

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 48, Number 2

February 2023



Meetings & Gatherings

Our in-person meetings have resumed, but the board meetings are still being held on our 2 m repeater. The electronics flea markets are planned to resume but they still don't have a location.

In Santa Clara County: The average number of new covid cases daily is now 146 (432 last month). The Health Dept. has rescinded the last *mandatory* restrictions, but masks are still recommended indoors and around others. **The omicron bivalent booster is strongly recommended**, so far 32.1% have received it (29.2% last month).



February Meeting

John W6JPP and Ned AC6YY will be speaking about their Quartzfest 2023 trip at the Feb. 13, 2023 SCCARA General Meeting. Quartzfest (Jan. 22--28) is held South of the town of Quartzsite, Arizona at a "dry camp" campground on BLM land. The activities include an antenna "shoot out," pot luck meals, license testing, lectures, swap meet, and a four wheel drive outing.

Hope to see you there,
Gregg KF6FNA

Club Station

Our club station at the Red Cross will be open on Saturday Feb 25th for our members to come down and operate. Time is 10AM to 5PM. Hope to see you there.



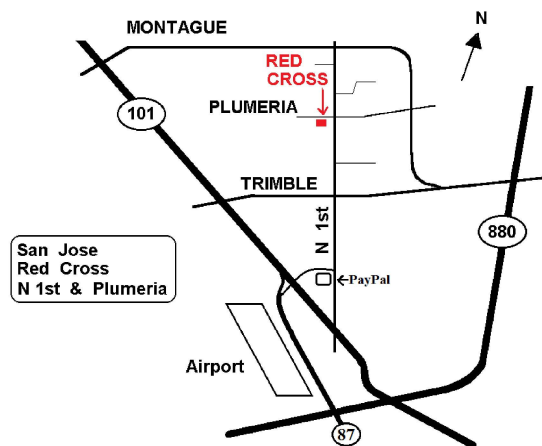
73, Don Village K6PBQ

Calendar

- 2/13 **SCCARA General Meeting**
- 2/20 **SCCARA Board Meeting:** On our 2 m repeater after the net at 7:30 PM)

General Meeting

- Day: Monday, February 13
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: San Jose Red Cross, meeting room 3
- Featuring: John W6JPP and Ned AC6YY on Quartzfest 2023



Exquisite Antiquing Events for 2023

by Truman Lindsey N6TRU

As of late, I've been interested in thrifting and antiquing. I cannot say that I have been totally enveloped (momentarily) by antiquing & thrifting as of late, yet I still find it fun to take a look-see at flea markets, thrift stores, garage sales, and the like. Furthermore, I would like to share two thrifting and/or antiquing events that I have attended or am planning to attend.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(officers are also directors)

President	Gregg Lane KF6FNA	408-393-5607
	e-mail: kf6fna@comcast.net	
Vice President	John Parks, W6JPP	
	e-mail: w6jpp@arrl.net	
Secretary	Lloyd DeVaughns KD6FJI	408-225-6769
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	t94nt@hotmail.com	
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	e-mail: dovillage7@yahoo.com	
Director	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	408-891-1105
	e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net	
Director	Truman Lindsey N6TRU	408-896-1878
	e-mail: n6truhamradio@gmail.com	
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	e-mail: wa6qys@aol.com	
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	e-mail: kg6nbn@arrl.net	

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	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	
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	e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net	
N0ARY BBS	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	408-269-2924
	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	
Webmaster	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	408-891-1105
	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

The 2023 White Elephant Sale

I've been informed about this event through a family friend and heard good things about it. According to the sale's [official website](#), the sale "has supported the Oakland Museum of California's educational programs, exhibitions, and marketing initiatives" and that the selection of items is built up for a whole year. Furthermore, the [website](#) states that the sale is held in a warehouse with more than 90,000 square feet of shopping and more than 17 departments. Further details are available on the sale's [official website](#).

When:

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

February 1 - 4, February 8 - 11, February 15 - 18, February 20, February 23 - 25

Where:

333 Lancaster St, Oakland CA 94601

Parking is limited, so taking public transportation is preferred.

Route: Take Northbound BART (Green Line or Orange Line) to Fruitvale BART, walk 11 minutes to 333 Lancaster Street OR Free shuttle from Fruitvale BART to Warehouse

Website:

<https://www.whiteelephantsale.org/>

N7RCA Swap Meet in Minden, Nevada

I went to this swap meet in June 2021, and it was quite amazing to me. A lot of the stuff here are radio stuffs, so that's a plus. I was unable to attend in June 2022, so I'm strongly hoping to attend in June 2023. It's quite a distance to travel, but I thought it was very fun. It is held on the property of Brad Hollander N7RCA every year in June. If you're interested in boat anchors, technological oddities, gadgets, and the like: this is your kind of event! Further details are provided on [N7RCA's website](#).

When:

12 hour 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

24 hour (0700 to 1200 local)

June 3, 2023

Where:

1780 Bobcat Ct, Gardnerville, NV 89410

Website:

<https://www.n7rca.com/>

Treasurer's Treatise

Financial Statement

1/1/2022 through 12/31/2022

<u>Income</u>	
Club Badges	7.00
Club Dues - 2022	660.00
Club Dues - 2023	185.00
SCCARA-GRAM mail	45.00
	<hr/>
Total Income	897.00
<u>Expenses</u>	
BBS	218.40
Business Cards	38.05
Club Picnic	24.47
Equipment Maint.	225.78
Equipment Purch.	48.18
Insurance	200.00
Office Supply	81.12
PO Box	198.00
Postage	66.00
Printing	19.99
QSL Cards	13.98
SCCARA-GRAM	480.28
Welcome Package	6.64
	<hr/>

Total Expenses 1,620.89
Net Cash Flow -723.89

Accounts as of December 31, 2022
Checking: 10,552.77
Cash: 138.04
Total: 10,690.81

Overall
Beginning Balance: \$11,414.70
Gain/Loss: -\$723.89
Ending Balance: \$10,690.81

Ned Tufekcic AC6YY, Treasurer

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, Jan. 5, 2023

ARRL Volunteers On the Air Event is Underway

ARRL's yearlong operating event, [Volunteers On the Air](#), or VOTA, began January 1, 2023. The event is organized as part of ARRL's 2023 theme, "Year of the Volunteers," which recognizes the contributions of ARRL member volunteers, and offers opportunities to become more active and involved in amateur radio and ARRL.

VOTA encourages participants to make contacts with ARRL members and volunteers, earning points for each contact. Point values have been assigned (see the Points Table at vota.arrl.org). All scoring is automatically calculated through ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW, www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world). If you are already an LoTW user, continue to upload your QSOs there to participate. If you're a new LoTW user, visit [Getting Started with LoTW](#) (<https://lotw.arrl.org/lotw-help/getting-started/>).

As part of the event, there will be week-long activations by W1AW portable stations operating in all US states and territories. W1AW/# portable operations are worth 5 points for each contact, and they can be contacted on all bands and modes. There's also an opportunity to earn the W1AW Worked All States Award. There will be two week-long W1AW operations from each of the 50 states.

Later in the event, an on-line scoreboard, the VOTA Leaderboard, will be activated, allowing each participant to see how their score measures up with other participants throughout the year.

Only two-way contacts qualify for points (cross-band, cross-mode, and repeater contacts are not valid), using any mode (CW, phone, or digital) - including EME and satellite operations - on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2, and 1.25 meters, as well as 70 centimeters, VHF/UHF/SHF, and microwave bands available to US amateurs above 2 meters (2190-, 630-, 60-, 30-, 17-, and 12-meter band contacts are not counted for credit in this event).

Join the fun! Visit the official VOTA website for further details: vota.arrl.org.

Software Radios, pt 4

Last time we took a brief look at what can be done in a software radio. So, what will all this do to the hobby? Well, perhaps tinkering will come back. Think about it...

Up through the 1960's or so, you could build a radio as good as most commercial radios. The needed tools were mostly needle nose pliers, screwdrivers, and a soldering pencil. If you wanted to tinker with a commercial radio, you could get in there no problem. But how many of us do that today? Our radios now are all tiny surface mounted components and chips. You need a very steady hand, a magnifying lens or dissecting microscope, and tools for finely detailed work. And even then, some changes or re-wiring may not be possible, or at least not practical.

On the other hand, with it all in software... If you can program, you can tinker! I think we'll have software radios specifically designed to allow easy modifications for those who want to make (write) their own algorithms. It won't be the same as playing with hardware electronics, but I suspect it could be just as much fun.

Eventually, I think there will be no radios! Our entire radio shack will just be software in the same computer you could be using to read this right now! Instead of starting a game or email, you'd load up your favorite radio. With a headset plugged into the computer's audio port, you'd be on the air. The only radio hardware would be the analog-to-digital converter to receive signals and digital-to-analog converter for transmitting. Both could be in the same small box hidden somewhere near the antenna and connected to your computer with a wireless link.

What about all our equipment and extra gadgets? I imagine future amateurs will look at those with the same nostalgia we currently have toward tube equipment. They'll still exist, but most stations will no longer look like a wall of equipment.

As for our HTs and mobiles... Well, consider what the smart-phone has done to photography. Did you know those really are poor cameras? They produce fantastic images because of all the image processing going on in the background. All the flaws are corrected and enhancements made on the fly automatically. And at the same time they're an internet-connected computer and a telephone, all in one tiny package. Today's smart-phones really are supercomputers. A software radio isn't much of a challenge for such a device, certainly not future smart-phones or whatever will take their place. You might be thinking your HT and certainly your mobile puts out too much power for a smart-phone. Well, not if the power amp were elsewhere. It's common practice these days to have things linked wirelessly, this would be no different.

However, I think the really big wild card is the internet. What that will do to amateur radio is anyone's guess.

When I was young, the ability to talk to someone 1000 miles away with your own radio was a little bit magical. Today, people have video meetings no matter where they are in the world. With things like that now commonplace, talking to someone 1000 miles away no longer seems magical. Still, I don't think amateur radio will go away, it's still fun even though the magic may be gone.

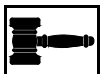
What do you think?



73, Gary WB6YRU

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Jan. 9, 2023



Red Cross, San Jose, CA

Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:39 PM

Customary self introductions.

Truman N6TRU, Don K6PBQ, Doug KG6NBN, John W6JPP, Gwen KF6OTD, Lou WA6QYS, Wally KA6YMD, Gary WB6YRU, Gregg KF6FNA, and Ned AC6YY.

Announcements

President Gregg KF6FNA:
Club station is open Jan. 28, 2023.
SCCARA net Thursday nights 28.385 USB, 8 PM
There are plans to find a new location for the electronic flea market, none as of yet. See their web site asvaro.org for updates.

Treasurer Ned AC6YY:
Some radio clubs have a swap during their meetings. We could do that. Including stuff the club might want to sell.

Truman N6TRU:
June 3 I'll be going to a flea market in Linden NV. Hopefully I'll have an article in SCCARA-GRAM.

V.P. John W6JPP:
Jan 20-27 Quartz festival, in Quartzite AZ

Station Trustee Don K6PBQ:
Winter Field Day on Jan. 28, 2023, the club station will be open that day, we'll operate primarily on HF.

Editor Gary WB6YRU:
We've got past newsletters, membership forms, and the latest roster on the back table.

Our guest speaker Ned AC6YY gave an interesting presentation on our new digital station and how to use mode FT8. Its signal is only 50 Hz bandwidth. You can TX on one frequency and RX on another. That way you can TX in an empty spot if the band is crowded. FT8 is a digital mode using your computer's sound card. It uses phase shift, among others that use two or more frequency shifts to encode the data. Select someone calling CQ. The software automatically makes the contact and exchanges information and that's it. It's used mostly for contesting or earning Worked-All-States awards, etc. It's not used for chatting. You need a radio with SSB modulation, audio input output, computer with display and sync. your computer clock with the standard.. That's about it. Some modern radios have built-in ability for digital with built-in sound-card, just connect the computer with one cable with a CAT interface. For older radios without a built-in sound-card, Signalink USB is one of the more popular interfaces. You may need to download drivers from the radio manufacturer's web site so the FT8 software will be able to use the radio hardware.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM

Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, recording for the Secretary

Board Meeting, Jan. 16, 2023



Held verbally on our 2 m repeater W6UU/R

Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:38 PM

Attendance:
President Gregg Lane KF6FNA; VP John Parks W6JPP; Treasurer Ned Tufekcic AC6YY; Station Trustee Don Village K6PBQ;

Directors Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Wally Britten KA6YMD, Doug Owens KG6NBN, Ben Shuford, KK6CCU, and Truman Lindsey N6TRU.

Unexcused Absence: Secretary Lloyd DeVaughns KD6FJI
Visitors: Editor Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, outgoing Treas. Goetz K6GKB.

Announcements:

Gregg KF6FNA: SCCARA-GRAM deadline is Monday Jan. 30, it's better if articles can be submitted sooner.
The Quartz flea market in Quartzite Arizona is Jan. 27 and 28.

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

Vice President's Report, John W6JPP: I have a couple of possible speakers, but they want to join us via zoom. I met a man who has a vintage amateur radio from WW2, I can see if he may be interested.

Secretary's Report, Gregg KF6FNA: The December meeting minutes were published in the SCCARA-GRAM. The December board meeting was cancelled, (no minutes). Any corrections? (none heard)
Approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report, Goetz K6GKB: Treasurer emeritus here, the transfer to Ned AC6YY is pending.
Checking: \$10,727.77, Cash: \$138.04, Total: \$10,865.81
Gary did a great job putting together the paperwork for the bank. We'll have to take care of the transfer after John and Ned get back from the Quartzite event. Until then, I'm still in the saddle.

Trustee's Report, Don K6PBQ: Club station will be open Jan 28, 10 AM to 5 PM. Also we'll participate in winter Field Day.

Standing Committees

Editor's report: Gary WB6YRU: Nothing new to report.

BBS Sysop's report: Gary WB6YRU:

The N0ARY BBS has had a hardware problem, which was corrected. The consensus is that the computer is 30 years old and it's time for an upgrade. Suggested equipment is a Raspberry Pi. Modern computers, even a small one like the Raspberry Pi has more than enough horsepower, is easy to set up, and relatively inexpensive (\$120 to \$200 roughly). It uses a SD memory card instead of hard Drive. With cables and adapters, estimated cost around \$300.

Gregg KF6FNA: Seems like a reasonable needed item.

Wally KA6YMD: Suggest we go ahead with the upgrade.

Don K6PBQ: Motion that we approve \$300 for the BBS computer upgrade, with the option of more if needed.

Doug KG6NBN: Second

Voting YES: John W6JPP, Ned AC6YY, Truman N6TRU, Ben KK6CCU, Doug KG6NBN, Lou WA6QYS, Wally KA6YMD, and Don K6PBQ.

Lloyd KD6FJI: (absent)

Gregg KF6FNA: The N0ARY BBS computer upgrade is approved unanimously.

Repeater chairman's report, Wally KA6YMD: Nothing new, it's working fine.

Webmaster's report, Wally KA6YMD: It's being updated as needed.

Special Committee(s):

Membership committee, Ben KK6CCU: Nothing new, we'll try to be more active this year.

Old Business:

Gregg KF6FNA: Still waiting to do antenna work on Red Cross. It's been raining a lot lately.
John W6JPP: We need some work on an antenna at the American Legion Post (where our antenna trailer is stored), to be figured out later.

Gregg KF6FNA: We'll have to look into getting a zoom account if we want general meetings with speakers who can only join us via zoom. (zoom: video conferencing over the internet)
Ned AC6YY: I'll into that. The price varies depending on how many people there will be.

New Business:

Don K6PBQ: There could be an issue with our antennas at the club station because of all the rain we've had recently. I'll check on that, maybe contact George (Red Cross) ask if he knows anything.

John W6JPP: When we're at Quartzite Ned and I will have a station running for Winter Field Day, probably on 20 m and 40 m, if anyone wants to contact us for points.

There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM

Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, recording for the Secretary

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====
Date: 5 Apr 2011 01:23
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Checkbook

Tired of having to balance his wife Cindy's checkbook, Mike made a deal with her; he would look at it, but only after she had spent some time trying to wrestle it into shape. The following night, after spending hours poring over stubs and figures, Cindy said proudly, "I've done it! I made it balance!"

Impressed, Mike came over to take a look. "Let's see... mortgage \$550.00, electricity \$70.50, phone \$35.00." His brow wrinkled as he read the last entry. "It says here ESP, \$615. What the heck is that?"

"Oh," she said, "That means, Error Some Place!"

=====
Date: 16 Jul 2010 01:34
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Dog Care

A little boy was roughhousing with his dog. His mother said to him, "Now, Peter, I know you love Granger, but you're loving him too much. How would you feel if someone huge picked you up and squeezed you so hard you couldn't breathe?"

The boy thought a moment and then said, "I guess I'd feel

like it was my birthday and Aunt Doreen was here!"

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

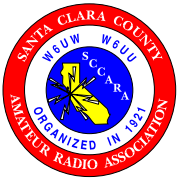
WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, 408-269-2924
packet: home BBS N0ARY
e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com

Newsletter Notes

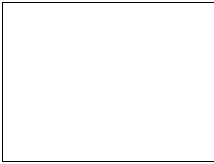
I'm done with my article on software radios. Please join in, let's hear what you think about this new technology.



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 2023

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: _____
used only for club communications

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.