

# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association



Volume 47, Number 10

October 2022

## Meetings & Gatherings

Our in-person meetings have resumed--please remember to wear a mask. The board meeting will be held verbally at the normal day and time on our 2 m repeater immediately following the Monday night net. No electronic flea market this month.

Those fully vaccinated in Santa Clara County is now 87.2% (86.6% last month). Average number of new cases daily is now 203 (851 last month). The Health Dept. strongly recommends the new booster which is formulated for the new omicron strain.

## Picnic Oct. 8

SCCARA's next picnic on Saturday 10/8/2022 will be at the same location as the first picnic, Henry Schmidt Park, 555 Los Padres Blvd. in Santa Clara (between Forbes and Saratoga Ave.) Talk in will be on W6UU 2 m 146.985 - PL 114.8 Hz.

Advance crew will arrive about 7AM to get space. Others will arrive around 9:30AM. This will be a pot luck and SCCARA will provide soda, ice, charcoal, dogs and buns. Bring your folding chairs, hats and sun screen.

Hope to see you there!

73, Gregg KF6FNA

## Club Station

Greetings from Colorado: I made my annual visit to Loveland, Colorado to see my twin brother, Rod and Cathy. This year I spent most of my time helping Rod with some repair work. Rod and I also visited the local museum. I had time to see a couple of Ham Radio friends of mine, Chris WD1W and Howard K5WF. And we also enjoyed the visit as our weather was warm except for one afternoon we got a good thunderstorm. Now back to San Jose for ham radio.



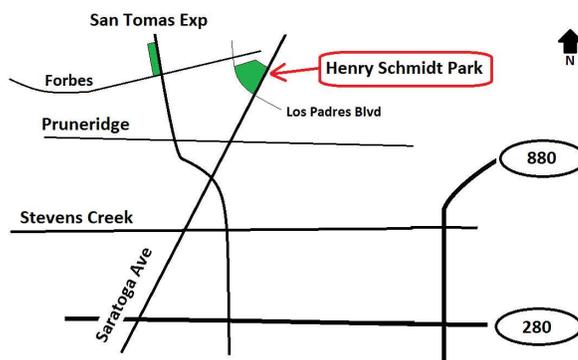
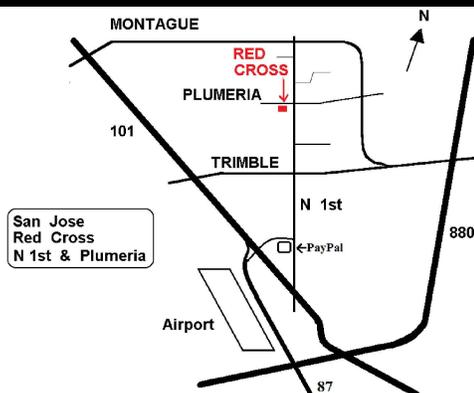
73, Don Village K6PBQ

## Calendar

- 10/8 SCCARA Picnic - Henry Schmidt Park
- 10/10 SCCARA General Meeting
- 10/14-6 Pacificon - in San Ramon
- 10/17 SCCARA Board Meeting: On our 2 m repeater after the net at 7:30 PM)

## General Meeting

Day: Monday, October 10  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Place: San Jose Red Cross, meeting room 3  
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](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)

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	e-mail:	

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	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.

#### NØARY PACKET BBS

SCCARA hosts the packet BBS NØARY (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

## D to A and A to D Converters

The other day I was mind doodling, creating riddles that I might drop into someone's lap. I came up with: "What's the most common Digital to Analog converter that everyone deals with?" I imagined my victim struggling through a maze of electronic candidates, all of which I dismissed. My answer is the gasoline powered automobile engine. A series of contiguous individual explosions converted into a smooth propulsion of the wheels. I turned the question around and riddled: "What's the most common Analog to Digital converter everyone deals with?" Again the automobile engine provided a convenient answer, namely the distributor which converts a continuous input to a string of perfectly timed individual sparks.

This brings up the whole question of analogies between energy systems, in our case, electrical versus mechanical. My college electronics professor started his course with a vigorous treatment of the similarities in an effort to expand our minds and encourage insights that might ease his task. Voltage and current are easily visualized using a garden hose and substituting pressure and flow. Resistance becomes friction and heat the inevitable entropy loss. Capacitance becomes a spring and can store energy or deliver it back again. Inductance becomes mass and impedes any attempts at acceleration or deceleration. Attach a mass to a spring, pull the two apart and letting go produces oscillation. It has been 65 years since I sat in Ralph Smith's EE100 class, so I can't remember all the parallels between electronic circuit elements and mechanical equivalents, but they exist and can remove some of the mystery of our hobby.



Goetz Brandt, K6GKB



## ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, Sept. 8, 2022

### AMSAT Outlines Tracking for Artemis I Moon Mission using "Welcome" Beacons

When NASA's Artemis I rocket launches for its mission to the moon this month, you'll be able to track it using 70-centimeter beacons known as Outstanding MOon exploration TEchnologies demonstrated by NAno Semi-Hard Impactors (OMOTENASHIs).



Omotenashi is Japanese for welcome or hospitality, and it describes the 70-centimeter beacons as small spacecraft and semi-hard landers of the 6U [CubeSat](#) format which will demonstrate low-cost technology to land and explore the lunar surface. OMOTENASHI will be one of 10 CubeSats to be carried with the Artemis I mission.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CubeSat>

Brian Wilkins, KO4AQF, says that with the Artemis Real-time Orbit Website (AROW), anyone with internet access can pinpoint where Orion is and track its distance from the Earth, its distance from the moon, the mission duration, and more. AROW is available on [NASA's website](#) and Twitter account. AROW visualizes data collected by sensors on Orion that are sent to the Johnson Space Center's Mission Control Center in Houston during its flight. It will provide periodic real-time data beginning about 1 minute after liftoff through the separation of the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket's Interim Cryogenic Propulsion Stage, approximately 2 hours into flight. <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/track-nasa-s-artemis-i-mission-in-real-time/>

Once Orion is flying on its own, AROW will provide constant real-time information. On the web, users can follow AROW to see where Orion is in relation to the Earth and the moon, and follow Orion's path during the mission. Users can view key mission milestones and characteristics on the moon, including information about landing sites from the Apollo program. Also available for download will be an ephemeris, which provides trajectory data from the flight.

AROW will also provide a set of Orion's state vectors -- data that describes precisely where Orion is in space and how it moves -- for inclusion in these tweets once Orion is flying on its own. These vectors can be used for data lovers, artists, and creatives to make their own tracking app, data visualization, or anything else they envision. For more information, read <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/track-nasa-s-artemis-i-mission-in-real-time/>.

AMSAT member Joe Fitzgerald, KM1P, adds a second online tool, called Horizons. The JPL Horizons online solar system data and computation service provides access to key solar system data and flexible production of highly accurate locations for solar system objects such as asteroids, planetary satellites, planets, the Sun, and select spacecraft. Horizons is provided by the Solar System Dynamics Group of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Fitzgerald says to use "OMOTENASHI" as the Target Body. You can find information and the online app at <https://ssd.jpl.nasa.gov/horizons>.

-- Thanks to Brian Wilkins, KO4AQF; Joe Fitzgerald, KM1P; NASA; JPL Horizons, and AMSAT.

## ARRL Online Groups

ARRL manages several online forums (groups.io) where all radio amateurs - ARRL members and non-members alike - can discuss issues and topics in two-way conversation with ARRL staff and leadership. The groups are aimed at enhancing communication among ARRL leadership, staff, members, and prospective members, in a manner that enables timely updates and collegial discussion. The current ARRL online subgroups include the following:

- Antenna Law and Policy Forum
- ARRL-Awards
- ARRL-Contesting
- ARRL-Education
- ARRL-HF-Band-Planning
- ARRL-LoTW
- ARRL-New-Hams
- ARRL-Regulatory-Affairs
- Feedback to ARRL

Visit <https://www.arrl.org/arrl-groups> for more information.

## CQ de NEPM Battleship USS Iowa

A crossband activation of NEPM, the Battleship USS Iowa's original active call sign, is scheduled in memory of Pearl Harbor. As the representative of the National Museum of the Surface Navy at the Battleship Iowa Museum in San Pedro, California, the Battleship Iowa Amateur Radio Association (BIARA) will honor the sailors and ships previously homeported in San Pedro who were attacked on December



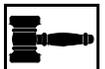
7, 1941, with special crossband activations of NEPM on December 6 and 7, 2022. When Pearl Harbor was attacked, seven of the battleships formerly homeported in San Pedro Bay were not present. Eight Pacific fleet battleships -- the USS Arizona, USS California, USS Maryland, USS Nevada, USS Oklahoma, USS Tennessee, USS West Virginia, and USS Pennsylvania -- were at Pearl Harbor and absorbed the brunt of the Japanese attack. Of these eight ships, three sank, one capsized, and four suffered varying degrees of damage. Under the authority of the Navy and Marine Corps Spectrum Office Southwest, they will transmit using the Iowa's NEPM call sign on assigned military frequencies and listen for calls from the amateur radio community in their adjacent bands. NEPM will transmit on 14.375 MHz, 18.170 MHz, and/or 21.460 MHz on J3E upper sideband and/or A1A CW. The operator will advise listeners as to where they are listening. Amateur participants are reminded not to transmit on the NEPM military frequencies. Operations on both days are expected to be from 1500 to 2400 UTC. QSL procedures can be found at <https://biara.org>. For specific questions in advance of the operation, contact [w6hb@biara.org](mailto:w6hb@biara.org).

## More African countries are now operating on the 60-meter band

The South African Radio League (SARL) reports that three new African countries have joined the ranks of 5 MHz as 60-meter operators. They are Botswana, Lesotho, and Eswatini (formerly known as Swaziland). Each country has access to the new WRC-15 amateur secondary allocation of 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz. This makes a total of 89 countries now on the band worldwide. --Thanks to SARL Secretary Dennis Green, ZS4BS.

# Meeting Minutes

## General Meeting, Sept. 12, 2022



San Jose Red Cross, Room 3

Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:45 PM

Customary self introductions.

Attendees: Gregg KF6FNA, Gwen KF6OTD, Lou WA6QYS, Don K6PBQ, Wally KA6YMD, Truman N6TRU, and Gary WB6YRU.

Announcements

Gregg KF6FNA:

Ned was going to give a talk on our new digital station, but he is out of town. Hopefully next time.

Club station will be open Oct. 22 10 am to 4 pm. We have two radios ready to use, and two antennas.

On the Red Cross roof, we were going to put up a wire and a beam antennas. Ed and Paul are working on an antenna base. We have a balun that needs a little work.  
Pacificon is Oct 14-16, 2022. If you volunteer, you can get free admission.  
George Williams (Red Cross) wants us to hold our board meetings in person at the Red Cross, to show more usage.

Discussion about backup power for repeaters, etc.

Gregg KF6FNA: Our antenna trailer has a tarp, some homeless people have been using it as a tent. John W6JPP cleaned them out. Ned knows a QRP group who builds kits, maybe we can get one of them to be a speaker.

Wally KA6YMD: The 10 m net has been pretty sparse.

Discussion about improving the club station.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, recording for the Secretary

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## Board Meeting, Sept. 19, 2022



Held verbally on our 2 m repeater W6UU/R

Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:41 PM

### Attendance:

President Gregg Lane KF6FNA; Treasurer Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Station Trustee Don Village K6PBQ; Director Lou Steirer WA6QYS; Director Wally Britten KA6YMD; Director John Parks W6JPP.

Unexcused Absence: Director Ben Shuford, KK6CCU

Excused absence: VP Ned Tufekcic AC6YY, Secretary Barbara Britten KD6QEI

Visitors: Editor Gary Mitchell WB6YRU

### Announcements:

KF6FNA: The club station will be open Sept. 24, 10 am - 4 pm

Pacificon will be Oct 14-16.

10 m net on Thursdays . 28.385 USB, 8 pm

We'll be looking for a new day for a picnic

Sept. 26 is the SCCARA-GRAM deadline

President's Report, Gregg KF6FNA: Nothing new

Secretary's Report, Gregg KF6FNA:

The July 18 and Aug. 15 board meeting minutes were published in the SCCARA-GRAM.

Any corrections? (none heard).

Approved by acclamation

Treasurer's Report, Goetz K6GKB:

checking = \$ 10894.24 , cash = \$78.04, Total = \$10972.28

Trustee's Report, Don K6PBQ: The club station will be open on the 24th. There may be an issue with one radio, I'll check that at the time.

Gregg KF6FNA: The Kenwood on the desk doesn't seem to be working. Also George (Red Cross) wants to be there when we run coax to the new spot and when we install new antennas on the roof.

Standing Committees

Editor's report: Gary WB6YRU: Not much new with the SCCARA-GRAM. Thanks to Goetz for his continued contributions.

BBS Sysop's report: Gary WB6YRU: Nothing new, the BBS is running fine.

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

Goetz K6GKB: Eventually I'll service the batteries, nothing else new.

Webmaster's report, Wally KA6YMD: Nothing new with the web site.

### Old Business:

Gregg KF6FNA: We've got two antennas to be installed at the club station (Red Cross), we'll need a work party for that. W6JPP volunteered.

Regarding the antenna trailer, KF6FNA, W6JPP, and W6MNC worked on cleaning it up.

John W6JPP: We worked on some of the struts, all is fairly good. Thanks to W6MNC who isn't even a member.

Gregg KF6FNA:

Goetz wants someone to take over as treasurer, we'll need some one new.

We cancelled the Aug. 20 picnic. Two possible replacement dates for a picnic are Oct 8 or 22.

John W6JPP, Don K6PBQ preferred: Oct 8.

### New Business:

John W6JPP: The American Legion post (where our antenna trailer is stored) is wondering if any SCCARA members would be interested in joining them on a fishing trip. Date & time to be determined. I'd like to get a head count of those interested.

Don K6PBQ: Lake or Ocean?

John W6JPP: Deep Sea

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM PDT

Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, recording for the Secretary

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## Packet Pieces

### Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

*{Note: This came from England, so some of the slang might be a bit esoteric. But the meaning comes through! 😊 --Editor }*

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Date: 14 Nov 2012 23:56

From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW

To: HUMOUR@WW

Subject: Jokes 17/10

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Taken from The Guardian, an actual letter sent by the Inland Revenue:

Dear Mr Addison I am writing to you to express our thanks for your more than prompt reply to our latest communication and also to answer some of the points you raise. I will address them as ever in order. Firstly I must take issue with your description of our last as a "begging letter". It might perhaps more properly be referred to as a "tax

demand". This is how we at the Inland Revenue have always for reasons of accuracy traditionally referred to such documents.

Secondly your frustration at our adding to the "endless stream of crapulent whining and panhandling vomited daily through the letterbox on to the doormat" has been noted. However whilst I have naturally not seen the other letters to which you refer I would cautiously suggest that their being from "pauper councils Lombardy pirate banking houses and pissant gas-monger" might indicate that your decision to "file them next to the toilet in case of emergencies" is at best a little ill-advised. In common with my own organization it is unlikely that the senders of these letters do see you as a "lack wit bumpkin" or come to that a "sodding charity". More likely they see you as a citizen of Great Britain with a responsibility to contribute to the upkeep of the nation as a whole.

Which brings me to my next point. Whilst there may be some spirit of truth in your assertion that the taxes you pay "go to shore up the canker-blighted toppling folly that is the Public Services" a moment's rudimentary calculation ought to disabuse you of the notion that the government in any way expects you to "stump up for the whole damned party" yourself. The estimates you provide for the Chancellor's disbursement of the funds levied by taxation whilst colourful are in fairness a little off the mark. Less than you seem to imagine is spent on "junkets for Bunterish lickspittles" and "dancing whores" whilst far more than you have accounted for is allocated to for example "that box-ticking fagade of a university system.

A couple of technical points arising from direct queries:  
1. The reason we don't simply write "Muggins" on the envelope has to do with the vagaries of the postal system.

2. You can rest assured that "sucking the very marrows of those with nothing else to give" has never been considered as a practice because even if the personal allowance didn't render it irrelevant the sheer medical logistics involved would make it financially unviable.

I trust this has helped. In the meantime whilst I would not in any way wish to influence your decision one way or the other, I ought to point out that even if you did choose to "give the whole foul jamboree up and go live in India," you would still owe us the money.

Please forward it by Friday.

Yours Sincerely H J Lee  
Customer Relations

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

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

W6JPP, John Parks  
e-mail: [w6jpp@arrl.net](mailto:w6jpp@arrl.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@arrl.net](mailto:wa6qys@arrl.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

Nothing was received for the newsletter about club elections, but it's coming up!

October is the month to nominate candidates for club office, elections will be held during the November meeting.

There are three Director seats available. The terms of Directors Ben KK6CCU and John W6JPP will be ending and there's one vacancy. (Directors Wally KA6YMD and Lou WA6QYS have a year to go.) Our Treasurer and Secretary won't be running for re-election.

If you have the skills for one of these offices, please consider it, SCCARA needs you.

Hopefully we'll have a full slate to announce in the next *SCCARA-GRAM*.



Happy Fall!



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 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.