

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association



Volume 49, Number 5

May 2024

Flea Market Report

\$ 360	sales booth
\$ 440	soda & donut sales
\$1,760	gate (vender fee)

\$2,560	total income
-\$1,000	hosting fee paid to ASVARO

\$1,560	net for SCCARA

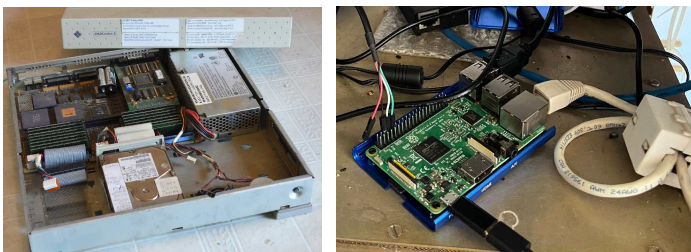
Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped with the April 14, 2024 flea market. This will fund our Field Day event, repeaters, club station, and picnic. Special thanks to Lou WA6QYS for his work as the flea market chairman, accountant, and purchasing agent.

Gregg KF6FNA

Packet BBS Update

On the Saturday April 20, we finally got a chance to do the computer upgrade of the N0ARY packet BBS. As of this writing things are still being configured and set up.

That by itself is noteworthy, but the replacement computer is a story unto itself. The old computer is a Sun Sparc 2 Workstation. The BBS has run on that platform since 1990. The replacement computer is a Raspberry Pi 3 model B.



These photos are not to the same scale. The Sparc 2 (left) is 16 inches across, the Raspberry Pi is about 3 inches--that beige cord (right) plugs in with a USB connector.

You might be thinking: "No way can that be as good." But actually, it's *better!*

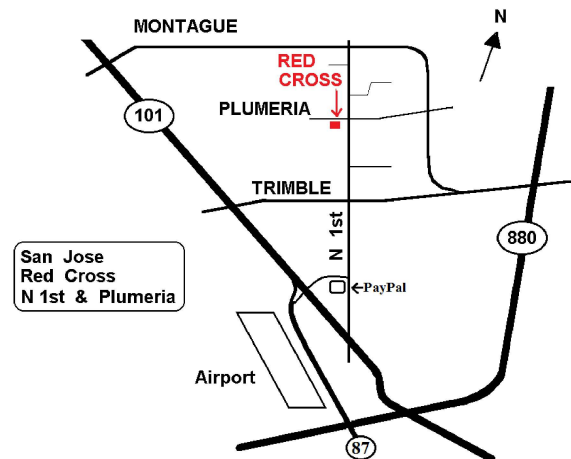
The Sun Sparc 2 came out in 1990, it's the size of a large pizza box, 16" x 16" x 2.8", weighs 25 pounds, has one 32 bit CPU core running at 40 MHz, 64 MB of RAM, a 1 GB hard drive, a

Calendar

5/13	SCCARA General Meeting
5/20	SCCARA Board Meeting:
5/25	Club Station open, 10 AM - 5 PM

General Meeting

<u>Day:</u>	Monday, May 13
<u>Time:</u>	7:30 PM
<u>Place:</u>	San Jose Red Cross, meeting room 3
<u>Featuring:</u>	Field Day



speed of 28.5 MIPS (millions of instructions per second), and it uses about 30 Watts at 120 V AC.

The Raspberry Pi 3 model B came out in 2016, it's a little larger than a deck of playing cards, 3.35" x 2.2" x 0.8", weighs 0.09 pounds, has four 64 bit CPU cores running at 1200 MHz, 1 GB of RAM, a SD flash card, a speed of 2441 MIPS, and it uses 6.5 Watts at 5 V DC.

Isn't that amazing?

There's more... It has been suggested the TNCs could be replaced with a Raspberry Pi running Direwolf (a TNC in software) which is supposed to do the job better than any hardware

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)

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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 Monday-- that'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.

N0ARY PACKET BBS

SCCARA hosts the packet BBS N0ARY (connect to n0ary-1). User ports: 145.09 MHz at 1200 baud, 433.37 MHz at 9600 baud, and telnet sun.n0ary.org (login "bbs"). Sysop: Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU For general packet info, see the NCPA web site ncpa.n0ary.org.

AMATEUR LICENSE TESTING

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

TNC, and cheaper too. Maybe in the future.

This is the equipment bay where the BBS is located (before the swap). The Sun Sparc is at the bottom. In the middle are the TNCs and radios.



Special thanks to Jeremy KE6JJJ (left) and Bob N0ARY (center) who set up the Raspberry Pi. Here we are at the radio site, it was a little windy. [selfy photo courtesy of Jeremy KE6JJJ]



73, Gary WB6YRU

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 11, 2024

Ham Radio Active During Eclipse

Millions of people across the United States got to see a rare solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, 2024.

Totality as seen in Athens, Texas.
[Paul Buck, KW5TNT, photo]



The path of totality -- the line of darkness where the moon fully occluded the sun -- stretched through the South Pacific, Mexico, central Texas, the Ozarks, the Midwest, the Rust Belt area, and to New England through the Maritimes. In all, 14 ARRL Sections were impacted directly and several more were on the fringes of the solar umbra.

Amateur radio was active throughout the areas of impact. Most ARRL Sections in the path had been developing a plan with their served agencies for months or years beforehand.

Traffic was expected to be significant, with up to 3.7 million people forecast to travel to areas within the path of totality.

In Paris, Texas, hams split shifts at the Lamar County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Teams of two operators volunteered for 4-hour shifts. The activation doubled as a training opportunity and an equipment test.

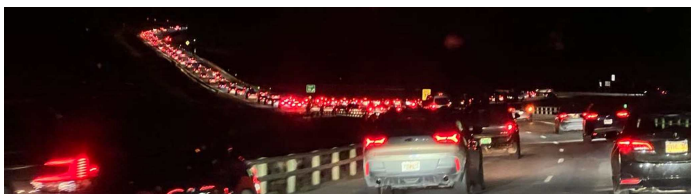
The ARRL Indiana Section was in full force with their Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) member-volunteers providing radio coverage on HF, VHF, and UHF amateur bands and utilizing GMRS. Using a mobile command center dubbed

“Big Blue,” the ARES team in Lake County set up on an overpass above Interstate 65 and was staffed in part by father and son volunteer team Chris Lattimer, N9MMR, and Tavas Lattimer, KD9NSC. The Section also utilized Winlink VARA HF to establish a digital connection with the incident command system.

In Hamilton County, Indiana, ARES members volunteered with the county emergency management teams. They fanned out across EOCs, parks, and other locations. One ARES member, who is also active in the Civil Air Patrol, monitored traffic and crowds from an airplane.

Section Emergency Coordinator of the ARRL Maine Section Keith Anoe, KE4UCW, held hourly check-ins via radio with the Maine Emergency Management Agency and other served agencies in case one of them needed to activate the Maine Emergency Communication Net.

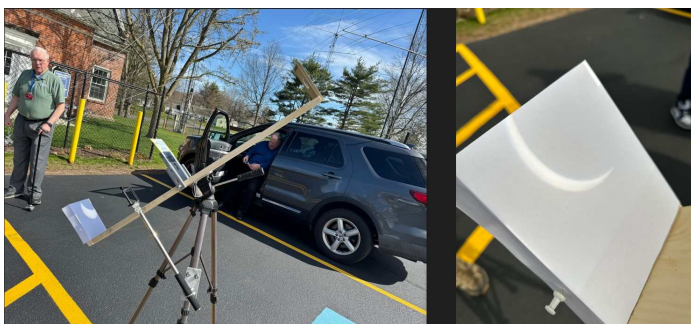
Social media posts throughout the amateur radio space hold anecdotes of 146.52 MHz being extremely active during the post-eclipse traffic jam.



Traffic on Interstate 91 in Northern Vermont was at a near standstill after the eclipse. Many reports say that 146.52 MHz was active all over the country with amateurs reporting the latest traffic conditions. [Sierra Harrop, W5DX, photo]

In Vermont, several ARRL members, who also happen to be pilots, gathered at the Northeast Kingdom International Airport in Newport to watch the eclipse.

Outside ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, staff members and headquarters volunteers took the opportunity to observe the 92% visible eclipse using a solar viewer built by W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q.



Left: A solar viewer setup outside of W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station at ARRL Headquarters. Right: The output view of the viewer. [Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, photos]

Across the world, radio amateurs participated in the HamSCI Solar Eclipse QSO Party. It involved operating before, during, and after the eclipse to gather log data. Those logs will be studied by researchers in the coming years to further investigate the sun's impact on the ionosphere.

HamSCI's program leader Dr. Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, was active from The University of Scranton Amateur Radio Club

station. “I'm happy to report that we had an excellent day at W3USR in Scranton and believe that we both had fun and collected good data,” he wrote in a message to the HamSCI team.

The organizers request that those who operated in the event upload their logs. If you used N1MM+ or N3FJP loggers, there's a setting called Solar Eclipse QSO Party. Participants can also submit a Cabrillo or ADIF file of their activity. All logs should go to <https://seqp.contesting.com/seqpsubmitlog.php>.

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 18, 2024

Armed Forces Day Crossband Test May 11, 2024

The US Department of Defense will host this year's Armed Forces Day (AFD) Crossband Test on May 11, 2024. For more than 50 years, military and amateur stations have taken part in this event, which is an interoperability exercise between hobbyist and government radio stations. The event is open to all licensed amateur radio operators and will not impact any public or private communications. The AFD Crossband Test is a unique opportunity to test two-way communications between military communicators and radio stations in the Amateur Radio Service (ARS), as authorized in 47 CFR 97.111.

These tests provide opportunities and challenges for radio operators to demonstrate individual technical skills in a tightly controlled exercise scenario. Military stations will transmit on selected military frequencies and announce the specific ARS frequencies monitored. All scheduled times will be in Zulu (Z), and all scheduled frequencies will be upper sideband (USB) unless otherwise noted.

Information on frequencies, times, and other technical information can be found at [DoD MARS - Armed Forces Day](https://www.dodmars.org/mars-comex-information-website/armed-forces-day). Information for QSL cards and contact information is available at [Armed Forces Day QSL request form](https://www.usarmymars.org/armed-forces-day-qsl-card-request).

<https://www.dodmars.org/mars-comex-information-website/armed-forces-day>
<https://www.usarmymars.org/armed-forces-day-qsl-card-request>

AFD is classified as an observance -- not a federal holiday. It will be celebrated on Saturday, May 18, 2024, and it will be a time of honor. The establishment of AFD was first announced on August 31, 1949, by then US Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson. It was meant to replace the separate Army, Navy, and Air Force Days. All branches were combined to create the US Department of Defense. The first Armed Forces Day was held on May 20, 1950. The day is celebrated with special events, tributes, observances, and parades.

Golden Spike, 155 years ago

To celebrate the 155th anniversary of the driving of the Golden Spike, a ceremony that celebrated the completion of the transcontinental railroad, the [Ogden Amateur Radio Club](https://www.ogdenarc.org) (OARC) will operate special event station W7G on May 10 - 11, 2024. Operating hours for both days will be 1500Z - 2300Z (09:00 - 17:00 MDT) on single sideband on 7.235 MHz, 14.255 MHz, 21.330 MHz, and 28.385 MHz. There may be CW operation on 7.040 MHz and 14.040 MHz. The special event station will be located at the Golden Spike National Historical Park in Promontory Summit, Utah. During last year's 2-day celebration, OARC made approximately 300 contacts. QSL information is available at the OARC website. <http://ogdenarc.org/>

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, April 8, 2024



{No minutes received.}

Board Meeting, April 15, 2024



Held verbally on our 2 m repeater W6UU/R

Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:46 PM

Attendance: President Gregg Lane KF6FNA, VP John Parks W6JPP, Secretary Truman Lindsey N6TRU, Director Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Director Wally Britten KA6YMD, Director Doug Owens N6DPO, Director Gary Mitchell WB6YRU.
Excused absence: Treasurer Ned Tufekcic AC6YY, Director Janet Motha KF6PUQ, Station Trustee Don Village K6PBQ
Visitor: Dan K6DLC (Redwood City)

Announcements:
Gregg KF6FNA: Thanks to all who helped with the flea market. The SCCARA-GRAM deadline is April 29. The club station will be open 4/27/2024, 10 am to 5 pm

President's Report, Gregg KF6FNA: Field Day is in June, we'll need a chairman.

Vice President's Report, John W6JPP: I have a few possible speakers, but we'll need to get our zoom meeting capability going. The antenna trailer could use a bath. Ned AC6YY has a co-worker who has property in Stockton and we may do a camp-out there. Doug N6DPO: We've had zoom capability for many months, just give me a little notice and I can be sure it's available.

Secretary's Report, Truman N6TRU:
The March general meeting minutes were published in the SCCARA-GRAM, any corrections?
Nothing heard.
Approved by acclamation.
The March board meeting minutes were published in the SCCARA-GRAM, any corrections?
Nothing heard.
Approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report, Ned AC6YY: checking = \$ 10392.19
Gary WB6YRU: Flea market. We had a lot of stuff for our sales booth, mostly from an estate. Four tables were completely full plus more on the ground. Approximately 80% of it was sold. We made a total of \$362.25. Next time we'll have a little room available for members, if we want to do that, and assuming the club doesn't gain more stuff in the mean time.

Standing Committees
Editor's report: Gary WB6YRU: All members are now on the the email list, except three: Don K6PBQ, Janet KF6PUQ, and Peter KG6KWB. And two of those are board members. Peter's email bounces, I sent him a paper letter, no reply yet. Until they get on the list, or sign up for the paper delivery, they won't be receiving the SCCARA-GRAM.

In the May edition we should have something about what we'll do for Field Day and of course a flea market report. The deadline is two weeks from now.

BBS Sysop's report: Gary WB6YRU: The new antenna has been installed. The plan is to upgrade the computer next weekend (April 20).

Webmaster's report, Doug N6DPO: I have made a mock-up of possible changes to the web page. I make mention of the Red Cross too. George (Red Cross) is in the loop. Gary made some suggestions, thanks. Within a couple of weeks hopefully it will be updated and on a continuing basis in the future.

Old Business:
Gregg KF6FNA: Still need to improve our antennas at the Red Cross, to be done in the near future.
Regarding that school presentation, anything new?
John W6JPP: Nothing new on that.

Gregg KF6FNA: Re: Log Book of the World, anything new?
Doug N6DPO: I've been looking into it. I think I'm familiar enough to handle it. I need info about what the club needs. With Field Day coming up, we'll need to get going on it for that.
John W6JPP: I think all you need is to apply, get a certificate number, and you're ready to go.
Doug N6DPO: I think our certificate expired, I need to look into that.
Dan K6DLC: Post cards are no longer used. Don't put an expiration date on your certificate, put your starting date as whenever, but NOT an expiration. They'll send an email, put that in your appropriate directory and you're good to go. And make sure at least two other people have access.

New Business:
Gregg KF6FNA: We had our flea market yesterday, the outcome is still being calculated. We had a sales table too. A report will be forthcoming later.
Lou WA6QYS: Thanks to all who pitched in, it's a manpower intensive endeavor and the weather wasn't the best as well.
Gregg KF6FNA: Field day is coming up. Anyone interested in being chairman or co-chairman? Next general meeting will be about Field Day.
Doug N6DPO: I'm not experienced but at least I can help be a co-chair or whatever.
Dan K6DLC: Flea Market next time will be on the third Sunday next month, because the second Sunday is mother's day.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM

Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, recording for the Secretary

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====
Date: 16 Mar 2020 23:24
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: jokes 17/3

The teacher asked the class to use the word "fascinate" in a sentence. Molly put up her hand and said, "My family went to my granddad's farm, and we all saw his pet sheep. It was fascinating."

The teacher said, "That was good, but I wanted you to use the word 'fascinate', not 'fascinating'".

Sally raised her hand. She said, "My family went to see Rock City and I was fascinated."

The teacher said, "Well, that was good Sally, but I wanted you to use the word 'fascinate.'"

Little Johnny raised his hand. The teacher hesitated because she had been burned by Little Johnny before. She finally decided there was no way he could damage the word "fascinate", so she called on him. Johnny said, "My aunt Gina has a sweater with ten buttons, but her chest is so big she can only fasten eight."

=====
Date: 19 Mar 2020 23:35
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: jokes 20/3

(I'll bet the following was inspired by the song "I Am My Own Grandpa!")

Dear Sirs,

I have a very complicated Benefits Question:

Many years ago, I married a widow out of love who had an 18-year-old daughter. After the wedding, my father, a widower, came to visit a number of times, and he fell in love with my step-daughter.

My father eventually married her without my authorization. As a result, my step-daughter legally became my step-mother and my father my son-in-law.

My father's wife (also my step-daughter) and my step-mother, gave birth to a son who is my grandchild because I am the husband of my step-daughter's mother. This boy is also my brother, as the son of my father.

As you can see, my wife became a grandmother, because she is the mother of my father's wife. Therefore, it appears that I am also my wife's grandchild.

A short time after these events, my wife gave birth to a son, who became my father's brother-in-law, the step-son of my father's wife, and my uncle.

My son is also my step-mother's brother, and through my step-mother, my wife has become a grandmother and I have become my own grandfather.

In light of the above mentioned, I would like to know if my son, who is also my uncle, my father's son-in-law, and my step-mother's brother, fulfil the requirements for receiving childcare benefits?

Sincerely yours,
Mohammed

THE REPLY:

Of course you qualify Mohammed! I have arranged to start mailing checks to all of you just as soon as you arrive here in UK.

Welcome!
Jeremy Corbyn

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

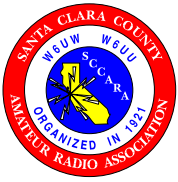
Newsletter Notes

The financial results from the flea market was all we got. If anyone took any photos or has anything else, please send it in!

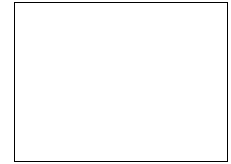
Regarding the BBS computer upgrade... Isn't that amazing? You know, the same thing is happening to our radios! More and more it's all being done in software. Does anyone have any stories to tell on the subject?



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.