

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 50, Number 3

March 2025



ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, Feb. 13, 2025

Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act Re-Introduced

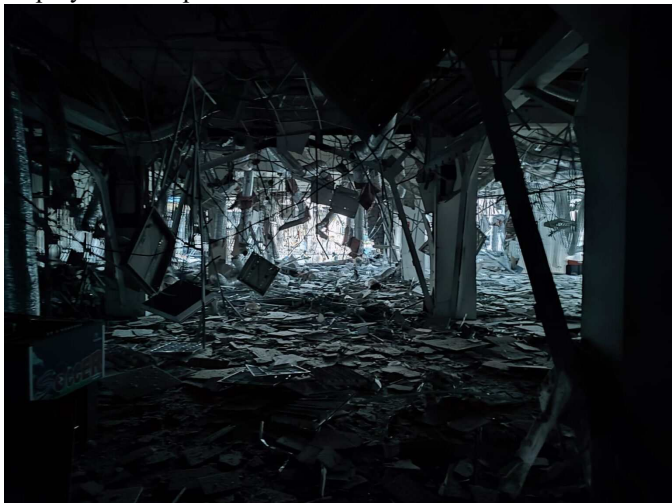
Legislation Will Increase Communication Options During Natural Disasters

U.S. Senators Roger Wicker, R-MS, Richard Blumenthal, D-CN, and Representatives August Pfluger, R-TX, and Joe Courtney, D-CN announced their joint re-introduction of legislation in the Senate and House to restore the right to Amateur Radio operators to install the antennas necessary to serve their communities.

Homeowner association rules often prevent Amateur Radio operators from installing antennas at their homes even though Amateur Radio has proven to be essential in emergencies and natural disasters such as hurricanes when other means of communication fail.

RigExpert's Administrative Office Destroyed in Russian Missile Attack - Production Remains Intact

On February 12, 2025, RigExpert's administrative office, in Kyiv, Ukraine, was destroyed by a Russian ballistic missile. All employees are reported to be safe.

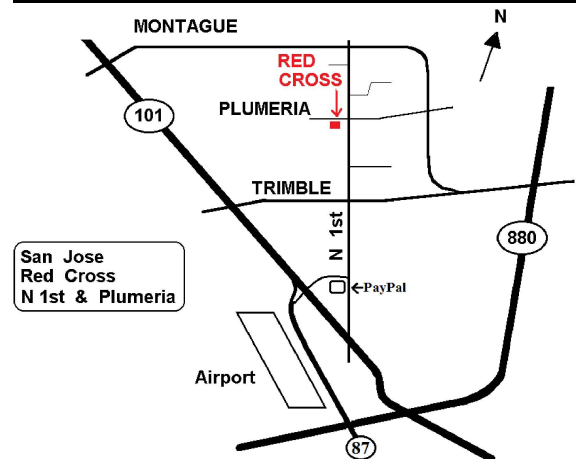


Calendar

- 3/9 Electronic Flea Market (first one this year)
- 3/10 SCCARA General Meeting
- 3/17 SCCARA Board Meeting:
- 3/29 Club Station open 10 AM - 5 PM

General Meeting

- Day: Monday, March 10
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: San Jose Red Cross, meeting room 3
- Featuring: Install Power Pole connectors-- bring things you want power connectors on



RigExpert is a leading manufacturer of antenna and cable analyzers.

Officials said they are committed to restoring operations as soon as possible. "Our top priority is the safety of our team and the continuity of our operations," said Ashot Andeev, Chief Executive Officer. "While our administrative office is in ruins, our production facilities survived, allowing us to continue serving our customers and partners."

The company is working to minimize delays and fulfill its

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(officers are also directors)

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|-----------------|--|--------------|
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| Vice President | (open) | |
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| | e-mail: dougowens100@icloud.com | |
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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

commitments while maintaining customer support operations.

From *The ARRL Letter*, Feb. 20, 2025

High School and a Sci-Fi Movie Spark Interest in Amateur Radio

Steve Schickel was a young high school student in the late 80s and was introduced to amateur radio through his electronics classes. He also spent time working at a local RadioShack and watching science fiction movies at a nearby theater in his hometown of Pensacola, Florida.

Amateur radio's next biggest influence on Steve came in 1997, on opening night of the movie "Contact," about a scientist who finds evidence of extraterrestrial life and is chosen to make first contact.

"I remember the entire theater erupted when, in the opening scene, amateur radio operator K4WLD responded to a call from W9GFO and stated his location was Pensacola," said Schickel. "It sounded like the home team had scored in overtime to win the game; it was so loud!"

Fast-forward to November 2024. Schickel passed the exam for his Technician license and was assigned KQ4YXP on November 11. Then he passed his General license exam and on November 29 changed his to callsign to KQ4ZDR and then again to KZ4OW. After a month of study, he passed his Extra Class license exam. But there was still something missing from his newfound amateur radio hobby.

"To celebrate, I started researching vanity call signs in order to try and reward myself with a 1x2 call sign. I researched everything that had become available, and I was just about to file my application with the FCC with a list of about a dozen 1x2 calls when I paused and wondered if anybody actually had the call sign K4WLD from the movie."

It turned out K4WLD had just fallen out of a two-year grace period hold a couple weeks prior and was now available. Schickel submitted his vanity application and on January 11, 2025, was assigned the new call of K4WLD.

"I can proudly say that K4WLD was awarded to me in January 2025, and I still live in Pensacola! Now, life is imitating art," Schickel concluded, "and K4WLD has come home to Pensacola in real life ... just like in the movie."



All well and good except for one small detail. Most of his equipment has been on back order for several months! Schickel hopes to make his first "contact" in a few weeks. He is also a proud new ARRL member!

The *ARRL Letter* relayed courtesy Doug N6DPO

Treasurer's Treatise

Account Balances as of 12/31/2024

| | |
|----------|-----------|
| Checking | 12,452.41 |
| Savings | 0.00 |
| Total | 12,452.41 |

Cash Flow 1/1/2024- 12/31/2024

Income

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Club Badges | 14.00 |
| Club Dues - 2024 | 465.50 |
| Club Dues - 2025 | 305.00 |
| Flea Market Income | 2,566.25 |
| Flea Market Food Booth | 100.00 |
| Other | 2.98 |

Total Income 3,453.73

Expenses

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| BBS | 187.04 |
| Field Day | 404.00 |
| Flea Market | 1,000.00 |
| Holiday Luncheon | 50.00 |
| PO Box | 216.00 |
| Postage | 163.04 |
| SCCARA-GRAM | 358.55 |
| Trailer Tires | 300.00 |
| W6UU License Renewal | 90.00 |

Total Expenses 2,768.63

Net 685.10



Ned Tufekcic AC6YY

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Jan. 13, 2025



The Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association met in Classroom 3 at the Silicon Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. PST by President Gregg Lane.

Customary Self Introductions:

Gregg KF6FNA president, Gary W6YRU editor, Doug N6DPO secretary, Janet KF6PUQ, Lou WA6QYS, Wally KA6YMD, Jeannie KG6YOR, George N6NKT Red Cross

Announcements Gregg KF6FNA:

- Board of Directors Meeting will be January 20, 2025 on the 2 meter repeater immediately following our Monday Night Net.
- SCCARA will operate our club station at the American Red Cross for Winter Field Day January 25th and 26th. We may even operate overnight if conditions suggest we should. No sleeping is to occur at the Red Cross.
- SCCARA-GRAM cutoff is Monday, January 27th.

Gregg asked for any other announcements.

Gary WB6YRU was recognized for a question and asked whether anyone in the group had experimented with small loop antennas. Gary first heard of them during a talk at Pacificon years ago. The speaker had a very small loop (about 1 meter) for the 160M band. While the loop was an admittedly poor antenna, it was amazingly free of noise vs a dipole. Because of the lack of noise, one could amplify the signal received and outperform a dipole for reception.

Gregg had seen one in use - about 18" mounted under an eave where a vacuum capacitor was used for remote tuning. It worked well for ham who was in a very noisy environment.

Gary said that vacuum capacitors were not the only way to tune the loop.

Some further discussion ensued.

- George N6NKT said he was willing to donate \$100 toward a loaner radio program for new hams. He suggested that we could buy 3 Baofeng and hold new radio session and get new hams going and become members. If it works, SCCARA could buy more radios inexpensively.

Gregg announced that Winter Field Day was the topic for tonight. Official website is <https://winterfieldday.org/>

The operating period has expanded to 30 hours beginning Saturday, January 25 at 8:00 a.m. PST and ending at 1:59 p.m. on Sunday. SCCARA will be operating from the Radio Room at the American Red Cross. We'll set up 3 stations using our 4 HF antennas. Our class will probably be 4I (4 indoor) SCV (Santa Clara Valley). Phone QSOs are 1 point and digital/CW are 2 points per QSO. PSK, RTTY, Olivia, packet, SSTV, ATV, JS8CALL allowed, FT-8 and FT-4 are not allowed

Good discussion followed. It was agreed that a team would work on preparation on Saturday the 18th.

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Owens N6DPO

Board Meeting, Jan. 20, 2025



Pursuant to due notice, the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association met in normal session over the air on the W6UU 2 Meter Repeater.

The meeting was called to order at 7:43 p.m. PST by President Gregg Lane, KF6FNA, as Chairman.

Roll call was taken.

Officers:

President Gregg Lane KF6FNA was present. Treasurer Ned Tufekcic AC6YY was absent. Secretary Doug Owens N6DPO, and Station Trustee Don Village K6PBQ was present.

Directors:

Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, John Parks W6JPP, were present. Wally Britten KA6YMD and Janet Motha KF6PUQ had excused absences.

Guests were invited to check in:

Ben Shuford KK6CCU and Vladimir Risko AK6AG both checked in as guests.

Gregg KF6FNA made the following announcements:

- SCCARA will operate Winter Field Day at our club station on January 25 and January 26.
- Articles for the SCCARA-GRAM should be submitted before

January 27.

- SCCARA's February General Meeting will be held on February 10.

Officers Reports:

President: Gregg KF6FNA: (Will cover Winter Field Day separately)

Secretary: Doug N6DPO:

- Pursuant to the approved motion from the December 2024 Board Meeting, I obtained liability insurance through the ARRL-affiliated agency. The cost of the insurance is \$300 per year which he funded.

On the motion of Secretary Owens to be reimbursed the \$300, Seconded by Director Steirer, and hearing no objections, President Lane declared the motion APPROVED.

- President Lane reported that there were no meetings minutes from the December General Meeting since the holiday dinner was held in its place. He reported that the Minutes of the December 16, 2024 were published in the SCCARA-GRAM. The minutes were declared APPROVED absent any objection.

Treasurer: Ned AC6YY: (Absent)

Trustee's Report: Don K6PBQ: Nothing significant to report, looking forward to Winter Field Day.

Editor's Report: Gary WB6YRU: Disappointed that there were no end of the year articles from the officers. Suggest publishing about the flea market early to get people thinking about it.

BBS Update: Gary WB6YRU: System rebooting problem contained. If it does hang up it can be quickly addressed.

Repeater Report: Goetz Brandt K6GKB not present, Gregg KF6FNA: Mentioned he has not heard about a work party to fix the 70cm repeater.

Doug N6DPO commented that Goetz had asked who our contact is at Regional Medial Center but that he did not see a response to Goetz so I assume nobody knows who we should contact. Suggest checking with Ned AC6YY due to his affiliation with VMC. If he doesn't know, we are probably going to have to stumble our way to the right person.

Webmaster's Report: Doug N6DPO: No operational issues. Doug thanked Gary WB6YRU for his suggestions about new images for the website and indicated that we should consider those for the next major update to the site.

New Business: Gregg KF6FNA: Gregg asked whether anyone had new business.

- W6JPP attempted to communicate but his continuing radio and Echo-link problems prevented him from communicating.
- Gregg thanked Gary WB6YRU for his work preparing the new cable for the conference room radio and mentioned additional work planned ahead of the weekend.

Old Business: Gregg KF6FNA:

- Logbook of the World will be available going forward. Please let me know of anything we need to post or confirm.
- John W6JPP indicated to Gregg that the next meeting at his new American Legion Post will be February 12. John will work to get permission to store our antenna trailer in the Post's lot at that time.

Gregg KF6FNA declared the meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Owens N6DPO

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====

Date: 8 Apr 2020 23:24
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: jokes 9/4

Doctor

We were thoroughly confused. While transcribing medical audio tapes my co-worker came upon the following garbled diagnosis: "This man has Pholenfrometry."

Knowing nothing about that particular condition she double-checked with the doctor. After listening to the tape he shook his head and said "This man has fallen from a tree."

Military

I knew I had been in the military too long when my five-year-old daughter sang her version of "Silent Night." It went like this: "Silent night holy night all is calm all is bright Round yon virgin mother and child Holy Infantry tender and mild..."

Walking into the bar Mike said to Charlie the bartender 'Pour me a stiff one - just had another fight with the little woman.'

'Oh yeah?' said Charlie 'And how did this one end?'

'When it was over' Mike replied 'She came to me on her hands and knees.'

'Really' said Charles 'Now that's a switch! What did she say?'

She said 'Come out from under the bed you little chicken.'

Blonde's Year in Review

January: Took new scarf back to store because it was too tight.

February: Fired from pharmacy job for failing to print labels... bottles won't fit in printer!!!

March: Got really excited... finished jigsaw puzzle in 6 months... Box said '2-4 years!'

April: Trapped on escalator for hours ... Power went

out!!!

May: Tried to make Kool-Aid...wrong instructions...
8 cups of water won't fit into those little packets!!!

June: Tried to go water skiing...couldn't find a lake
with a slope.

July: Lost breast stroke swimming competition...
learned later the other swimmers cheated they used
their arms!!!

August: Got locked out of my car in rain storm....car
swamped because soft-top was open.

September: The capital of California is 'C'....isn't it?

October: Hate M & M's... they are so hard to peel.

November: Baked turkey for 4 1/2 days... Instructions
said 1 hour per pound and I weigh 108!

December: Couldn't call 911... there's no 'eleven'
button on the stupid phone!!!

My wife and I went to the Lancashire Show and one of
the first exhibits we stopped at was the breeding bulls.
We went up to the first pen and there was a sign
attached that said "THIS BULL MATED 50 TIMES
LAST YEAR."

My wife playfully nudged me in the ribs and said "He
mated 50 times last year."

We walked to the second pen which had a sign attached
that said "THIS BULL MATED 150 TIMES LAST
YEAR."

My wife gave me a healthy jab and said "That's more
than twice a week! You could learn a lot from him."

We walked to the third pen and it had a sign attached
that said in capital letters "THIS BULL MATED 365
TIMES LAST YEAR."

My wife was so excited that her elbow nearly broke my
ribs and said "That's once a day. You could REALLY
learn something from this one."

I looked at her and said "Go over and ask him if it was
with the same cow."

My condition has been upgraded from critical to stable
and I should eventually make a full recovery.

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

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

We plan to have Power Pole connectors and tools at the next meeting. So if you don't have the ability to install those connectors, bring your equipment to the next meeting.

It was surprising to see the damage to RigExpert's offices, and that they're still in business.

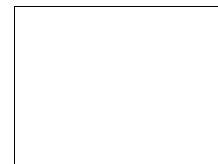
The first electronic flea market of the season is scheduled for Sunday March 9. SCCARA will host the flea market June 8. Hopefully we'll have more info about it in the SCCARA-GRAM soon.



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 2025**

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.