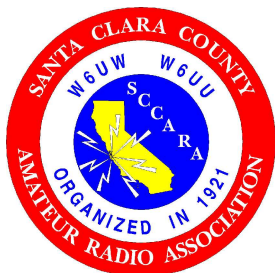


SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 49, Number 9

September 2024



Club Station Coax

If you used the Phone Station during Field Day 2023 or 2024, you might have noticed its coax was RG-58, not the normally used RG-8. That thin stuff has more loss. We do have better coax, I'm not sure why we aren't using it.

Just before the start of Field Day 2024 I brought the equipment need to find out exactly how much more lossy it is. At the same time some others were checked. This wasn't an exhaustive test, just to get an idea. Here are the results:

SCCARA club station, Red Cross June 15, 2024
Coax power loss test

RG-58, estimated 15 ft (Jumper from the radio room to the adjacent conference room for the Phone Station)

Freq. in MHz	Power in	Power out		dB/100 ft
146.565	25 W	18 W	72%	-9.5
29.0	84 W	65 W	77%	-7.4
3.6	92 W	84 W	91 %	-2.6
1.8	85 W	80 W	94 %	-1.8

1318FX , 50 ft (In the radio room one of the cabinets contains rolls of low-loss RG-8 50 Ω coax.)

Freq. in MHz	Power in	Power out		dB/100 ft
29.6	84 W	74 W	88%	-1.1

There are two jumpers of hardline between our main station and the other desk for our digital station (for a future expansion). Its diameter is rather small, like RG-58. Both had identical loss.

Small hardline, 30 ft

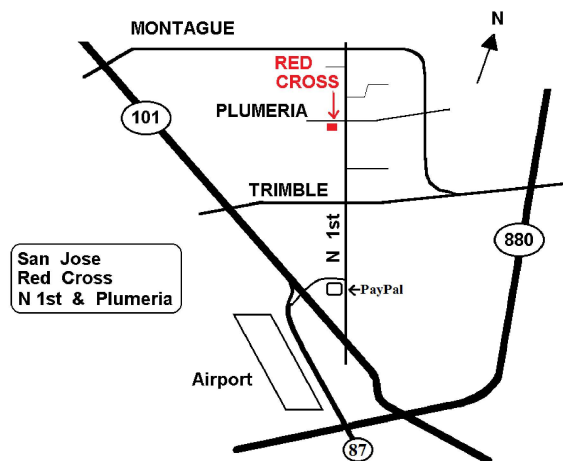
Freq. in MHz	Power in	Power out		dB/100 ft
29.9	92 W	79 W	86%	-2.2
1.9	84 W	83 W	99%	-0.2

Calendar

9/9 SCCARA General Meeting
9/16 SCCARA Board Meeting:
9/31 Club Station open, 10 AM - 5 PM

General Meeting

Day: Monday, September 9
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: San Jose Red Cross, meeting room 3
Featuring: {to be announced}



Coax switch at the main radio. 3 of the 5 positions were tested, all gave identical results.

Freq. in MHz	Power in	Power out	
29.5	92 W	91 W	99%
1.90	84 W	84 W	100%

This was the test set-up used:

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.sccara.org

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(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.

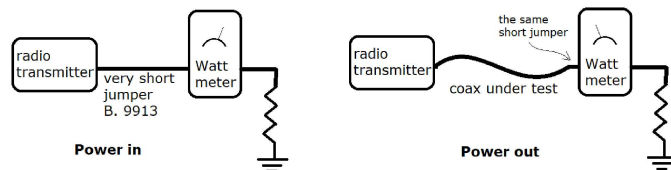
N0ARY PACKET BBS

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:

Bird 43 Watt meter, with a Cantronic 1000 W dummy load, and a short jumper of Beldon 9913.



NOTE: It's important to take into account the coax length before making any comparisons. To help with that, also included is the resulting dB loss per 100 ft for each.

As expected, losses are greater at higher frequencies, and thin coax is significantly worse than thick coax.

It turns out the Red Cross has some rolls of low-loss RG-8 coax in one of the cabinets near our radio. It was surprisingly good, even better than that small hardline. George N6NKT (our Red Cross liaison) said it's OK for us to use it as long as we put it back when done.

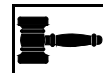
I'm not sure what the story is on that small hardline, just that it's surplus. Maybe it's intended for low-power use. I have 70 feet of some surplus RG-8 size hardline and did a similar test on that a few years ago. Its loss at 2 m was barely detectable, much better than even high-quality Beldon 9913.



73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Aug. 12, 2024



San Jose Red Cross, 2710 N. First St.

Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:34 p.m.

Customary self-introductions.

Announcements

President Gregg KF6FNA:

First, the SCCARA-GRAM deadline is August 26th.

Second, we'll be at the club station at the Red Cross on August 31st.

The SCCARA 2 m net is on Mondays at 7:30 pm on the W6UU repeater except for SCCARA General Meeting nights.

Additionally, the SCCARA 10 m net is on 28.385 MHz every Thursday at 8:00 pm.

Lou WA6QYS:

Thanks to the SCCARA members who helped set up and run the Electronics Flea Market!

Presentation:

Ned AC6YY gave a presentation about the different types of knots that are helpful to amateur radio operators.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Truman M. Lindsey N6TRU, SCCARA Secretary

Board Meeting, July 15, 2024



Held verbally on our 2 m repeater W6UU/R

Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:40 p.m.

Attendance:

President Gregg Lane KF6FNA, Secretary Truman Lindsey N6TRU, Directors Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, Janet Motha KF6PUQ, Doug Owens N6DPO, Trustee Don K6PBQ, and Wally Britten KA6YMD.

Visitors: Paul KK6HWN.

Announcements:

President's Report, Gregg KF6FNA:

First, the SCCARA-GRAM deadline is July 29th.

Second, we'll be at the club station at the Red Cross on July 27th. The SCCARA 2 m net is on Mondays at 7:30 pm on the W6UU repeater except for SCCARA General Meeting nights.

Additionally, the SCCARA 10 m net is on 28.385 MHz every Thursday at 8:00 pm.

Vice President's Report, John W6JPP: (Absent. No report.)

Secretary's Report, Truman N6TRU: Transferring the General meeting minutes is still in progress.

Gregg KF6FNA: The June 10th General meeting minutes were published in the SCCARA-GRAM. Any corrections? (none heard)

Approved by acclamation.

The June 17th Board meeting minutes were published in the SCCARA-GRAM. Any corrections? (none heard)

Approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report, Ned AC6YY: We have a total of \$12,650.48 in the checking account. Field Day 2024 expenses were \$404.00. Post office box (USPS) expenses were \$216.00. SCCARA-GRAM printing expenses were \$52.19.

Trustee's report, Don K6PBQ: Nothing to report.

Editor's report, Gary WB6YRU: There hasn't been too much in the newsletter as of late so I'd like to get more material.

BBS Sysop's report, Gary WB6YRU: Nothing to report.

Repeater Chairman's report, Wally KA6YMD: There's minor spurious emissions from the WA6TOW repeater here and there, but nothing too bad.

Webmaster's report, Doug N6DPO: I have received comments and recommendations regarding the new website. Furthermore, I want to send out emails to ask for further recommendations and comments. One good feature would be allowing people to join SCCARA through the website.

(Discussion followed on the new website.)

Gary WB6YRU: We received a new NanoVNA (vector network analyzer) which will come in handy. I was looking for some adapters at the flea market for it.

Old Business:

Gregg KF6FNA:

Roof work at the Red Cross is still in consideration, pending reasonable weather.

Regarding the school demonstration that John W6JPP was contacted about, it will take place next school year.

New Business:

Gregg KF6FNA: A few SCCARA members have card keys for the Red Cross. New badges are being made at this moment. George N6NKT is our contact for this matter.

Field Day 2024: Gregg KF6FNA: The report for Field Day 2024 will be shared through the SCCARA-GRAM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Truman Lindsey N6TRU, SCCARA Secretary

Board Meeting, Aug. 19, 2024



Held verbally on our 2 m repeater W6UU/R

Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:33 PM

Attendance: President Gregg Lane KF6FNA, VP John Parks W6JPP, Secretary Truman Lindsey N6TRU, Station Trustee Don Village K6PBQ, Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Wally Britten KA6YMD, Doug Owens N6DPO, Gary Mitchell WB6YRU.

Unexcused Absence: Treasurer Ned Tufekcic AC6YY, Director Janet Motha KF6PUQ

Visitors: Ben KK6CCU

Announcements:

Gregg KF6FNA: Make sure there's someone at the club station, since the door could be locked

Truman N6TRU: College will be starting up again, I'll be a little more busy but still can perform my duties as Secretary.

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

Vice President's Report, John W6JPP: The club may have to relocate the antenna trailer, we should start investigating another possible location. More on that later.

Secretary's Report, Truman N6TRU: The meeting minutes will be transcribed in the next day or two. If anyone is interested, I'll be busy with college and would like someone who has more time to take over the secretary's duties.

The previous general meeting minutes were published in the SCCARA-GRAM. Any corrections? (none heard)

Approved by acclamation

Trustee's Report, Don K6PBQ: Nothing new, except the problems with the Red Cross, getting access.

Standing Committees

Editor's report: Gary WB6YRU: Not much new to report, except we need to make a greater effort to get notice in about any upcoming meeting topics.

BBS Sysop's report: Gary WB6YRU: Nothing new to report.

Webmaster's report, Doug N6DPO: We'll move to the new web site design in the next week or so. Everyone should work on moving to the URL www.sccara.org.

Old Business:

Gregg KF6FNA: Still have some roof work at the Red Cross, we'll start working on putting up a beam in the not too distant future. John W6JPP was working on a presentation at a school, more on that later.

Doug N6DPO: I think I have what I need regarding the Log Book Of The World and just need to make sure we have access at the Red Cross. We had an obsolete certificate, that's being updated.

Gregg KF6FNA: The Red Cross is in the process of renewing the door badges for access. George N6NKT is our contact.

New Business:

Wally KA6YMD: Was that trailer move meant to be temporary or permanent?

John W6JPP: They're talking about a permanent move. New asphalt is going to be put in and they don't want anything put back in there.

Doug N6DPO: There was talk about SJ RACES interested in our trailer. They have room at the EOC. Is there something there we might be able to work out?

Wally KA6YMD: They got a tower but the City wouldn't allow anything there and sold it for scrap.

Doug N6DPO: This discussion was within last year about RACES being interested.

John W6JPP: That was with the Willow Glen CERTS, and it's not a set deal.

Gary WB6YRU: Is there any interest in donating or selling the trailer since we haven't used it in several years?

Gregg KF6FNA: That's an option. We may want to investigate that.

Wally KA6YMD: Why not put a notice in the newsletter asking if anyone has storage options?

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM

Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, recording for the Secretary

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====

Date: 25 Mar 2020 23:03
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: jokes 26/3

Verbal Tennis between Men and Women

A wife asked her husband: What do you like most in me, my pretty face or my sexy body?
He looked at her from head to toe and replied after a pause: Your sense of humour.

Doctor to his lady patient: You look exhausted! Are you

having three meals a day as I advised?

Lady: Oh, I thought you said three males a day.

A man doing market research for the Vaseline Company knocked at the door and was greeted by a young woman with three small children running around at her feet. He said, "I'm doing some research for Vaseline. Have you ever used the product?"

She said "Yes. My husband and I use it all the time."

"If you don't mind my asking" he said "what do you use it for?"

"We use it for sex" she said.

The researcher was a little taken aback. "Usually people lie to me and say they use it on a child's bicycle chain or to help with a gate hinge. But in fact I know that most people do use it for sex. I admire your honesty. Since you have been so frank would you mind telling me how you use it for sex?"

The woman said: "I don't mind at all. We put it on the doorknob, it keeps the kids out."

A college football player was roaming the library stacks looking confused. The librarian asked how she could help.

"I have to read a play by Shakespeare" he said.

"Which one?" she asked.

He scanned the shelves and answered "William."

Life comments

For every complex problem there is a simple solution. And it's always wrong. -- H.L. Mencken

Pigs CAN fly if given enough thrust. But it's not recommended.

Life is pleasant. Death is peaceful. It's the transition that's Troublesome. -- Isaac Asimov

If the wheel had never been reinvented we'd still be driving on logs.

You have given your life to be the person you are right now. Was it worth it? -- Richard Bach

When your work speaks for itself don't interrupt.
-- Henry J. Kaiser

If you're going to run around making sense we're going to have to ask you to leave.

If we had ham we could have ham and eggs if we had eggs.

Beware of all enterprises that require new clothes.
-- Henry David Thoreau

No matter where you go, there you are.
-- Buckaroo Banzai

There are never any endings only beginnings in disguise.
-- Mark Raymond

Jar 47

A new doctor had arrived in town. He could cure anything and anybody. Everyone was amazed with what he could do - everyone except for Mr. Thompson the town skeptic.

Grumpy old Mr. Thompson went to visit this 'miracle doctor' to prove that he wasn't anybody special. When it was time for his appointment he told the doctor "Hey doc I've lost my sense of taste. I can't taste nothin 'so what are ya goin' to do?"

The doctor scratched his head and mumbled to himself a little then told Mr. Thompson "What you need is jar number 47."

So the doctor brought the jar out, opened it, and told Mr. Thompson to taste it. He tasted it and immediately spit it out. "This is gross!" he yelled. "Looks like I just restored your sense of taste Mr. Thompson" said the doctor. So Mr. Thompson went home very angry.

Some time later Mr. Thompson decides to go back to the doctor and try once again to expose him as a fake by complaining of a new problem. "Doc" he started "I can't remember anything!" Thinking he had the doctor stumped now he waited as the doctor scratched his head mumbled to himself a little and told Mr. Thompson "What you need is jar number 47 it's....."

But before the doctor could finish his sentence Mr. Thompson was cured and fled the room!

Father Murphy walks into a pub and asks the first man he meets, 'Do you want to go to heaven?'
The man said, 'I do, Father.'
The priest said, 'Then stand over there against the wall.'
The priest asked the second man, 'Do you want to go to heaven?'
'Certainly, Father,' the man replied.
'Then stand over there against the wall,' said the priest.
Father Murphy walked up to O'Toole and asked, 'Do you want to go to heaven?'
O'Toole said, 'No, I don't Father.'
The priest said, 'You mean to tell me that when you die you don't want to go to heaven?'
O'Toole said, 'Oh, when I die, yes. I thought you were getting a group together to go right now.'

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

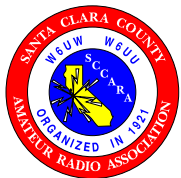
Apologies for the missing board meeting minutes last time, they're included in this edition.

Rumor has it we may lose the storage spot for our antenna trailer. Nothing official has been submitted about it for publication, but if anyone knows of an alternate location you might want to mention it to our president Gregg KF6FNA or VP John W6JPP.

You've probably noticed by now that we haven't had anything from the ARRL Letter recently. Their archives page has not been updated since May 2024. I contacted them, but they haven't told me of any alternatives. If anyone has access to the new ones, please let me know.



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.