



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 49, Number 2

February 2024



Secretary Says

Happy February to everyone.

I hope this new year is treating you, your family, and your friends well. Here's a few things I'd like to highlight:

• First, SCCARA's general meeting on January 8th had a demonstration of digital radio (FT8, FT4, and RTTY) operations by our club's Treasurer, Ned AC6YY. Thank you to Ned AC6YY for the demonstration.

Second, SCCARA is trying to set up hybrid meetings with Zoom, so that's something that will hopefully be operational soon.
Third, I've started school on the week of January 22nd, so please wish me luck in my studies.

• Fourth, my 21st birthday will be on March 5th. Don't worry, I'm NOT the type to dance on the table! I'd rather read a book on trains (a new burgeoning interest of mine!)

All the best, Happy New Year, and 73, Truman N6TRU SCCARA Secretary

Truma

Truman Lindsey N6TRU

ARRL News

From The ARRL Letter, Jan. 11, 2024

ARRL Responds to FCC Proposals

ARRL <u>responded</u> (PDF) to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) request for comments on removing the symbol (baud) rate restrictions that apply to data communications on the LF bands and the VHF and UHF bands below 450 MHz. The FCC also requested comments on the bandwidth limits applicable to those bands.

The FCC's action follows their 2023 decision to remove the symbol (baud) rate limits on the 160- to 10-meter amateur bands. Those limits were replaced with a 2.8 kHz bandwidth limit, a move ARRL had long advocated for.

The FCC's Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking sought comments on updating the other amateur bands on which its

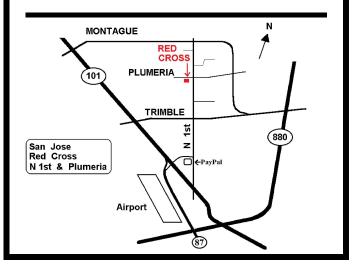
Calendar

- 2/12 SCCARA General Meeting
- 2/19 SCCARA Board Meeting on our 2 m repeater following the Monday night net at 7:30 PM
- 2/24 Club Station open, 10 AM 5 PM

General Meeting

Day: <u>Time:</u> <u>Place:</u> Featuring:

Monday, February 12 7:30 PM San Jose Red Cross, meeting room 3 {to be announced}



symbol (baud) rate limits continue to throttle faster data rates. The subject bands are the LF bands (2200 and 630 meters) and the VHF and UHF bands below 450 MHz. In its comments, ARRL strongly agreed with the FCC's proposal to remove the symbol (baud) rate limits on the remaining bands.

Read more about ARRL's comments on ARRL News. (https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-responds-to-fcc-proposals)

The public period for reply comments remains open until January 22, 2024. An ARRL guide to filing comments is at: https://www.arrl.org/arrl-guide-to-filing-comments-with-fcc

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (officers are also directors)

| D 11 | | 100 202 5 (07 | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|---------------|--|--|
| President | Gregg Lane KF6FNA | | | |
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| Vice President | John Parks, W6JPP | | | |
| | e-mail: w6jpp@arrl.n | let | | |
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| 5 | e-mail: n6truhamradio@gmail.com | | | |
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| | e-mail: wa6qys@aol. | com | | |
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| | e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net | | | |
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| | e-mail: doug@n6dpo | .com | | |
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| | <u></u> | | | |

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SCCARA REPEATERS

SCCARA owns and operates two repeaters under the call W6UU: 2 m: 146.985 - PL 114.8 70 cm: 442.425 + PL 107.2

Phone auto-dial and auto-patch is available. The 2 m 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 2 m repeater: Mondays at 7:30 PM, (not the second Mondaythat's our meeting night); net control: Don Village, K6PBQ. On 10 m, 28.385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00 PM; net control: {to be announced}. Visitors welcome.

NØARY PACKET BBS

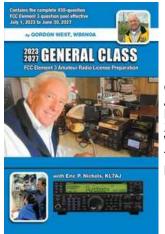
SCCARA hosts the packet BBS NØARY (connect to n0ary-1). User ports: 145.09 MHz at 1200 baud, 433.37 MHz at 9600 baud, and telnet sun.n0ary.org (login "bbs"). Sysop: Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU For general packet info, see the NCPA web site <u>ncpa.n0ary.org</u>.

AMATEUR LICENSE TESTING

ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group: Morris Jones, AD6ZH: 408-507-4698 From The ARRL Letter, Jan. 18, 2024

ARRL is New Publisher of Gordon West, WB6NOA

ARRL is the new publisher of the Amateur Radio License Preparation books and related resources authored by Gordon West, WB6NOA.



General Class FCC Element 3 Amateur Radio License Preparation, 11th Edition 2023-2027, by Gordon West, WB6NOA, will be available soon from ARRL and ARRL publication dealers.

Gordon West's popular books, classes, and audio courses have been a mainstay of amateur radio licensing for over 40 years. Generations of hams have learned from 'Gordo', and now the impact of his knowledge and experience will continue with the reach and resources of ARRL.

Current editions of Gordon West's popular license prep books will be available from ARRL and ARRL publication dealers soon. Look for the category "Gordon West License Prep" in the ARRL e-store.

The books, including future editions, will continue to be authored by Gordon West with Technical Editor Eric P. Nichols, KL7AJ. Nichols is a regular contributor to ARRL publications and has written several ARRL books. He has collaborated on the Gordon West books since 2013.

Amateur radio operators will have an opportunity to contact the USS Iowa during the ship's 81st anniversary celebration.

USS Iowa (BB-61) is permanently moored at the <u>National Museum</u> of the <u>Surface Navy</u> in San Pedro, California, and was first commissioned during World War II on February 22, 1943. The on-air event will be held on February 22, 2024, from 1600 to 2400 UTC. The Battleship Iowa Amateur Radio Association (BIARA) will activate NI6BB, the ship's original call sign, utilizing BIARA's amateur gear and a circa 1980s legacy station with an AN/URT-23 transmitter and an R-1051G/URR Navy receiver. To help operators looking for NI6BB, the band plan below has been suggested to qualified associate operators. These bands have been screened to minimize conflict with other modes or known nets, but are subject to change due to existing traffic, contests, or band conditions. FT8 or FT4 operations will be on the standard frequencies for those modes.

(https://surfacenavymuseum.org/)

Band A1A/CW J3E/SSB

40 meters 7.061 MHz 7.261 MHz

30 meters 10.116 MHz ------20 meters 14.061 MHz 14.261 MHz 17 meters 18.073 MHz 18.161 MHz 15 meters 21.061 MHz 21.361 MHz 12 meters 24.900 MHz 24.943 MHz 10 meters 28.061 MHz 28.361 MHz

For updates and additional information, contact <u>BIARA</u>. (https://biara.org/)

From The ARRL Letter, Jan. 25, 2024

ARRL Board Approves Free Membership for Students, New Vice Presidents Elected

The ARRL Board of Directors met in Windsor, Connecticut, on January 19 - 20, 2024, for its Annual Meeting.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, presided over the meeting, and the Board welcomed Vice Director of the ARRL Great Lakes Division Roy Hook, W8REH, as a newly elected member to the Board.

The Board authorized a new, free ARRL membership for students. For decades, ARRL has offered a reduced dues rate for young hams, currently priced at \$30 per year. At this meeting, the Board established a new option for a no-cost Associate membership for full-time students aged 21 and younger.

The Board re-elected ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, to a fifth 2-year term.

The Board also elected Director of the ARRL Pacific Division Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, to be First Vice President, succeeding Michael Raisbeck, K1TWF.



Mike Ritz, W7VO, was elected ARRL Second Vice President.



Director of the ARRL Northwestern Division Mike Ritz, W7VO, was elected Second Vice President, succeeding Bob Vallio, W6RGG. ARRL Vice President of International Affairs Rod Stafford, W6ROD, was re-elected.

ARRL Pacific Division Director Anthony Marcin, W7XM.



The elections of McIntyre and Ritz to the Vice President positions mean that incumbent Vice Directors Anthony Marcin, W7XM (Pacific Division), and Mark Tharp, KB7HDX (Northwestern Division), will succeed as Division Directors, creating vacancies for Vice Director in those Divisions, which will be filled by appointment.

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Jan. 8, 2023



{no minutes received by the deadline}

Board Meeting, Jan. 15, 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 7:41 PM

Attendance: President Gregg Lane KF6FNA, Vice President John W6JPP, Treasurer Ned AC6YY, and Secretary Truman Lindsey N6TRU. Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Wally Britten KA6YMD, Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, Janet Motha KF6PUQ, and Doug Owens N6DPO. Visitors: Goetz Brandt K6GKB. Excused absence: Don Village K6PBO.

Excused absence: Don Village K6PBQ Absent: (none)

Announcements:

President's Report, Gregg KF6FNA:

The deadline for the February SCCARA-GRAM was Monday, January 29, 2024.

The SČCARA club station will be open on Saturday, Jan 27th from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Please verify that the station's open by checking in on the W6UU repeater.

The 2-meter net is held every Monday except our General Meeting night at 7:30 pm.

The 10-meter net is held every Thursday at 8 pm at 28.385 MHz. There's the weekly ham radio meeting at the Black Bear Diner in Sunnyvale from 11:30 am to 3:00 pm every Wednesday. Also, there's the weekly Rubio's meeting at El Camino Real & Sunnyvale-Saratoga Road. This is every Tuesday & Friday at 12:30 noon.

Vice President's Report, John W6JPP: Regarding speakers, I've been working with Ned AC6YY, for the next couple months speakers are unavailable. He said he'll give presentations in the meanwhile. Thanks to Ned AC6YY!

Secretary's Report, Truman N6TRU: There was no Board of Directors meeting in December 2024. There was the SCCARA Holiday/Christmas Dinner in lieu of a General Meeting.

Any corrections for the General Meeting minutes for Nov 13th? - Approved by acclamation.

Any corrections for the Board Meeting minutes for Nov 20th? - Approved by acclamation.

Also, the Secretary PC got an update and needs Gary's login info. I'm using my PC for the moment. It needs Gary's password.

Editor Gary WB6YRU: The password might be in briefcase.

Secretary Truman N6TRU: I'll take a look for it.

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

Any corrections for the December Board of Directors Meeting minutes?

Approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report, Ned AC6YY: Checking \$11,354.95, Cash \$107.00

Trustee's Report, Don K6PBQ: (Trustee is an excused absence)

President Gregg KF6FNA: Goetz Brandt K6GKB is hereby appointed to the post of Repeater Chairman. Thank you to Wally KA6YMD for being Repeater Chairman for many, many years. Thank you to Goetz for taking over the post!

Doug Owens N6DPO is hereby appointed to the post of Webmaster. Also thank you to Wally KA6YMD for being Webmaster. Thanks to Doug for taking over the post!

Wally KA6YMD: I need to look for HTML software CDs for running the site for Webmaster.

Doug N6DPO: I've been working with Wally KA6YMD to become Webmaster.

(Further discussion followed on this topic.)

Editor Gary WB6YRU: It seems SCCARA getting new members is not a huge issue but retaining them is something important to focus on.

Standing Committees

Repeater chairman's report, Goetz K6GKB: The repeater's working well.

Editor's report, Gary WB6YRU: We have a new email list to share the SCCARA-GRAM. Approx. 1/2 of the club has registered, more members need to!

BBS Sysop's report, Gary WB6YRU: Main antenna was damaged and needs to be replaced. I have new antenna and supplies to fix armor. It needs to be replaced soon.

Old Business:

Regarding American Legion post station, operations, etc.: Vice President John W6JPP: Work party for antennas is pending good weather. Antenna trailer still needs to be repaired, etc. Weekends are still out, so it'd have to be on a weekday.

Regarding Zoom Meetings at the Red Cross: President Gregg KF6FNA: Doug N6DPO tested Zoom and it works well. VP Ned AC6YY held previous presentation using the rooms TV and it worked well.

Regarding American Red Cross Antennas & Station: President Gregg KF6FNA: Trustee Don K6PBQ, Lou KA6YMD, and I have been using antennas a lot at the Red Cross. They might be slightly out of tune; we want to fine tune and adjust pending good weather.

Regarding the Digital Station: The digital station cheat sheet is a work in progress.

President Gregg KF6FNA: George encouraged us to run new coax for the digital station at the Red Cross.

Regarding Elementary School outreach: President Gregg KF6FNA: Any updates?

VP John W6JPP: No updates as of now since the teacher is ill. More on that later.

Re: Worked All States Award (WAS) and Logbook of the World (LotW) troubles President Gregg KF6FNA: Paul KK6HWN mentioned the issues with our ARRL account and tracking our WAS progress.

Treasurer Ned AC6YY: A certificate is needed. Maybe contact

ARRL tech support. VP John W6JPP: It should be with Secretary's files. Treasurer Ned AC6YY: I'm referring to the electronic certificates, which expire. We need to know which PC it was on. VP John W6JPP: I'll help Ned look into that.

Doug N6DPO: I have two questions.1) If you lose the password, do you need to go through postal mail process again?2) Is LotW on the station computer?

(Further discussion followed on this topic.)

VP John W6JPP: Ned and I can take care of it. The ARRL needs to be contacted regarding this issue.

New Business:

SCCARA's Holiday Dinner went excellently.

President Gregg KF6FNA: I received a call from Trustee Don K6PBQ regarding the Denny's Christmas/Holiday Dinner, and I was informed that the \$50 deposit was actually not a deposit this year.

Lou WA6QYS: I propose a motion: To reimburse Don Village K6PBQ for the expense of the \$50 fee for the use of the backroom of Denny's in Milpitas.

Seconded by Doug N6DPO.

Yes: VP John W6JPP, Treasurer Ned AC6YY, Secretary Truman N6TRU, Lou WA6QYS, Wally KA6YMD, Gary WB6YRU, Doug N6DPO, and Janet KF6PUQ. No: (none)

Abstain: (none)

Absent: (none)

President Gregg KF6FNA: Ned, can you arrange to get a check to Don?

Treasurer Ned AC6YY: Yes.

President Gregg KF6FNA: Do I need to accept the invite to become a part of the SCCARA announce list?

Gary WB6YRU: Yes, that's the announce list through W6UW@groups.io. The invites expire after 14 days, so it needs to be answered ASAP.

President Gregg KF6FNA: When does groups in list invitation expire? It seems the invitation is past 14 days, how do I get another?

(Discussion followed on this topic)

VP John W6JPP: Is there any way of verifying that we have working email addresses for members? How do we know we don't have bad emails vs. people not responding?

President Gregg KF6FNA: Renewal forms have a box for updated email address.

Wally KA6YMD: One possibility is spam filters are blocking the invite emails.

Gary WB6YRU: That's why I waited for announcement to be posted on old list. The old list has been used for years, so members should have seen it.

President Gregg KF6FNA: Can we send the invite again? Secretary Truman N6TRU: I think sending another invite would be a good idea.

Gary WB6YRU: Note that I am the owner of new list, so I can do anything with it. Wally KA6YMD is also an owner. Truman N6TRU and John W6JPP are moderators. Truman N6TRU and I have the roster, so we should probably send invites.

There are two ways to get on the announce list. Receiving and replying to an invite is 1st way. If you have groups.io account., you can proactively get on by logging in, and tell it you wish to join the list by entering W6UW@groups.io URL. We can approve the request or not.

President Gregg KF6FNA:

QSL.net mentioned donations. \$50 is suggested. Is that worthwhile?

Gary WB6YRU: I received the same email. Apparently, they haven't asked for donations in a while. I think we can afford to chip in since they've been good website hosts. \$50 seems like a reasonable amount.

Lou WA6QYS: I propose a motion: To donate \$50 to QSL.net. Seconded by Doug N6DPO.

Yes: VP John W6JPP, Treasurer Ned AC6YY, Secretary Truman N6TRU, Lou WA6QYS, Wally KA6YMD, Gary WB6YRU, Doug N6DPO, and Janet KF6PUQ.

No: (none)

Abstain: (none)

Absent: (none)

Gary WB6YRU: Regarding the donation, I think you can donate online if we have a credit card (which we don't) so a check might need to be mailed.

VP John W6JPP: How about having the Treasurer get a debit card?

President Gregg KF6FNA: I don't think security is too good on debit cards.

Wally KA6YMD: Regarding the debit card idea: I think most banks allows two factor authentication with debit cards, in which the bank verifies transaction with the Treasurer to complete transaction.

Gary WB6YRU: I think if we had a PayPal account, that'd be With a new Webmaster, maybe we can start digital easier. renewals via PayPal too.

Doug N6DPO: I agree with Gary WB6YRU on exploring opening a PayPal account. You could integrate a payment form on the website to accept dues for membership next year.

Ned: I've seen other clubs do that. They have one member use their personal PayPal account to do so.

Gary: No need to go via individuals. All you need is a checking account.

VP John W6JPP:

I motion that the club proceed to explore the options of opening a PayPal account for financial issues or matters for the club.

Seconded by Doug N6DPO.

Yes: VP John W6JPP, Treasurer Ned AC6YY, Secretary Truman N6TRU, Lou WA6QYS, Wally KA6YMD, Gary WB6YRU, Doug N6DPO, and Janet KF6PUQ.

No: (none)

Abstain: (none)

Absent: (none)

Treasurer Ned AC6YY: We need to be sure we have an email account for PayPal too.

(Discussion followed on this topic.)

President Gregg KF6FNA: On another note, I received call from Ned regarding the corporation paperwork for the State of California. Secretary Truman N6TRU, Treasurer Ned AC6YY, and I filled out the paperwork. Treasurer Ned AC6YY is awaiting a receipt from the State of California on that.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Truman Lindsey N6TRU, Secretary

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, K6PBO 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

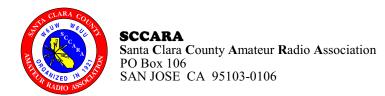
Newsletter Notes

In the first article of the ARRL News (above), progress is being made on removing the symbol rate limits. In the HF band the symbol rate limit has just been replaced with the far more reasonable bandwidth limit. Now they're considering removing the symbol rate limit in our LF, VHF, and 70 cm bands.

The symbol rate limit prevented us from using faster digital regardless how narrow its bandwidth. This has been an especially serious restriction in the VHF bands. And it put a crimp in the available equipment also. Why design radios and modems that can pass data faster if we aren't *allowed* to use them? I look forward to that changing soon.



73, Gary WB6YRU, editor



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 | r Renewal | I'm also an ARRL member |
| E-mail: | | | |
| F or delivery of the SCCARA- | GRAM (pdf) and club announceme | nts | |
| Membership type and dues: In | dividual, \$20 | Family, \$25 | Student, \$10 (under 18) |
| Read All memberships start January 1 and exp Family memberships (more than one mem | | nclude the above info | for each member, use separate forms. |
| New members: Dues are prorated: dues x (11 - mont If joining in November or December: n | h) x 10% For example: J ormal dues for next year, the | uly would be \$20 x (1 rest of this year is inc | $(1-7) \ge 0.1 = \$8)$ sluded free. |
| I want the paper newsletter dela (Prorated, \$1.25 per month. The | ivered by U.S. Mail for a hat's \$13.75 if starting in Feb | n additional \$15 p oruary, \$12.50 if starti | er year ng 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.