over things you would really like. There are articles about amateur satellites, interference issues in other regions usually involving over-the-horizon radar, amateur radio in the news media, youth and scouts, amateur radio on the space station, etc. So, don't keep me guessing, let's hear from you.

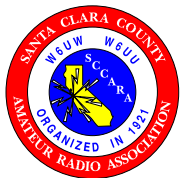


73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

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## Need Help?

Amateurs have a long history of helping each other. An

**SCCARA**

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

**FIRST CLASS****ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED****SCCARA Membership Form for 2022**

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.