



SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 48, Number 12

December 2023



Dinner Meeting

Our December meeting will be our annual holiday dinner meeting. It's on our regular meeting night, but at 6 PM instead of 7:30. It'll be at Denny's, 333 S. Abbott Ave. in Milpitas. See the map. We'll each have separate checks.

Club Email List

As you know we email out a notice each month with the *SCCARA-GRAM* newsletter. Up to now it has come from "Sccara Club" w6uw@sbcglobal.net.

That list is being moved to groups.io. The new list will be W6UW@groups.io. It's not a chat group, it's only for club announcements and distribution of the *SCCARA-GRAM*.

We can't simply add members to the new list, each of you has to be "invited" to join and you have to accept. When you receive an invitation (by email) to join the W6UW@groups.io list, simply reply to be included.

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, Nov. 9, 2023

The First Worked All States Certificate Awarded for the 33 Centimeter Band

On November 4, 2023, Al Ward's, W5LUA, 38-year quest to contact all 50 states on the 33-centimeter band ended when he received the first-ever Worked All States (WAS) certificate for 902 - 928 MHz. Ward started collecting states on the band shortly after it was opened in 1985.

"I am extremely grateful to Peter Van Horne, KA6U, for his EME [Earth-moon-Earth] efforts. I was able to work Wisconsin for my last state [on] the 33-centimeter band on October 21. At the end of September, I was sitting at 32 states confirmed with cards and/or the Logbook of The World (LoTW), when Van Horne went on a 25-state expedition providing my last 18 states," said Ward. In recent expeditions, Brian McCarthy, NX9O, and Jason Baack, N1AV, also provided several states that were needed.

Ward's station consists of a 5-meter dish with 400 W of power

Calendar

12/11	SCCARA General Meeting--Dinner meeting!
12/18	SCCARA Board Meeting -- Canceled
12/30	Club Station open, 10 AM - 5 PM

General Meeting

Day: Monday, December 11
Time: 6:00 PM
Place: Denny's, 333 S. Abbott Ave., Milpitas
Featuring: Holiday Dinner Meeting

obtained from two 300 W Motorola amplifiers in parallel. His feed is a dual polarity patch feed.

ARRL Radiosport and Regulatory Information Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, was one of the first people to congratulate Ward on his accomplishment.

Jahnke stated, "Hearty congratulations! It's my privilege to confirm the ARRL Awards Department has received your WAS application, plus Card Checker document, and we have issued the 33-centimeter 902-928 MHz Worked All States Award number 1 to you in culmination of your 38-year quest to contact all 50 states

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
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	e-mail: bshu288519@aol.com	
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Director	(vacant)	
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SCCARA REPEATERS

SCCARA owns and operates two repeaters under the call W6UW:

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

on the 33-centimeter band.”



Al Ward, W5LUA, holds his WAS certificate in front of his 5-meter dish.

[Photo courtesy of W5LUA]

Other stations on the hunt for the 33-centimeter WAS certificate that are nearing completion include AC0RA, K0DAS, and N1AV.

In 1985, the Federal Communications Commission allocated the frequency band between 902 and 928 MHz to Part 18 industrial, scientific, and medical (ISM) equipment. In that proceeding, the band was also allocated to the Amateur Radio Service on a secondary basis, meaning amateurs could use the band if they accepted interference from and did not cause interference to primary users.

Changes in the ARRL Pacific Section

Section Manager of the ARRL Pacific Section Joe Speroni, AH0A, has retired from the position.



Retiring ARRL Pacific Section Manager Joe Speroni, AH0A, has been active as a volunteer with ARRL for 40 years.

[Robert Schneider, AH6J, photo]

Speroni served in the role for 7 years. He was active with ARRL in a variety of positions dating back to the creation of the Volunteer Examiner program in 1984. He has also been an instructor and Affiliated Club Coordinator (ACC). His contributions to emergency communications and management in the Hawaiian Islands have long been recognized by the amateur radio community. ARRL Field Services Manager Mike Walters, W8ZY, said, “With 40 years of service as a volunteer, he is one of the best examples of making the world a better place through amateur radio.” Speroni is an ARRL Life Member.



Alan Maenchen, AD6E, is the new Section Manager of the ARRL Pacific Section.

The Section Manager position is being filled by Alan Maenchen, AD6E, for the remainder of the term.

Maenchen is also an ARRL Life Member and has served as an ACC, an Assistant Section Manager, and a DXCC Card Checker.

He assumes the duties of Section Manager with experience in emergency communications and a background of assisting amateur radio clubs in the Section.

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

ARRL Hails FCC Action to Remove Symbol Rate Restrictions

ARRL reports that Monday, November 13, 2023, the FCC Commissioners unanimously voted to amend the Amateur Radio Service rules to replace the baud rate limit on the amateur HF bands with a 2.8 kHz bandwidth limit to permit greater flexibility in data communications.

“The Federal Communications Commission today [adopted to incentivize innovation and experimentation](#) in the amateur radio bands by removing outdated restrictions and providing licensees with the flexibility to use modern digital emissions,” [announced the FCC](#).

(<https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-amends-amateur-radio-rules-greater-flexibility>)

(<https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-adopts-rules-modernizing-a-mateur-radio-service-foster-innovation>)

“Specifically, we remove limitations on the symbol rate (also known as baud rate) -- the rate at which the carrier waveform amplitude, frequency, and/or phase is varied to transmit information -- applicable to data emissions in certain amateur bands,” concluded the [FCC Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) (DA/FCC# FCC-23-93; WT Docket No. 16-239) adopted November 13, 2023. “The amateur radio community can play a vital role in emergency response communications, but is often unnecessarily hindered by the baud rate limitations in the rules.”

(<https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-amends-amateur-radio-rules-greater-flexibility>)

Consistent with ARRL’s request, the amended rules will replace the current HF restrictions with a 2.8 kHz bandwidth limit. “We agree with ARRL that a 2.8 kilohertz bandwidth limitation will allow for additional emissions currently prohibited under the baud rate limitations while providing sufficient protections in the shared RTTY/data subbands,” concluded the FCC Report and Order.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, hailed the FCC’s action to remove the symbol rate restrictions. Roderick stated that “this action will measurably facilitate the public service communications that amateurs step up to provide, especially at times of natural disasters and other emergencies such as during the hurricane season. Digital technology continues to evolve, and removing the outmoded data restrictions restores the incentive for radio amateurs to continue to experiment and develop more spectrum-efficient protocols and methods while the 2.8 kHz bandwidth limit will help protect the shared nature of our bands. We thank Congresswoman [Debbie] Lesko (AZ-08) for her efforts on behalf of all amateurs to get these restrictions removed.”

In a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM), the FCC proposes to eliminate similar restrictions where they apply in other bands. “We propose to remove the baud rate limitation in the 2200-meter band and 630-meter band and in the very-high frequency (VHF) bands and the ultra-high frequency (UHF) bands. Additionally, we seek comment on the appropriate bandwidth limitation for the 2200-meter band, the 630-meter band, and the VHF/UHF bands.” ARRL has previously expressed its support for eliminating the symbol rate limits in favor of bandwidth limits where they apply on the VHF and UHF bands but suggested that

the bandwidth limits themselves be reviewed in light of today’s technology and tomorrow’s possibilities. Similarly, when eliminating the baud limits on the 2200- and 630-meter bands, consideration should be given to what, if any, bandwidth limits are appropriate.

The new rules will become effective 30 days after being published in the [Federal Register](#). The FCC will announce a period for public comment on the additional proposed changes based upon publication of the FNPRM in the Federal Register. No date has been set for publication.

(<https://www.federalregister.gov/>)

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Nov. 13, 2023



SCCARA regular monthly meeting, held at American Red Cross building, San Jose, CA.

Meeting opened at 7:35 PM by President, Gregg Lane, KF6FNA.

Don Village K6PBQ, reported that he has a new phone number: 1-669-265-5740.

Introductions were held.

The Club Station will be open on Saturday, 11/18/2023 from 9:30 AM to 4 or 5 PM for visitation. There is a Phone/Voice (single sideband) sweepstakes being held that day. All are welcomed to attend.

The 2 meter net is held every Monday night at 7:30 PM except the 2nd Monday night of the month, which is our meeting night. The 10 meter net is held on Thursday nights at 8:00 PM, 28.385, upper sideband.

UPDATE: An antenna party was held on the roof of the Red Cross building. It was attended by Ned AC6YY, John W6JPP, George N6NKT, and Gregg K6FNA. After they cleaned up the antenna, they discovered that it wasn’t working as well as they had expected. There is still a dipole, which is working well.

George Williams, N6NKT, is trying to give us more room in the radio room for the digital station that is planned.

Our next meeting is our holiday meeting and will be held at Denny’s on 333 So. Avenue, near Calaveras Avenue in Milpitas at 6:30 PM. This is a family dinner, so bring your family. All meals are to be paid per person, or family. This event promises to be nice and fun.

Election of officers was held. Gregg, KF6FNA read the slate for 2024:

President: Gregg KF6FNA; V.P.: John W6JPP; Sec: Truman N6YRU; Tres.: Ned AC6YY. Board Members is a 2 year staggered term: Lou WA6QYS, Wally KA6YMD. 1 year left of 2 year term: Doug W6DPO, Janet KF6PUQ, Gary WB6YRU.

Motion was made by Doug W6DPO to elect the Slate by acclamation. Motion seconded by Don V. K6PBQ. Motion was carried.

Jeannie KG6YOR, made the suggestion that the 10 meter net be abolished as there are very few check-ins each week, and Wally KA6YMD is unable to continue as net control due to eye problems. Doug W6DPO, volunteered to be net control for the time being. Lou WA6QYS, stated that if we abolish the 10 meter net, there is a possibility of losing more members due to less club activity.

Don V. said that he would open the radio room after the meeting

for anyone who wants to see it.

Meeting closed by President, Gregg KN6FNA at 8:03.

Barbara K. Brittin, acting secretary.

Board Meeting, Nov. 20, 2023



On SCCARA's W6UU 2 meter repeater, in lieu of in person board meetings.

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

Attendance: President Gregg Lane KF6FNA and Secretary Truman Lindsey N6TRU. Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Wally Britten KA6YMD, and Doug Owens N6DPO.

Visitors: Editor Gary Mitchell WB6YRU.

Absent: Ben Shuford KK6CCU and VP John Parks W6JPP.

Excused absence: Treasurer Ned Tufekcic AC6YY and Station Trustee Don Village K6PBQ.

Announcements:

President's Report, Gregg KF6FNA: The deadline for the December SCCARAGram will be Monday, November 27, 2023.

The SCCARA club station will be open on Saturday, November 25, 2023. In December, SCCARA will have the Holiday/Christmas Party on December 11, 2023 at Denny's in Milpitas. The address is 333 South Abbott, Milpitas, CA. It is nearby Interstate 880 & Calaveras. A map and directions will be in the SCCARAGram. On SCCARA's November 13, 2023 General Meeting, SCCARA's 2023 elections were held. The slate as published was voted in.

Vice President's Report, John W6JPP: (No report due to the Vice President's absence.)

Secretary's Report, Truman N6TRU: I was unable to attend the November 13th General Meeting due to a cold. Barbara KD6QEI took the minutes instead for the General meeting.

Any corrections for the October General Meeting minutes? Approved by acclamation.

Any corrections for the October Board of Directors Meeting minutes? Approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report, Ned AC6YY: (No report due to the Treasurer's excused absence.)

Trustee's Report, Don K6PBQ: (No report due to the Trustee's excused absence.)

Standing Committees:

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

Webmaster's report, Wally KA6YMD: We've tried to get things into website. I'll continue to do so until replacement Webmaster is found.

Doug Owens N6DPO: Wally - I'll contact you regarding Webmaster duties and switch-over.

Editor's report, Gary WB6YRU: We will need an election report for Nov. meeting in the next SCCARAGram. It would be nice to have something regarding the dinner meeting in December.

BBS Sysop's report, Gary WB6YRU: Last time I reported that the

antenna was broken. I got a replacement antenna recently from HRO. It still needs the PVC armor replaced.

Old Business:

President Gregg KF6FNA: VP John W6JPP wants to get a work party for American Legion station. Said work party can't be on the weekend. It's a work in progress.

Also, the antenna trailer needs a work party. Some steel cables are needed to tie down the tarp on the trailer. We will have to coordinate this with VP John W6JPP at the American Legion post. It's also a work in progress.

Doug N6DPO wanted to meet at the American Red Cross to check the internet speed for Zoom. VP John W6JPP has speakers for a potential Zoom meeting.

Next, there's still some roof work to do at Red Cross. Waiting for dry weather to put together a work party. The antennas are good, but some improvements can still be made on beam. Treas. Ned AC6YY suggested getting a balun for the beam.

There was a request for the digital station to have a "cheat sheet" for ease of use. Ned is working on that. He's absent tonight, so no update.

VP John W6JPP mentioned that a local Elementary School requested a presentation from SCCARA. VP John W6JPP is absent, so nothing further on that for now.

Paul KK6HWN mentioned SCCARA's Logbook of the World account needs reactivating for WAS (Worked All States) tracking. Treas. Ned AC6YY mentioned looking into that. Hopefully we'll have a report next month on that.

New Business:

Editor Gary WB6YRU: We now have a new club announce list. It's a groups.io list. To get on, we need Board members to accept the invitation. We should get Board to join first to test it out. Only VP John W6JPP has joined so far.

President Gregg KF6FNA: I have not seen an invite.

Wally KA6YMD: I have not seen an announcement or invite regarding the groups.io list either. When would that email have been sent?

Editor Gary WB6YRU: It should've sent a couple hours after 1st email.

Doug N6DPO: I received an email saying 1 person had joined.

I intend to join the groups.io list.

Editor Gary WB6YRU: The invite went out on November 14th.

Lou WA6QYS: Yes, I received the announcement and invite.

I'm wondering: why are we duplicating the list? We already have a SCCARA groups.io account.

Editor Gary WB6YRU: Anyone can respond/use that list. It's not an announce list.

Regarding the new list, we can only add people by invite using the free account. If we had a paid account we can add people without them needing to accept invites.

Also, I received a membership list from Wally, but many new members are missing from the list. That's concerning.

Also worth noting is that this groups.io program is easier and multiple moderators can be added.

For now, we'll have to use old list until new list is working. Wally - since groups.io it is web-based, you can magnify the view if it's via browser. Would that help regarding vision difficulties? Wally KA6YMD: Uncertain. Editor Gary WB6YRU: I think you'd find it easier. Take a look for that invite.

President Gregg KF6FNA: I think Doug N6DPO will be taking over Webmaster duties from Wally.

Editor Gary WB6YRU: Recall that the website and list are different. Also, thanks to Doug N6DPO for taking over Webmaster duties.

Adding Wally KA6YMD to the new groups.io list would probably help. Adding additional moderators would help too.

Doug N6DPO: The groups.io system seems to need some email validation. I've had a problem where it says I'm unauthorized to

respond to a message. Any way to turn that off?
Editor Gary WB6YRU: I don't quite know groups.io that well, honestly. I'm uncertain on that issue. There's a lot of customization with groups.io, you can change roles, add roles, determine who's allowed to post, etc. Doug - If you join the new list, I can make you a moderator so you can try and sort out issue yourself.
To be clear: The board list is private and separate. This new SCCARA announce list only allows a few people to post. The older SCCARA list allows anyone to talk, converse. The BoD list is separate also.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Truman Lindsey N6TRU, Secretary

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====
Date: 29 Mar 2020 22:24
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: jokes 20/3

In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism your count votes.

A Russian couple were walking down the street in Moscow one night when the man felt a drop hit his nose.

"I think it's raining" he said to his wife.

"No that felt more like snow to me" she replied.

"No I'm sure it was just rain" he said.

They were just about to begin arguing with each other about whether it was raining or snowing when they saw a Communist Party official walking toward them.

"Let's not fight about it" the man said. "Let's ask Comrade Rudolph whether it's officially raining or snowing."

As the official approached the man said: "Tell us Comrade Rudolph is it officially raining or snowing?"

"It's raining of course" he replied and walked on.

But the woman insisted "I know that felt like snow!"

To which her husband quietly replied: "Rudolph the Red knows rain dear."

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 for the above topics:

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

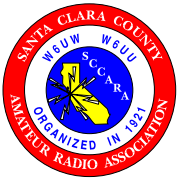
I was sure glad to see the Nov. 16 ARRL Letter article (above). It's been a long time coming... The FCC *finally* is replacing the baud rate limits with bandwidth limits. That's just for HF, they've also issued a notice of proposed rulemaking to do the same in the LF, MF, VHF and UHF bands. For far too long amateur experimentation with higher speed digital has been hamstrung by that ill-advised arbitrary symbol limit while we've had to watch the rest of the world pass us by.

Just in time to be a Christmas present?

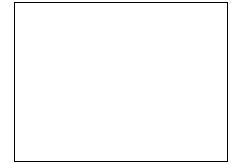


73, Gary WB6YRU, editor





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



FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SCCARA Membership Form for 2024

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.