



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 49, Number 10

October 2024

ARRL News

From The ARRL Letter, July 3, 2024

Extra-class Question Pool New

The New Amateur Extra Class Question Pool has been released and is effective as of July 1, 2024. The new question pool is in effect 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.

The new pool incorporates significant changes compared to the 2020 - 2024 version, said ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, and member of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC). We carefully went over the pool for technical accuracy, relevance to today's amateur radio practices, syntax, grammar, style, format, and clarity and redundancy within and between the pools. With these goals in mind, 82 new questions were created, and 101 questions were eliminated, resulting in a reduction of the total number of questions from 622 to 603. Over 350 questions were modified. We considered a question modified when the knowledge being tested was not changed but wording was improved, or answers or distractors were replaced.

Somma advised that the newly revised pool must be used for Extra-class license exams starting July 1, 2024. Exam designs based on the previous pool are no longer valid. Outdated versions of the Extra exams should be destroyed or thrown away to avoid a mix-up at the testing session.

ARL VEC had planned to supply its officially appointed, field-stocked VE team leaders with the new Extra-class exam booklet designs around mid-June. But due to ARRL's recent system disruption, that date is now to be determined. Supplies will be sent as soon as possible in the interim, VE teams may contact the ARRL VEC to receive instructions on how to print new Extra exams.

https://arrl.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zMDc2NjAxJnA9MSZ1PTUyMjY3NTk 10SZsaT0zNDE2NjA1Ng/index.html

From The ARRL Letter, July 11, 2024

Celebrating Software Defined Radio

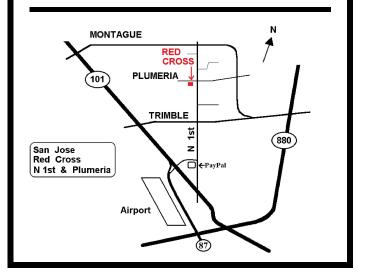
At Ham Radio 2024, the International amateur radio exhibition, last week in Friedrichshafen, Germany, the Software

Calendar

10/14 SCCARA General Meeting
10/21 SCCARA Board Meeting
10/26 Club Station open, 10 AM - 5 PM

General Meeting

Day: <u>Time:</u> <u>Place:</u> Featuring: Monday, Oct. 14 7:30 PM San Jose Red Cross, meeting room 3 {to be announced}



Defined Radio Academy (SDRA) celebrated its 10-year anniversary. Founded in 2014, the SDRA has become a new platform for the exchange of knowledge surrounding software defined radio. In the early years, the academy's lectures were recorded with primitive camera technology, but today a video team takes the recordings to a completely different level. The SDRA's YouTube channel now has 150 uploads, 4850 subscribers, and many more views of the videos.

The winners of the Ulrich L. Rohde Award, created in 2022 for innovative research in the field of software defined radio, were also announced:

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)

President	Gregg Lane KF6FNA	
Vice President	e-mail: <u>kf6fna@com</u> John Parks, W6JPP	
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Director	e-mail: <u>wa6qys@aol.</u> Wally Britten, KA6YMD	408-891-1105
Director	e-mail: <u>ka6ymd@arr</u> Doug Owens N6DPO	408-568-9870
Director	e-mail: <u>dougowens10</u> Janet Motha, KF6PUQ	408 252-3939
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	e-mail: dougowens100@icloud.com

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

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.

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 • The GNU Radio project for its good software solutions for software defined radio (SDR) technology. GNU Radio is a <u>free</u> software development toolkit that provides signal processing blocks to implement <u>software-defined radios</u> and <u>signal processing</u> systems.

https://arrl.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zMDgxOTI3JnA9MSZ1PTUyMjY3NTk 1OSZsaT0zNDI0NTIxMg/index.html

https://arrl.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zMDgxOTI3JnA9MSZ1PTUyMjY3NTk 1OSZsaT0zNDI0NTIxNQ/index.html

https://arrl.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zMDgxOTI3JnA9MSZ1PTUyMjY3NTk 10SZsaT0zNDI0NTIxOA/index.html

• The DARC-AJW team for the SDR questions in the new questionnaire and the standardization of education. According to group leader Matthias Jung, DL9MJ, posting on X, the team's work focused on integrating SDR into the German amateur radio exam and educational materials.

• Rob Robinett, AI6VN, with Paul Elliot, WB6CXC, for their fundamental work and influence on scientific research in other areas.

• Christoph V. Wallen, DL1YCF, with Laurence Barker, G8NJJ, for fundamental work on stations.

Dr. Rohde, N1UL, has been an avid amateur radio operator holding several licenses in the United States and Germany. He has been licensed since 1956 and involved in technology and systems and has received worldwide recognition. In 2015, he won first place in the ARRL DX Contest in the Northern New Jersey Section. He also operates N1UL/MM on his yacht, the Dragonfly, and is Trustee of the Marco Island Radio Club, K5MI.



Members of the Software Defined Radio Academy celebrate their awards at Ham Radio in Germany [Photo courtesy of SRDA]

From The ARRL Letter, Aug. 22, 2024

ARRL IT Security Incident - Report to Members

Sometime in early May 2024, ARRL's systems network was compromised by threat actors (TAs) using information they had purchased on the dark web. The TAs accessed headquarters on-site systems and most cloud-based systems. They used a wide variety of payloads affecting everything from desktops and laptops to Windows-based and Linux-based servers. Despite the wide variety of target configurations, the TAs seemed to have a payload that would host and execute encryption or deletion of network-based IT assets, as well as launch demands for a ransom payment, for every system.

This serious incident was an act of organized crime. The highly coordinated and executed attack took place during the early morning hours of May 15. That morning, as staff arrived, it was immediately apparent that ARRL had become the victim of an extensive and sophisticated ransom-ware attack. The FBI categorized the attack as "unique" as they had not seen this level of sophistication among the many other attacks, they have experience with. Within 3 hours a crisis management team had been constructed of ARRL management, an outside vendor with extensive resources and experience in the ransom-ware recovery, attorneys experienced with managing the legal aspects of the attack

and 101.

including interfacing with the authorities, and our insurance carrier. The authorities were contacted immediately as was the ARRL President.

The ransom demands by the TAs, in exchange for access to their decryption tools, were exorbitant. It was clear they didn't know, and didn't care, that they had attacked a small 501(c)(3) organization with limited resources.

From The ARRL Letter, Sept. 12, 2024

ARRL Defends 902-928 Amateur Radio Band

ARRL has <u>filed comments</u> [PDF] with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) urging that the 902 - 928 MHz amateur radio band be protected. ARRL joins hundreds of licensed radio amateurs who utilize the band in opposing a proposal from NextNav Inc., a licensee in the 900-MHz Location and Monitoring Service (LMS), to completely reconfigure the 902 - 928 MHz band and replace the LMS with high-powered 5G cellular and related location services.

https://arrl.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zMTM0MTkzJnA9MSZ1PTUyMjY3NT k1OSZsaT0zNTA1MzU1MQ/index.html

Read more about NextNav's proposal on ARRL News (8/15/2024) https://arrl.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zMTM0MTkzJnA9MSZ1PTUyMjY3NT k1OSZsaT0zNTA1MzU1NA/index.html

ARRL's comments, filed by our Washington, D.C. Counsel on behalf of ARRL members and radio amateurs, point out several problems with NextNav's request.

Contrary to NextNav's assertions, the band is extremely crowded with millions of devices and transmitters in operation in multiple services, including the Amateur Service. Adoption of the proposal would result in either massive interference that would prevent proper operation or displacement to other bands. The difficulty is that there are no other bands known to be available, and in fact, some of the Amateur operations in this band are here because they were displaced when a portion of the 420 - 450 MHz band was closed to the Amateur Service some years ago. Others were displaced from the same band when new Federal Government defense radars were initiated and continued Amateur secondary operations would have interfered with their operation.

Pushing amateur radio out of heavily used spectrum is a risk to public service, ARRL argues in the comments.

When space can be found in this band, Amateurs employ it to establish wide-area voice and some television signal repeaters. Others are actively experimenting with digital mesh networks and associated control links. These networks are a testbed for digital design and experimentation, but also are available and used for back-up emergency communications purposes. Still others operate low power beacons for propagation research. Weak signal work also is popular and leads to improvements in equipment.

Mesh networks are becoming increasingly useful in emergency communications. Just this past week, the ARRL Utah Section announced that dozens of Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers are working to expand the mesh network around the state. "The needs of participating agencies have evolved to require more than analog voice and low-speed data modes," said ARRL Utah Section Public Information Coordinator Scott Rosenbush, K7HSR. High-speed mesh networks using AREDN (Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network) software will allow amateur radio to play a larger role in supporting these agencies in emergencies. The ARRL Utah Section already has a five-county mesh network in place. The proposal from NextNav make it more difficult to operate networks like this one.

Under NextNav's proposal, the much higher-powered transmitters would be ubiquitous and operating 24/7. The resulting interference would effectively exclude many of the current Amateur operations that are operating in the 902-928 MHz band.

The FCC docket remains open for reply comments from the public until September 20, 2024. As of September 6 over 800 comments have been filed by Amateurs and others who use this spectrum. The comments can be viewed here.

https://inyurl.com/ypxh583p. https://arrl.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zMTM0MTkzJnA9MSZ1PTUyMjY3NT k1OSZsaT0zNTA1MzU1OA/index.html

<u>Click here for an ARRL Guide to Filing Comments with FCC.</u> https://arrl.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zMTM0MTkzJnA9MSZ1PTUyMjY3NT k1OSZsaT0zNTA1MzU10Q/index.html

ARRL will continue to defend amateur access to this and other threatened amateur allocations.

Treasurer's Treatise

Banking Summary - 8/1/2024 through 8/31/2024

Expenses SCCARA-GRAM Total Expenses	31.76 31.76
Checking account:	\$12,557.81



73, Ned Tufekcic AC6YY

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Sept. 9, 2024



Room 3, American Red Cross, N 1st & Plumeria, San Jose, CA

Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:35 PM

Customary self introductions.

Announcements

President Gregg KF6FNA:

Board will meet verbally on our 2 m repeater on Sept. 16 right after the Monday night net.

Club station will open on Sept. 28, 2024, call first on the repeater to be sure we're there.

Newsletter deadline is Sept. 23.

2 m net every Monday at 7 pm except our meeting night.

Pacificon will be October 18-20 in San Ramon Mariott, \$35 advance tickets, \$45 at the door, kids under 17 free.

Vice President John W6JPP: The local CERT group (at Market and St John) could probably store our antenna trailer, they'd like to be able to use it. We must move it by Nov. 6 from the American Legion parking lot.

Gregg KF6FNA: We'll have nominations for officers at our October meeting, elections at our November meeting. We'll need a new secretary, Truman won't be running again. We will have a dinner meeting in December, the second Monday--on our normal meeting night.

In September or October we might have a picnic on a Saturday or

Sunday. Sunday October 27 was favored. The club will provide drinks, hotdogs, condiments. Attendees should bring a dish to share.

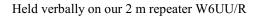
Steven "Stiv" Ostenberg K9STV from FARS and SPECS spoke about the need for activities to generate interest in amateur radio. If not amateur radio might die out when we do (this generation). SPECS will list events in the area to help generate interest. We'll start up a list on groups.io and a meetup group, that should make it easy for people to find amateur activities. See http://gsl.net/k9stv. I'll be a speaker on the subject at Pacificon. We need to come up with things for people to do to make HAM radio fun.

Discussion on the subject followed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM

Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU (recording for the Secretary)

Board Meeting, Sept. 16, 2024



Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:37 PM

Attendance: President Gregg Lane KF6FNA, Station Trustee Don Village K6PBQ, Directors, Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Doug Owens N6DPO, Motha KF6PUQ, Gary Mitchell WB6YRU. Excused absence: VP John Parks W6JPP, Wally Britten

KA6YMD, Treasurer Ned Tufekcic AC6YY, Secretary Truman Lindsey N6TRU.

Visitors: Barbara KD6QEI

Announcements:

Gregg KF6FNA:

Club station will be open Saturday 9/28/2024, 10 am - 4 pm Elections are coming up, nominations at the October meeting, elections at the November meeting. Let me know if anyone is interested in running.

Don K6PBQ: I'll stay on.

We'll have a holiday dinner meeting December 9, possibly at Denny's in Milpitas, to be verified.

President's Report, Gregg KF6FNA: We need an election chairman.

Secretary's Report, Gregg KF6FNA: The meeting minutes were published in the SCCARA-GRAM: Board meeting July15, any corrections? (none heard) Approved by acclamation. General meeting August 12, any corrections? (none heard) Approved by acclamation. Board meeting August 19, any corrections? (none heard) Approved by acclamation.

Trustee's Report, Don K6PBQ: Everything is status quo with the club station.

Standing Committees Editor's report: Gary WB6YRU: We need to make a greater effort to put club info in the newsletter.

BBS Sysop's report: Gary WB6YRU: I just received word that the internet port may be down, I'm looking into it.

Webmaster's report, Doug N6DPO: The new web design is done. There's a club calendar now. I'm working on having a zoom capability and a few other things. Let me know of any problems or suggestions.

Old Business:

Gregg KF6FNA: Regarding Red Cross antenna work: still pending. A new antenna will soon be delivered. We'll need volunteers.

Gary WB6YRU: I'll help out.

Doug N6DPO: No change regarding Log-Book-of-the-World. Next time we're at the club station, let's look into that.

New Business:

Gregg KF6FNA:

Red Cross has issued new badges (to gain entrance), thanks to George N6NKT.

Regarding the antenna trailer move: It must be moved from the American Legion parking lot by Nov. 6, 2024. John is working on a new place.

Elections: Nominations at next month meeting and elections at the November meeting. We'll need an election chairman ... anyone? Doug N6DPO: What's the function of the election chair?

Gregg KF6FNA: Directors have two year terms, half are staggered every other year. Need to keep that straight. Need to manage the ballots, decide if we'll do that by postal mail. Try to get all the positions filled. Basically just bring it all together.

We traditionally have a holiday dinner for the December meeting. This year that will be on Dec. 9. We have had it at the Denny's in Milpitas, that worked out OK last year. We need to decide soon. Don K6PBO: I won't be able to be chairman of that this year. Gregg KF6FNA: Thanks for taking care of that in years past.

Gary WB6YRU: After Field Day we had a lot of left over hotdogs. Gregg and I divided them up and we have them in our freezers. Hotdogs are not supposed to be frozen for more than two months, the quality starts to degrade and we're approaching 3 months now. If the club isn't going to eat them soon, do we (Gregg and I) have permission to do something with them? Discussion followed. Some questioned the health aspects, suggest

throwing them out.

Gary WB6YRU: As long as they're kept frozen they should be safe to eat, but as time goes by the quality degrades until you wouldn't want to eat them.

Don K6PBQ: Motion to relinquish control over them, leave it to Gary and Gregg.

Doug N6DPO: Second.

WA6QYS: yes, WB6YRU: yes, Barbara for KA6YMD: yes, KF6PUQ: abstain, N6DPO: yes, K6PBQ: yes

Motion passes.

Barbara KD6QEI: If you don't want them they could be donated to a shelter.

Gregg KF6FNA: Should we have a December board meeting? Let's think about it.

Gary WB6YRU: That's normally when the year-end reports are given and plans are made for the following year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, recording for the Secretary

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet

network:

He had a photographic memory, but never got it developed.

A man stopped when the light was yellow. He could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, because she missed her chance to get through the intersection and, at the same time, dropping her cell phone and makeup.

While she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed, and placed in a holding cell.

After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. The tailgating woman was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' licence plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, so naturally I assumed you had stolen the car."

A Baptist minister was seated next to a first-time flyer on a flight to St. John's. After the plane was airborne, drink orders were taken. The Newfie asked for rum & Coke, which was brought and placed before him. The flight attendant then asked the minister if he would like a drink. He replied in disgust, "I'd rather be savagely raped by a dozen whores than let liquor touch my lips."

The Newfie then handed his drink back to the attendant and said, "Oh yes, me too. I didn't know that was a choice."

"Most cars on our roads have only one occupant, usually the driver." - Carol Malia, BBC Anchorwoman

He had a photographic memory, but never got it developed.

What do you call a rabbit raised indoors? An ingrown hare.

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: <u>goetz@ix.netcom.com</u>

NV6W, James D. Armstrong, Jr., evening & msg: 408-670-1680

W6JPP, John Parks e-mail: <u>w6jpp@arrl.net</u>

K6PBQ, Don Village, 408-263-2789

WA6QYS, Lou Steirer, 408-241-7999 e-mail: wa6qys@arrl.net

WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, 408-269-2924 packet: home BBS N0ARY e-mail: <u>wb6yru@ix.netcom.com</u>

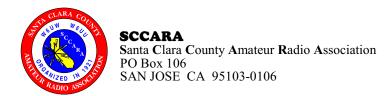
Newsletter Notes

In an ARRL Letter article (above) the ARRL's computer system was struck by a ransom-ware attack in May. That's why we haven't had any ARRL Letter articles recently. They haven't been making the ARRL Letter available on their web site. It's appearing here again thanks to Doug N6DPO.

Club elections are coming up. Nominations will be during the October meeting. So far only Don K6PBQ has indicated he will stay on as Station Trustee and Truman will not run for re-election to Secretary. Three director seats expire this year: Doug Owens N6DPO, Janet Motha, KF6PUQ, and myself.



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.