

# SCCARA-GRAM




## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 49, Number 1

January 2024



## Membership Renewal

Don't forget: all memberships expire Dec. 31. If you already renewed -- thanks! If not, please renew now. There's a form on the back of the *SCCARA-GRAM* and on our web site. 

## Club Station

SCCARA's club station is at the Red Cross, located at the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Plumeria in San Jose.

We are normally there on the last Saturday of the month for general operating. We also come down for contests such as California QSO party and Sweepstakes (both CW and SSB). We can also open it at other times upon request.

We have also operated Field Day as well. We are able to operate two stations at a time on HF and a digital station as well.

Having our station is a good opportunity for members who don't have HF capability to get on the air.

The station is also used for emergency communications by the Red Cross groups.



73, Don Village K6PBQ  
Station Trustee

## Secretary Says

Going into January 2024, a few notes: No minutes were taken at the SCCARA's December Christmas/Holiday meeting, but much fun was had by all! Excellent food and excellent revelry!

Also, a correction for the Board of Director's meeting minutes for November 20, 2023 : Vice President John W6JPP was an excused absence rather than an unexcused absence. He was erroneously marked as an unexcused absence in the December 2023 SCCARA-GRAM.



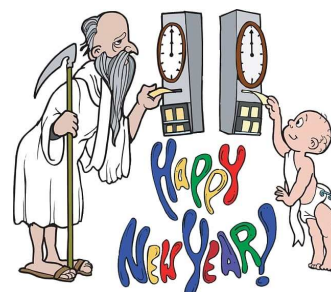
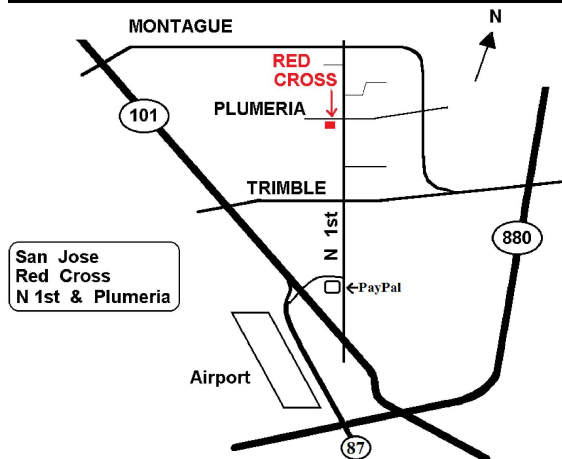
Sincerely,  
Truman N6TRU  
SCCARA Secretary

## Calendar

- 1/8 **SCCARA General Meeting**
- 1/15 **SCCARA Board Meeting:** held on our 2 m repeater
- 1/27 **Club Station open, 10 AM - 5 PM**

## General Meeting

Day: Monday, January 8  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Place: San Jose Red Cross, meeting room 3  
Featuring: {to be announced}



# ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, Nov. 30, 2023

## ARRL RF Safety Committee Develops New Guidelines to Communicate RF Safety

Radio amateurs now have a new tool from ARRL to help answer questions about their stations. Neighbors of amateur radio operators are sometimes concerned about transmissions and radio frequency exposure from amateur stations.

The ARRL RF Safety Committee, with their international counterparts at the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB), the Irish Radio Transmitters Society (IRTS), and the Swedish Society of Radio Amateurs (SSA), has developed a new set of guidelines to help amateurs interact with and talk to their neighbors about RF exposure.

Chairman of the ARRL RF Safety Committee Greg Lapin, N9GL, said the new informational PDF found on the ARRL RF Exposure page, [Helping Amateurs Interact with Neighbors Asking About Radio Transmissions](#), was developed after a year of discussions about RF safety. (<https://www.arrl.org/rf-exposure>)

“Neighbors may be alarmed by some of the misinformation about RF safety that is available from a variety of sources. By following the exposure regulations from the Federal Communications Commission, we can be confident that our families and neighbors are safe,” Lapin said.

Lapin added that RF exposure regulations are based on decades of trustworthy research. He also encouraged all amateur radio operators to perform exposure assessments for their stations to make sure they meet those regulations.

## General-class Question Pool Revised

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has removed two General-class license questions. Pursuant to the November 13, 2023, FCC rule change to remove symbol rate restrictions on [amateur radio digital emissions](#) (<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-hails-fcc-action-to-remove-symbol-rate-restrictions>), the QPC of the NCVEC has deleted two questions from the General-class question pool because they are no longer correct. General-class questions G1C08 and G1C10 are withdrawn from the pool effective immediately and should be removed from examinations as soon as possible. Updated question pool files, including the errata and new information, have been posted on the NCVEC General-class question pool web page at <http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=369>. The current Element 3 General question pool became effective on July 1, 2023, and it is valid through June 30, 2027. The ARRL VEC advises the community to regularly check the NCVEC website at <http://www.ncvec.org/> for updates to the question pools, which may include errata and withdrawn questions.

From *The ARRL Letter*, Dec. 7, 2023

## Bandwidth Limits Replace Symbol Rates on the HF Bands, Other Bands Open for Comment

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) [published new rules](#) adopted last month that replace the symbol rate restrictions

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: [www.qsl.net/sccara](http://www.qsl.net/sccara)

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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](http://ncpa.n0ary.org). NOTE: The RF ports are temporarily down (antenna repair).

### AMATEUR LICENSE TESTING

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

on the HF bands with a bandwidth limit of 2.8 kHz. The new rules go into effect January 8, 2024. (<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/12/07/2023-26770/amateur-radio-service-rules-to-permit-greater-flexibility-in-data-communications>)

The bands and band segments affected by the rules change are those authorized for data transmission between 160 and 10 meters, exclusive of 60 meters (where no change was made).

In adopting a bandwidth limit in place of the baud rate limit the FCC agreed with ARRL that some limitation is necessary because “without a baud rate or bandwidth limit, data stations using a large amount of spectrum for a single emission could do so to the detriment of simultaneous use by other stations using narrowband emission modes.”

ARRL has advocated for this change for a long time. The move opens amateur data communications to faster and more modern modes and restores the incentive for amateurs to experiment with and develop faster and more efficient data methods. Previously, ARRL obtained waivers to the symbol rate rules on a case-by-case basis to facilitate communications during situations like hurricane responses. These delays will now be removed, permitting drills to be conducted with the faster modes and more timely responses when needed.

The FCC also requested comment on removing similar symbol rate restrictions in the rules governing 135.7 - 137.8 kHz (2200-meter band), 472 - 479 kHz (630-meter band), and the very high-frequency (VHF) and ultra-high frequency (UHF) bands.

The VHF bands with baud rates are the 6-meter band, 2-meter band, and the 1.25-meter band. The single UHF band with a baud rate is the 70-centimeter band (420 - 450 MHz). The [Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making](#) (FNPRM) proposes to maintain the existing bandwidth limits in the Commission's rules for these VHF and UHF bands but seeks comment on whether they should be kept, and if so, whether the bandwidths should be changed. The Commission also sought comment on whether bandwidth limits should be adopted for application to the 2200 and 630-meter bands, and if so, what an appropriate bandwidth limit would be.

Public comments on these additional issues are sought in the FNPRM. The comment period is open until January 8, 2024. Replies to comments are due no later than January 22, 2024. If changes are later adopted, the rules will go into effect in the same manner as they did for the other bands -- after notice and publication in the Federal Register.

(<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/12/07/2023-26769/amateur-radio-service-rules-to-permit-greater-flexibility-in-data-communications>)

## New Extra-class Question Pool

The New Amateur Extra-Class Question Pool has been released and is effective July 1, 2024. The [National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators \(NCVEC\) Question Pool Committee](#) (QPC) has released the 2024 - 2028 Extra-Class FCC Element 4 Question Pool and Syllabus to the public. The [new Extra-Class Question Pool is effective from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2028](#). The 2024 - 2028 pool is available as a Microsoft Word document and as a PDF. The 10 graphics required for the new Extra-Class Question Pool are available within the documents or separately in PDF and JPG file formats. Extra-class examination candidates preparing for their exams using the 12th edition of The ARRL Extra Class License Manual or the 5th edition of ARRL's Extra Q & A are encouraged to test on or before

June 30, 2024. New editions of ARRL licensing publications will be available in May for exams taken on or after July 1, 2024. (<https://www.ncvec.org/>) (<https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/question-pool-committee>) (<https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2024-2028-extra-class-question-pool-release>)

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From *The ARRL Letter*, Dec. 14, 2023

## WRC-23 Reaches Acceptable Conclusion on 23-centimeter Issue

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23) continues through December 15, 2023, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU)'s primary effort focused on Agenda Item 9.1 topic b to address amateur use of the 23-centimeter band and co-frequency use by several radionavigation satellite service (RNSS) systems in the 1240 - 1300 MHz band.

IARU's work that began 4 years ago with a preparatory study in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) to address this agenda item has finally come to a close. Our concerted engagement in the ITU-R working parties, study groups, and WRC preparatory meetings ensured that the amateur services were properly represented during the development of two published ITU-R reports: M.2513 and M.2532. An ITU-R Recommendation, M.2164, followed these, which formed the basis for the discussions at WRC-23.

During the WRC-23 deliberations, strong positions were expressed by all parties involved.



IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, offers thanks to Barry Lewis, G4SJH, for his success in leading IARU's work on Agenda Item 9.1 topic b. From left to right: WRC-23 SWG4B7 Chair Dale Hughes, VK1DSH; IARU Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR; Tim Ellam, VE6SH;

Barry Lewis, G4SJH, and IARU Secretary Joel Harrison, W5ZN.

The result is a well-supported compromise for a footnote in the Radio Regulations regarding amateur and amateur satellite service operation in the 1240 -1300 MHz range. The footnote reminds administrations and amateurs of the need to protect the primary RNSS from interference, and it provides guidance for administrations to allow both services to continue to operate in this portion of the spectrum.

Administrations are the bodies that govern amateur radio in their respective countries, such as the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the United States.

The Conference Plenary compromise was formally adopted on December 8 and is not subject to further consideration during the final week of WRC-23. The IARU team continues its work on other WRC issues, including developing agendas for future conferences.

IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, noted, "This is a very good result for the amateur services. The decision reached at WRC-23 on this agenda item makes no change to the table of allocations nor incorporates by reference M.2164 into the Radio Regulations. The addition of a footnote that provides guidance to administrations in the event of interference to the RNSS is a good regulatory outcome for amateurs and the primary users of this band."

The WRC also agreed to suppress Resolution 774, which closes the issue and satisfies the agenda item.

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From *The ARRL Letter*, Dec. 21, 2023

## ARRL's Year of the Volunteers

2023 has been a remarkable year for amateur radio. There were many noteworthy opportunities for hams to use their license privileges for the greater good. An annular solar eclipse saw radio amateurs engaging in projects of scientific research about our ionosphere, devastating firestorms gutted entire cities and saw Amateur Radio Emergency Service member-volunteers rise to activate, hurricanes threatened life and property, bicycle races spread across the desert necessitating robust communications provided by hams, and high school students led and executed contacts with the International Space Station.

Many amateur radio operators stood to serve in ways that made headlines, and all of them were volunteers. But tens of thousands of others did work that never made the pages of QST, didn't become the lead story on the local news, and didn't become fodder for online forums. These are the unsung heroes of the Amateur Radio Service -- these are the volunteers.

From all of us at ARRL, thank you!

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# Meeting Minutes

## General Meeting, Dec. 11, 2023



{no minutes taken}

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## Board Meeting, Dec. 18, 2023



{meeting was canceled}

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# Packet Pieces

## Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====  
Date: 4 Nov 2020 23:22  
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW  
To: HUMOUR@WW  
Subject: jokes 5/11  
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Here's one for people who think they know everything! I found out in a hurry that I didn't. No tricks, these are straight questions with straight answers.

1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends.
2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward?
3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?
4. Name the only sport in which the ball is always in possession of the team on defense, and the offensive team can score without touching the ball?
5. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
6. In many liquor stores, you can buy pear brandy, with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did they get the pear get inside the bottle?
7. Only three words in standard English begin with the letters "dw" and they are all common words. Name two of them.
8. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name at least half of them?
9. Where are the lakes that are referred to in the Los Angeles Lakers?
10. There are 7 ways a baseball player can legally reach first base without getting a hit. Taking a base on balls (a walk) is one way. Name the other 6.
11. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form except fresh.
12. Name 6 or more things that you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter "S."

### ANSWERS:

1. The one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends . . . boxing
2. North American landmark constantly moving backward . . . Niagara Falls (The rim is worn down about two and a half feet each year because of the millions of gallons of water that rush over it every minute.)
3. Only two vegetables that can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons, asparagus and rhubarb.
4. The only sport in which the ball is always in possession of the team on defense, and the offensive team can score without touching the ball... baseball.
5. The fruit with its seeds on the outside... strawberry.
6. How did the pear get inside the brandy bottle? It grew inside the bottle. The bottles are placed over pear buds when they are small, and are wired in place on the tree. The bottle is left in place for the entire growing season. When the pears are ripe, they are snipped off at the stems.
7. Three English words beginning with dw... dwarf, dwell

and dwindle.

8. Fourteen punctuation marks in English grammar: period, comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, quotation marks, brackets, parenthesis, braces, and ellipses.

9. The original lakes referred to in Lakers... in Minnesota. The team was originally known as the Minneapolis Lakers, and kept the name when they moved west.

10. Seven ways a baseball player can legally reach first base without getting a hit... taking a base on balls (a walk), batter hit by a pitch, passed ball, catcher interference, catcher drops third strike, fielder's choice, and being designated as a pinch-runner.

11. The only vegetable or fruit never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form but fresh... lettuce.

12. Six or more things you can wear on your feet beginning with "s"... shoes, socks, sandals, sneakers, slippers, skis, skates, snowshoes, stockings, stilts.

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BBQ

A barbecue is the only type of cooking a real man will do. When a man volunteers to do the BBQ the following chain of events are put into motion:

- 1) The woman buys the food.
- 2) The woman makes the salad, vegetables, and dessert.
- 3) The woman prepares the meat for cooking, places it on tray along with the necessary cooking utensils and sauces, and takes it to the man who is lounging beside the grill -- beer in hand.
- 4) The man places the meat on the grill.
- 5) The woman goes inside to organize the plates and cutlery.
- 6) The woman comes out to tell the man that the meat is burning. He thanks her and asks if she will bring another beer while he deals with the situation.
- 7) The man takes the meat off the grill and hands it to the woman.
- 8) The woman prepares the plates, salad, bread, utensils, napkins, sauces, and brings them to the table.
- 9) After eating, the woman clears the table and does the dishes.
- 10) Everyone praises the man and thanks him for his cooking efforts.
- 11) The man asks the woman how she enjoyed "her night off." And, upon seeing her annoyed reaction, concludes that there's just no pleasing some women.

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Girls night out:

The other night I was invited to a "night out with the girls." I told my husband that I would be home by midnight, "I promise!"

Well, the hours passed and the margaritas went down way too easy. Around 3 a.m., a bit loaded, I headed for home. Just as I got in the door, the cuckoo clock in the hall started up and cuckooed 3 times. Quickly, realizing my husband would probably wake up, I cuckooed another 9 times. I was really proud of myself for coming up with such a quick-witted solution to escape a possible conflict with him, even though totally smashed.

The next morning my husband asked me what time I got in, and I told him "Midnight". He didn't seem bothered at all. Whew! Got away with that one!

Then he said, "We need a new cuckoo clock." When I asked why, he said, "Well, last night our clock cuckooed three times, then said, 'Oh damn.', cuckooed 4 more times, cleared its throat, cuckooed another 3 times, giggled, cuckooed twice more, hiccuped and tripped over the coffee table."

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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 for the above topics:

K6GKB, Goetz Brandt, 408-259-7287, [goetz@ix.netcom.com](mailto:goetz@ix.netcom.com)  
NV6W, James D. Armstrong, Jr., evening & msg: 408-670-1680  
W6JPP, John Parks [w6jpp@arrl.net](mailto:w6jpp@arrl.net)  
K6PBQ, Don Village, 408-263-2789, [donvillage7@yahoo.com](mailto:donvillage7@yahoo.com)  
WA6QYS, Lou Steirer, 408-241-7999, [wa6qys@arrl.net](mailto:wa6qys@arrl.net)  
WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, 408-269-2924, [wb6yru@ix.netcom.com](mailto:wb6yru@ix.netcom.com)

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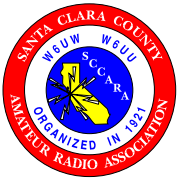
## Newsletter Notes

Great news (the article above), the FCC *finally* changed the symbol rate limits to bandwidth limits! **YEA!** There never should have been a limit on symbol rate in the first place. If we can send more data within the *same* bandwidth, why not? The rest of the world sure has, while we just had to watch.

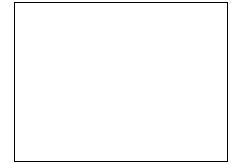
Now, that's just for the HF band. The FCC invited comments on doing the same for our new 2200 m and 630 m bands, and where the symbol rate limits have been the most egregious--our VHF bands and 70 cm. The comment period ends January 8. The reply-to-comment period ends January 22.



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 for 2024**

If renewing and none of your info has changed, please only fill in 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: \_\_\_\_\_

for delivery of the SCCARA-GRAM (pdf) and club announcements

**Membership type and dues:      Individual, \$20      Family, \$25      Student, \$10 (under 18)**

☞ All 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.