

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 48, Number 5

May 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 have resumed, now at West Valley College.

The average number of new covid cases daily in Santa Clara County is now 81 (182 last month). Masks are still recommended indoors and around crowds. Older adults and immune compromised may get a second dose of the omicron bivalent booster.



SCCARA to Host the Electronics Flea Market

The May 8, 2023 SCCARA meeting at the American Red Cross will be about SCCARA hosting the May 14, 2023 [Electronics Flea Market](https://www.electronicfleamarket.com/). This is our chance to raise funds to support our repeaters, the club station, Field Day, and picnics. (<https://www.electronicfleamarket.com/>)

SCCARA is looking for volunteers to:

- 1) Shop for food items to be sold at the concession booth.
- 2) Pick up and return concession canopy and associated items from the ASVARO storage. Need 2 volunteers, truck.
- 3) Help set up & take down the concession canopy/tables/ice tubs on the day of the flea market. Need 6 volunteers.
- 4) Sell at the concession booth. Need 3 volunteers per each 2 hour shift.
- 5) Help at the vender ticket gate / direct parking of vendors. Need 2 volunteers especially until 9am.

Location: West Valley College, 1400 Fruitvale Ave (at Allendale Ave.), Saratoga, Parking lot #3. Here's a [map of the parking lots](https://www.westvalley.edu/documents/maps/pdf/wvc-parking-map.pdf) (<https://www.westvalley.edu/documents/maps/pdf/wvc-parking-map.pdf>)

Times:

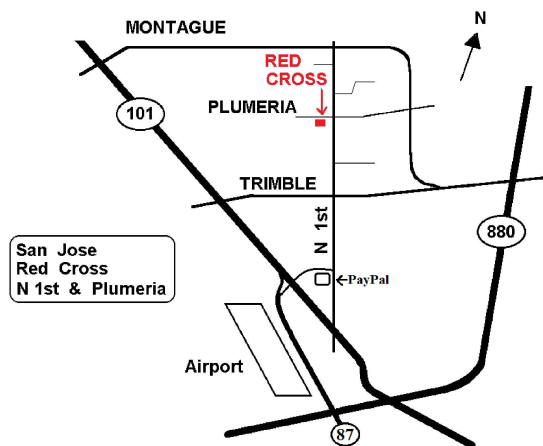
- 5:00 AM Vender ticket gate opens (could use 2 volunteers until 9am - first shift, second shift after 9 AM?)
- 5:30 AM Set up concession canopy area (could use 6 volunteers)
- 6:00 AM Food sales start (need 3 volunteers per shift) vendors are set up and selling starts.
- 12:00 noon Flea Market ends. Concession canopy tear down

Calendar

- 5/8 SCCARA General Meeting
- 5/14 Electronics Flea Market -- **We host!**
- 5/15 SCCARA Board Meeting: On our 2 m repeater after the net at 7:30 PM)

General Meeting

- Day: Monday, May 8
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: San Jose Red Cross, meeting room 3
- Featuring: SCCARA host Electronic Flea Market



and clean up.
1:00 PM Return canopy etc. to ASVARO storage.

SCCARA has helped other clubs with set up and tear down of concession canopy. There should be a few volunteers from other clubs that will be willing to help SCCARA. I will be contacting members before the May 8 meeting to look for volunteers.

See you at the meeting, Gregg KF6FNA
408-393-5607 kf6fna@comcast.net

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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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

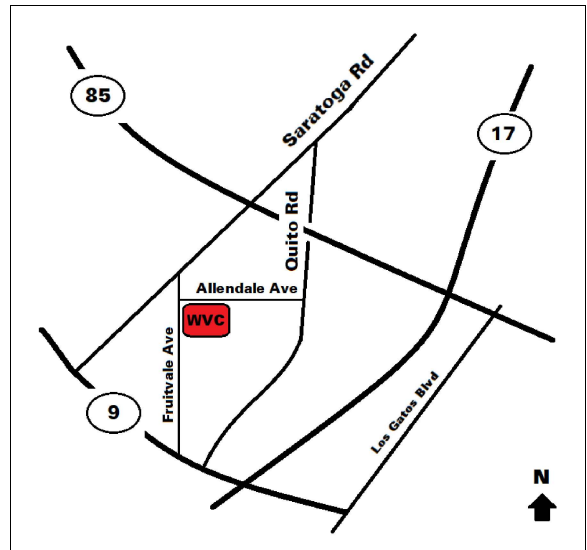
On our two meter repeater: Mondays at 7:30 PM, (not the second Monday--our meeting night). Coordinator: Don Village, K6PBQ. On ten meters, 28.385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00 PM. Net control: Wally Britten, KA6YMD. Visitors welcome.

NØARY PACKET BBS

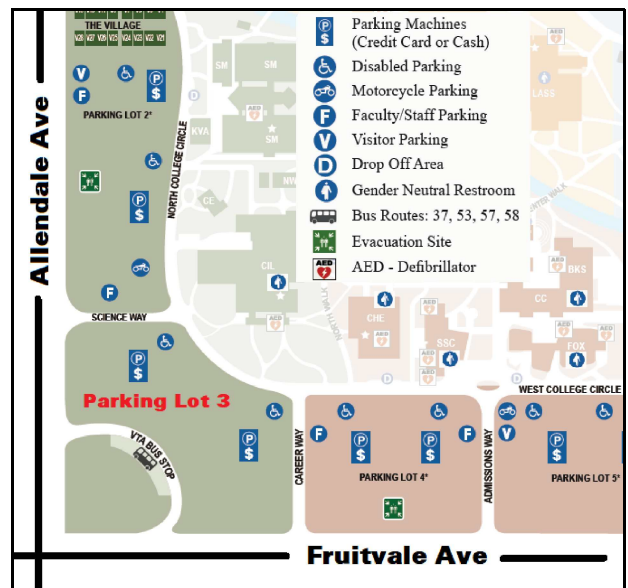
SCCARA hosts the packet BBS NØARY (connect to n0ary-1). User ports: 145.09 MHz at 1200 baud, 433.37 MHz at 9600 baud, and telnet sun.n0ary.org (login "bbs"). Sysop: Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU For general packet info, see the NCPA web site ncpa.n0ary.org.

AMATEUR LICENSE TESTING

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



West Valley College is in Saratoga.



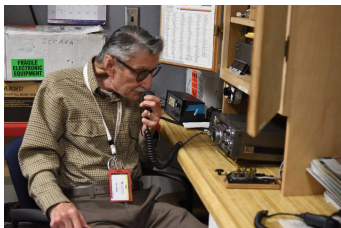
Parking Lot 3 (for sellers) is at the corner of Fruitvale and Allendale, near the bus stop. Buyers use the adjacent lots.



The food booth from a past flea market

Club Station

Our club station at the Red Cross will be open on Saturday May 27th for our members to come down and operate. Time is 10.00AM to 5.00PM. This year we will work on finishing our missing States for the Worked All States Award.



73, Don Village K6PBQ at the mic, SCCARA station.

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 6, 2023

Time to Get Ready for Field Day

ARRL Field Day is just over two months away, but like spring cleaning, it pays to start getting ready now.

2023 Field Day will be held June 24 - 25. It is ham radio's open house. Every June, hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to communities and the nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Some participants may also choose to operate from home, using the exercise to develop and practice their personal radio communications capability.

Field Day has been an annual event since 1933 and remains the most popular event in ham radio.

In 2022, 4,929 entries were submitted (including check logs), and there was a total of 29,679 reported participants.

Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit and may submit entries as check logs.

The main focus of Field Day is to work as many stations as possible on the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-, 15-, and 10-meter HF bands, all bands on 50 MHz and above, and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less-than-optimal conditions. A premium is placed on developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness and acquaint the general public with the capabilities of amateur radio.

For Field Day 2023, several rule changes have been made. It's a good idea to make sure that your logging software has been updated to the most current version to incorporate these rule changes including the updated Canadian sections list. There are many facets to operating on Field Day and knowing the rules and keeping good logs are paramount to successful contacts.

Many local amateur radio clubs participate in ARRL Field Day. To start preparing for Field Day, see <http://www.arrl.org/field-day> for the official rules and all the information you'll need. To find a participating radio club in your area, use the Field Day Locator on the page.

Lewis and Clark Trail Special Event

The Lewis and Clark Trail on the Air special event commemorates the historic path the explorers took on their trek across the Midwest. The trail covers 4,900 miles and 16 states. This includes the disembarkation from Camp Dubois and what is referred to as the Eastern Legacy. The event is sponsored by the [Clark County Amateur Radio Club](#), with support and participation from other clubs in all 16 states along the historic trail. The 2023 event will run 24 hours per day beginning June 3 and continuing through June 18 (June 2, 5:00 PM Pacific Time to June 18, 5:00 PM Pacific Time). The rules are simple: contact one club in each of the 16 states on the historic Lewis and Clark Trail. Operating modes include SSB phone, FM phone, CW, and FT8. Any combination of modes used to work all 16 states is allowed. The on-air exchange will include the call sign and name of the operator. Additional information, such as a signal report or a Parks on the Air park designation, may also be logged but is not required. Additional information can be found at [Lewis & Clark Trail on the Air](#).

<https://www.w7aia.org/>
<https://www.lctota.org/>

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 13, 2023

ARSA Announces 2023 Award Winner

The [Amateur Radio Software Award](#) (ARSA) Committee has announced that GridTracker, a project led by Stephen Loomis, N0TTL, and the GridTracker.org team, has been selected as the recipient of the 4th annual Amateur Radio Software Award. <https://arsaward.com/>

The award recognizes software projects that enhance amateur radio and promote innovation, freedom, and openness in amateur radio software development.

The committee received many nominations for the 2023 award, and after careful consideration, GridTracker was chosen as the winner. The committee was impressed by the breadth of features in GridTracker, its innovative graphic interface, and its ability to make amateur radio more fun.



GridTracker is a tool that visualizes WSJT-X amateur radio traffic, like FT8 and contacts from log files, which makes it easier for radio amateurs to track their contacts and participate in contests. Its unique approach to visualizing radio traffic adds a new dimension of enjoyment to the radio art.

To learn more about GridTracker, visit <https://gridtracker.org>.

As part of the award, Loomis has requested that a \$300 grant be donated to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Oregon, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness.

The ARSA Committee is already looking forward to next year's award and welcomes input and nominations for future awards.

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, April 10, 2023



{No minutes were received. }

Board Meeting, April 17, 2023



Held verbally on our 2 m repeater W6UU/R

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

Attendance:

President Gregg Lane KF6FNA; VP John Parks W6JPP; Treasurer Ned Tufekcic AC6YY; Director Lou Steirer WA6QYS; Director Wally Britten KA6YMD; Director Truman Lindsey N6TRU; Director Ben Shuford, KK6CCU; Director Doug Owens N6DPO; Station Trustee Don Village K6PBQ.

Unexcused Absence: Secretary Lloyd DeVaughns KD6FJI

Visitors: Editor Gary Mitchell WB6YRU

Announcements:

Gregg KF6FNA: club station will be open 29th 10-5 PM. Newsletter deadline is next Monday. Field Day June 24, 25. We'll host the Flea Market Sunday May 14.

John W6JPP: Antenna work party needed at the American Legion later this month.

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

Vice President's Report, John W6JPP: I've got leads on some possible speakers.

Secretary's Report:

Gregg KF6FNA:

Last month's minutes were published in the SCCARA-GRAM.

On the March general minutes, any corrections? (nothing heard)

Approved by acclamation

On the March board minutes, any corrections? (nothing heard)

Approved by acclamation

Treasurer's Report, Ned AC6YY:

Checking = \$ 10696.37, Cash = \$ 198.40

Trustee's Report, Don K6PBQ: The club station will be open on Saturday April 29th 10 am to 5 pm.

Standing Committees

Editor's report, Gary WB6YRU: We're scheduled to host the electronic flea market next month, but so far nothing about it has been sent in to the SCCARA-GRAM. We need something for the May edition.

BBS Sysop's report: Gary WB6YRU: The computer upgrade is still pending.

Repeater chairman's report, Wally KA6YMD: The 2 m repeater had some power issues, but it's working fine now.

Truman N6TRU: The Echolink seems to be down.

Wally KA6YMD: That was a couple of days ago, it supposedly was fixed.

Webmaster's report, Wally KA6YMD: No significant updates.

Special Committee(s):

Membership, Ben KK6CCU: Nothing new to report.

Old Business:

Gregg KF6FNA: Still need some antenna work at the Red Cross. There's a broken balun that needs fixing.

We don't have a zoom account (yet) but the meeting room can accommodate it.

Field Day is June 24 & 25. We plan to do it at the club station (Red Cross), we still need to get that confirmed.

Don K6PBQ: We'll have a BBQ Saturday lunch and dinner. Sunday breakfast & lunch. And pot luck. If you have something to BBQ, we can cook it. The food is still being finalized.

Gregg KF6FNA: Flea Market: doors open for vendors at 5 AM, food booth setup at 5:30, the market starts at 6 AM and ends at 12 noon. We'll need to figure out the generator. Need volunteer(s) to get the food and sodas.

Ned AC6YY: I can get the food.

Club sales table:

Gary WB6YRU: we need to find out how much stuff we have to sell, if we're are going to sell anything, and whether we want to allow members to sell some of their stuff. Do we need a booth or just a table by the food booth? Lou WA6QYS has been storing club flea market stuff, I don't know of anyone else.

Gregg KF6FNA: that's still a work in progress, I'll get that info soon.

Don K6PBQ: Lou WA6QYS knows where to get the doughnuts etc. Ned will need to know that.

Doug N6DPO: About our zoom account... I have a zoom account that we can use until we get our own account.

And I have some stuff to donate to the club for selling at the flea market. I'll get that info to Gary for planning.

New Business:

Truman N6TRU: At the April flea market people had trouble finding the restrooms and they were far away. We might want to invest in some port-a-potties.

Wally KA6YMD: ASVARO voted to use the campus restrooms, port-a-potties are \$200 each. However, they are aware that there were complaints.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, recording for the Secretary

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

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

We needed the garage door repaired. The Sears repairman told us that one of our problems was that we didn't 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.' We haven't used Sears repair since.

My daughter and I went McDonald's. Our total was \$4.25. I gave the clerk a \$5 bill and 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. 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.

At the Birmingham AL airport an airport employee asked me '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 a 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.

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. I announced to the technician, 'Hey, its open!' He said 'I know, I already got that side.' This was at the Ford dealership in Canton Mississippi.

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

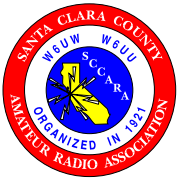
Newsletter Notes

The big news this month is the electronic flea market. This is a major fund-raiser for the club. **If you can help out, please do.** Most of the help is needed for the food booth (or food tent or concession stand, whatever you want to call it). Mostly it's coffee, doughnuts, and sodas. We won't have a club sales booth this time.

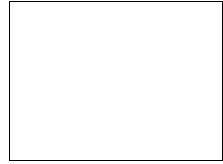
As usual we have a notice about the club station being open. Did you notice Don mentioned we're working on our [Worked All States award](#) (WAS)? For those who don't know, you can probably surmise that means having made a contact with someone in every U.S. State. I was surprised, I thought we already have that. Well, if you've been considering operating the club station "some day," this is an added incentive.



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: _____

on ly 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.