

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 48, Number 3

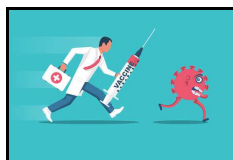
March 2023



Meetings & Gatherings

Our in-person meetings have resumed. The board meetings are still being held on our 2 m repeater. The electronic flea markets are planned to start, but so far there's no location.

The average number of new covid cases daily in Santa Clara County is now 182 (146 last month). Vaccination with the latest omicron bivalent booster is strongly recommended. In Santa Clara County 33.0% have received the bivalent booster (32.1% last month).



Calendar

- 3/13 SCCARA General Meeting
- 3/20 SCCARA Board Meeting: On our 2 m repeater after the net at 7:30 PM)

General Meeting

Day: Monday, March 13
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: San Jose Red Cross, meeting room 3
Featuring: {to be announced}

Android SSTV Hijinks

First, I'll mention that Gary WB6YRU sent me an email with the idea for an article. So, there's credit where credit is due!

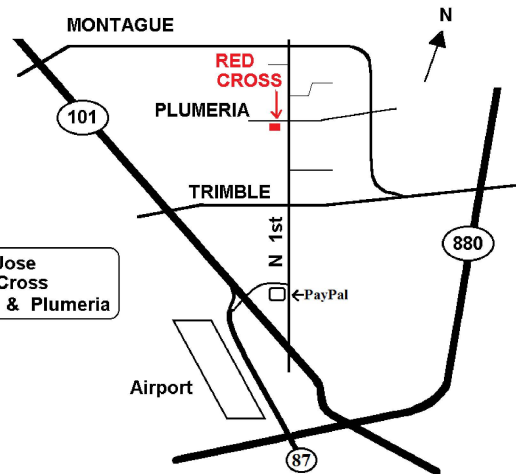
Anyways, I'll start with stating that my knowledge of Slow Scan Television (SSTV) is lacking. The extent to my experimentation with it is through a mobile app which creates the auditory signal. I experimented with having one cell phone encode it (transmitting it through its crummy speaker) and the other phone decode it (receiving it through its crummy microphone). This was a fun thing to goof around with, to be fair.

I considered using this application with the radio (as intended). After all, I found out that the creator of this application had an interface kit for connecting the phone to the radio. But, as with many things, I found this interface to be a bit too pricey for the moment and put it on the back burner.

Yet, regarding SCCARA's new digital station, perhaps it would be worthwhile to set up some SSTV operations. SSTV is among the many sections of ham radio that I have yet to explore in more detail. Some food for thought, I suppose. Or perhaps, pork for thought. (What an atrocious pun!)



de Truman Lindsey N6TRU
RX-SSTV



Club Station

Our club station at the Red Cross will be open on Saturday Mar 25, 10 AM-5 PM. Come on down to operate. This year we would like to get our Worked all States award.



73, Don Village K6PBQ

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)

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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

Quartz-Fest

I won second place in distance challenge competition at Quartzfest Arizona. It's a contest to see who can make the farthest contact. This is the contest results:

2023 Distance Contest Winners and Runners-up					
Rank	Call	Name	Radio	Antenna	Distance in miles
SSB or CW, 100 watts or less					
1st	KU7K	Joe Rogers	TS480	Butternut vertical	10,099.6
2nd	W5RE	Bobby Sullivan	IC-7000	Inverted V	6,727.1
FT-8, 100 watts or less					
1st	N9AGC	Greg Smith	FT991A	MFJ Octopus	11,380.8
2nd	KC5QO C	John Mocho	FT991A	Hamstick	9,989.5
SSB or CW, QRP (5 watts or less)					
1st	W1R0	Jim Bassett	IC 705	YoYo Invert V	7905.8
2nd	AC6YY	Ned Tufekcic	K2X	Dipole	5974.6
SSB or CW or FT-8, 100 watts or less					
1st	KM6BIP	Eva Kidwell	TS590	MFJ EFHW	8463.8
2nd	K8TX	Robert Morrow	TS590S	MFJ EFHW	6679.3



K8TX W1R0 AC6YY KC5QOC N9AGC KU7K W5RE KM6BIP
73, Ned AC6YY

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, Feb. 16, 2023

General - Class Element 3 Question Pool

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators, NCVEC, Question Pool Committee has released the latest errata for the [2023 - 2027 Element 3 General question pool](#), which goes into effect on July 1, 2023. Nine questions were

modified (G1B01, G1C01, G1C02, G5C02, G7C10, G9B05, G9C09, G9D09, and G9D10) and two questions (G9C06 and G9D13) were withdrawn from use. The [pool](#) is available as a Microsoft Word document and PDF. These changes are reflected in the new General Pool download file, dated February 1, 2023. (<http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=369>)

From *The ARRL Letter*, Feb. 23, 2023

World Amateur Radio Day

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) announced that Human Security for All (HS4A) will be this year's theme of [World Amateur Radio Day](#) on April 18, 2023. (<https://www.arrl.org/world-amateur-radio-day>)

The day is being celebrated with a 2-week operating event occurring April 11 - 25. Special event stations will be operating from around the world, making two-way radio contacts to call attention to the HS4A campaign.

The [concept of human security](#) measures the security of an individual by things essential to one's well-being. This includes economics, food, health, the environment, personal factors, the community, and political factors. (<https://www.un.org/humansecurity/what-is-human-security/>)

Amateur radio is uniquely positioned to address those challenges by promoting technical knowledge, practical skills, innovative technology, and the deployment of backup systems at the community level that can be called upon in times of emergency.

IARU, a federation of the national amateur radio societies of over 150 countries worldwide, is the global advocate for amateur radio through its Sector Membership in the International Telecommunication Union, an agency of the U.N., and other activities.

The [United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security](#) and the [World Academy of Art and Science](#) are partnering with [IARU](#) in the campaign. (<https://www.un.org/humansecurity/>) (<https://new.worldacademy.org/>) (<https://www.iaru.org/>)

In a release, the partners wrote, "Amateur radio has repeatedly demonstrated its ability to address human security needs. It is a truly global communications medium comprising some three million radio enthusiasts connecting communities and the peoples of the world."

ARRL participates in World Amateur Radio Day each year. It was on this day in 1925 that the IARU was formed in Paris. ARRL co-founder Hiram Percy Maxim was its first president. For additional World Amateur Radio Day resources, visit <http://www.arrl.org/world-amateur-radio-day>.

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Feb. 13, 2023



San Jose Red Cross, 2710 N. First St.

Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:43 PM

Customary self introductions.

Announcements

President Gregg KF6FNA: We need to set up a couple more antennas for the club station. We have nets at 8PM, 28.385 USB. Also on our 2 m repeater at 7:30 PM every Monday except our meeting night. On the 3rd Monday of each month we have our board meetings on the 2 m repeater, after the regular net. Flea markets are scheduled to resume, but they don't have a location. SCCARA is scheduled to host the April flea market.

Truman N6TRU: I need a little help at home, antenna tuning issue.

Vice President John W6JPP: It's Gregg's birthday today, 69.

Treasurer Ned AC6YY: The FT8 mode is ready to go. If anyone is interested, give me a call to make arrangements.

Station Trustee Don K6PBQ: The club station will be open Feb 25th 10 AM-4 PM. And on March 25th. I can open on request also, if I'm available.

Barbara KD6QEI: I've been out of commission, foot trouble. I'm finally wearing normal shoes and getting back to normal.

Wally KA6YMD: I've been an ARRL member for 40 years now.

Our guest speakers are Ned AC6YY and John W6JPP. They gave an interesting presentation about their participation in the Quartzite event "Quartz-fest" in AZ. It's an annual event for amateurs, like a convention with lectures and events. This time it had about 750 people, most camped in RVs. Some events were broadcast with ATV. They launched a weather balloon that went up to 40,000 feet with an APRS tracking transmitter and several other payloads. Ned won first place in a radio contest on who could make the farthest away contact. His contact was in Lithuania. They had a huge swap meet. It's on federal land, BLM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM

Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, recording for the Secretary

Board Meeting, Feb. 20, 2023



Held verbally on our 2 m repeater W6UU/R

Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:37 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, Truman Lindsey N6TRU, Ben Shuford, KK6CCU, Doug Owens KG6NBN.

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

Announcements:

Gregg KF6FNA: Club station is open on 25th of this month. SCCARA-GRAM deadline is Feb. 27.

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

Vice President's Report, John W6JPP: Working on a speaker for next month, more details later.

Secretary's Report:

Gary WB6YRU: We now have 27 members for 2023, 4 are new, 1 is returning. However 24 have not renewed, including 2 board members, and the grace period ends next week.

Gregg KF6FNA:

The January general meeting minutes were published in the SCCARA-GRAM, any corrections?

(none heard)

Approved by acclamation

The January board meeting minutes were published in the SCCARA-GRAM, any corrections?

(none heard)

Approved by acclamation

Treasurer's Report, Ned AC6YY:

checking = \$10742.66, cash = \$158.40, Total = \$10.901.06

Trustee's Report, Don K6PBQ: We're working on our WAS award. The club station will be open on the Feb. 25. We have two antennas working.

Standing Committees

Editor's report: Gary WB6YRU: Not much new. Just one note of a personal nature: The SCCARA-GRAM comes out next week. It will be the March 2023 edition. My first, as the club's new editor, was March 1993. 30 years.

BBS Sysop's report: Gary WB6YRU: The N0ARY BBS has been running on the new Raspberry Pi computer, but just for testing. The live on-the-air BBS is still running on the old Sun SPARC 2 workstation. The change over is planned for February 25.

Repeater chairman's report, Wally KA6YMD: No problems, everything is working well.

Goetz K6GKB (repeater host): nothing new, it's working fine.

Webmaster's report, Wally KA6YMD: Keeping it updated. Let me know iff anyone notices anything that needs work.

Special Committee(s):

Membership, Ben KK6CCU: Nothing new. March 4 - 25, I'll be out of the area.

Old Business:

Gregg KF6FNA: antenna work at the Red Cross: We'll do a walk-through, see what all is needed. Ready to help are: myself, George (Red Cross), John W6JPP, Doug KG6NBN, Wally KA6YMD, and Gary WB6YRU. Don K6PBQ and Truman N6TRU will help from the club station or on the ground.

John W6JPP: Not much new going on with our antenna trailer at the American Legion Post.

KF6FNA: Regarding the zoom account for the club meetings...

Ned AC6YY: Work on that is in progress.

New Business:

KF6FNA: At the general meeting, Don was looking into scouts using the club station for merit badges.

Don K6PBQ: It can be boy or girl scouts. I don't know of any, but am ready to help them out at the club station.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM

Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, recording for the Secretary

network:

=====
Date: 14 Mar 2020 08:39
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: jokes 14/3

Idiot Sightings:

We had to have the garage door repaired. The Sears repairman told us that one of our problems was that we did not have a 'large' enough motor on the opener. I thought for a minute and said that we had the largest one Sears made at that time a 1/2 horsepower. He shook his head and said 'lady you need a 1/4 horsepower.' I responded that 1/2 was larger than 1/4. He said 'NO it's not.' Four is larger than two.

My daughter and I went through the McDonald's take-out window and I gave the clerk a \$5 bill. Our total was \$4.25. so I also handed her a quarter. She said 'you gave me too much money.' I said 'Yes I know but this way you can just give me a dollar bill back.' She sighed and went to get the manager who asked me to repeat my request. I did so, and he handed me back the quarter and said 'We're sorry but we cannot do that kind of thing.' The clerk then proceeded to give me back \$1 and 75 cents in change. Do not confuse the clerks at McD's.

I live in a semi rural area. We recently had a new neighbor call the local township administrative office to request the removal of the DEER CROSSING sign on our road. The reason: 'Too many deer are being hit by cars out here! I don't think this is a good place for them to be crossing anymore.'

My daughter went to a local Taco Bell and ordered a taco. She asked the person behind the counter for 'minimal lettuce.' He said he was sorry but they only had iceberg lettuce.

I was at the Birmingham AL airport checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked 'Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?' To which I replied 'If it was without my knowledge how would I know?' He smiled knowingly and nodded 'That's why we ask.'

The spotlight on the corner buzzes when it's safe to cross the street. I was crossing with an intellectually challenged coworker of mine. She asked if I knew what the buzzer was for. I explained that it signals blind people when the light is red. Appalled she responded 'What on earth are blind people doing driving?!' She was a probation officer in Wichita KS.

At a good-bye luncheon for an old and dear coworker who was leaving the company due to 'downsizing', our manager commented cheerfully 'This is fun. We should do this more often.' Not another word was spoken. We all just looked at each other with that deer-in-the-headlights stare. This was a lunch at Texas Instruments.

I work with an individual who plugged her power strip back into itself and for the sake of her life couldn't understand why her system would not turn on. She was a deputy with the Dallas County Sheriffs office no less.

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet

When my husband and I arrived at an automobile dealership to pick up our car we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the drivers side door. As I watched from the passenger side I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked. 'Hey' I announced to the technician 'its open!' His reply 'I know. I already got that side.' This was at the Ford dealership in Canton Mississippi.

Two couples were playing poker one evening. Jim accidentally dropped some cards on the floor. When he bent down under the table to pick them up he noticed Bob's wife Sue wasn't wearing any underwear under her dress! Shocked by this Jim upon trying to sit back up again hit his head on the table and emerged red-faced. Later Jim went to the kitchen to get some refreshments. Bob's wife followed and asked 'Did you see anything that you like under there?'

Surprised by her boldness Jim admitted that well indeed he did. She said 'Well you can have it but it will cost you \$500.'

After taking a minute or two to assess the financial and moral costs of this offer Jim confirms that he is interested. Sue told him that since Bob worked Friday afternoons and Jim didn't, Jim should be at her house around 2 pm Friday afternoon. When Friday rolled around Jim showed up at Bob's house at 2 pm sharp. After paying the agreed sum of \$500 - they went to the bedroom and closed their transaction as agreed. Jim quickly dressed and left.

As usual Bob came home from work at 6 pm. And upon arriving asked his wife: 'Did Jim come by the house this afternoon?'

With a lump in her throat Sue answered 'Why yes he did stop by for a few minutes this afternoon.' Her heart nearly skipped a beat when her husband curtly asked 'And did he give you \$500?'

Sue using her best poker face replied 'Well yes in fact he did give me \$500.'

Bob with a satisfied look on his face surprised his wife by saying 'He came by the office this morning and borrowed \$500 from me. He promised he'd stop by our house this afternoon on his way home and pay me back.'

Now THAT my friends is a poker player

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



This edition begins my 30th year as SCCARA's editor. It's hard to believe... I've done this for **30 years** now!

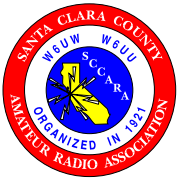
My first edition as editor was March 1993. Don KO6HH was president. The then editor, George WA6O, was stepping down after filling in for one year. I told Don I'd consider it as a last resort if no one else volunteered. At the February 1993 meeting Don asked if anyone was interested and, no surprise, everyone dropped their gaze and went oh so quiet. He then turned and looked at me expectantly. And that's how it happened.

SCCARA just turned 102. In 6 more years I will have been the editor for 1/3 of the club's existence. In 2016 I was editor for 1/4 of the club's existence, but that little milestone went by unnoticed. Well, at least I'll have something for his column in the March 2029 edition. 😊

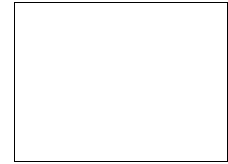


73, Gary WB6YRU, editor





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: _____

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.