

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 50, Number 9

September 2025



Electronic Flea Market

SCCARA hosts the last electronics flea market this year, Sunday September 14, 6 am - 12 pm. This is the club's main fund raiser -- we'll need volunteers to help. Contact Gregg KF6FNA, (408) 393-5607. See [the Electronic Flea Market web site](https://www.electronicfleamarket.com).
<https://www.electronicfleamarket.com>

We will have a seller's booth free for club members. If you have a few things to sell and it's not worth getting a seller's booth yourself, this is your chance.

ARRL News

From the *Santa Clara Valley Section Newsletter*, August 1, 2025

Pacificon

Pacific 2025 is Friday, October 10 through Sunday, October 12, 2025, in San Ramon. For details see -- <https://www.pacificon.org>

ARRL Creates 10-Band DXCC

The Programs & Services Committee and Headquarters staff from the Radiosport Department, on the heels of creating the DXCC Trident award in January, are moving ahead with the creation of another new DXCC award, 10-Band DXCC, which will recognize those who achieve DXCC on all bands from 6 meters to 160 meters (excluding 60 meters). Higher achievement endorsements can be earned at the 200, 300, and Honor Roll levels, like the DXCC Trident. The 10-Band DXCC award challenges participants in the DXCC program to establish station capabilities and operator skills for dealing with myriad band conditions in pursuing DXCC across all 10 bands.

ARRL Museum and Research Library

There's a new resource from ARRL documenting the history of ham radio. Radio Alpha is the ARRL Museum and Research Library. It is available for viewing at www.arrl.org/museum. Radio Alpha is envisioned as a Wikipedia-like project, administered by a trusted group of volunteers.

It aims to serve as a definitive repository of information, offering detailed descriptions and contextual data on pivotal figures,

Calendar

9/8	SCCARA General Meeting
9/14	Electronic Flea Market -- WE HOST!
9/15	SCCARA Board Meeting
9/27	Club Station open

General Meeting

Day: Monday, September 8
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: San Jose Red Cross, meeting room 3
Featuring: {to be announced}

influential organizations, pioneering companies, transformative inventions, and iconic equipment that have shaped the amateur radio landscape. Radio Alpha addresses the critical need for a centralized, reliable, and easily navigable archive of amateur radio's past.

Recognizing the fragmented nature of existing historical data, this database will consolidate diverse information sources into a single, cohesive platform. Users will find meticulously researched entries, cross-referenced to provide a holistic understanding of the connections and evolutions within the hobby. A core principle of Radio Alpha is universal accessibility. Therefore, the database will

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**, located at the San Jose Red Cross.

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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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

be entirely free to access, ensuring that researchers, historians, enthusiasts, and the public can explore its contents without barriers.

Noted author, industrial archeologist, and historian Chuck Penson, WA7ZZE, is the principal architect who crafted the collection. Penson has published several books about the history of Heathkit and the Titan II missile. For him, it's a labor of love and necessity. "Somebody has to do this," said Penson. "Lots of people are doing it independently on their own, there's a website about the equipment I own, and here's some documents I scanned, there's a lot of that." The lack of a central location to compile those collections is the root of Radio Alpha. Penson hopes the research library will preserve the data long after individual contributors have passed away.

The platform is committed to being free of advertising, spam, and click-bait, prioritizing the integrity of its historical content and providing an uncluttered user experience. "This database will be a living resource, regularly updated and expanded through ongoing research and community contributions, fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding of amateur radio's profound impact on communication, technology, and society," wrote Penson.

Radio Alpha seeks contributors and volunteers to help develop the content. Hams who have a passion for the history of radio, experience in writing, or extensive knowledge about a particular brand or mode of amateur radio are encouraged to volunteer. The museum also seeks materials that may help grow the collection. Those interested may reach out to Penson at radioalpha@arrl.org.

Penson hopes the data will be preserved forever. "ARRL has an organizational structure that allows it to take a long view on stuff like this. It is best equipped to handle a project like Radio Alpha."

Radio Alpha, the ARRL Museum and Research Library, may be enjoyed [here](http://www.arrl.org/radioalpha).
<https://www.arrl.org/radioalpha> or <https://www.arrl.org/museum>.

Field Day Saw Growth in Participants and Entries

2025 Field Day showed an increase in both participants and entries, compared to 2024. According to ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, 4,369 entries detailed 31,785 people taking part in the event. That's up from last year. "There's a growing interest in ham radio, especially after last year's hurricane season and other high-profile situations in which radio has been essential," noted Bourque.

ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager Sierra Harrop, W5DX, reports that the total ad value equivalence of Field Day is \$37.9 million. "We had a tremendous response from clubs and ARRL public information volunteers this year," she said. "The ARRL Public Relations Committee prepared resources to help the volunteers succeed, but they really took it to the next level."

From *The ARRL Letter*, August 14, 2025

Hams Track Campers' High-Altitude Balloon, Decode Images

The Kopernik Observatory [put out a call last week for hams to receive and decode transmissions from a launch by its High Altitude Balloon](#) Camp. Amateur radio delivered! Social media was abuzz with images decoded from the K2ZRO-9 transmitters. The balloon was launched from Vestal, New York, and ascended over the Catskill Mountains. A crowd gathered at W1AW, the

Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, where Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, was tracking it. The decoded slow scan television (SSTV) signals showed black skies above and cumulonimbus build ups below the balloon. A thunderstorm complex formed while the eye in the sky was above it. See [some of the decodes are in an Instagram video from ARRLHQ](#).



<https://www.arrl.org/news/high-altitude-camp-needs-amateur-radio-tracking-operators>

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DNTUjrkuHJS>

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, July 14, 2025



{No minutes were received. - Editor}

Board Meeting, July 21, 2025



{No minutes were received. - Editor}

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====
Date: 13 Apr 2020 22:23
From: LW3DBH@LW3DBH
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: quotes 14 04

October is one of the peculiarly dangerous months to speculate in stocks. The others are July, April, January, September, November, May, March, June, December, August, and February.

-- Mark Twain, "Pudd'nhead Wilson's Calendar"

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

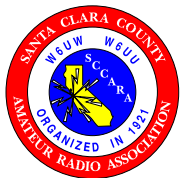
SCCARA gets a second bite at the apple! Rumor has it that a host is needed for the last electronic flea market this year, and since the turn-out was rather low when we hosted in June, we were chosen.

Volunteers are needed, can you help out? It starts at 6 am so we need to start setting up around 5 am. Closing time is 12 noon. Contact club president Gregg KF6FNA for details.

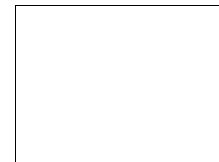
We'll also have a seller's booth FREE for club members. If you have something that needs a new home, sell it at SCCARA's booth. It's one of the benefits of being a member.



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.