

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

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ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, Sept. 4 2025

ARRL Lab Helps Radio Amateurs Avoid Interfering With US Space Force Radar

U.S. Space Command headquarters is being moved to Huntsville, Alabama, known as “Rocket City USA.” The move was announced in a press conference on September 2, 2025. Huntsville will host the 2026 ARRL National Convention as part of the Huntsville Hamfest, but there’s a bigger connection between US Space Command and amateur radio.

Space Command utilizes forces such as the US Space Force to accomplish its command mission. The ARRL Lab supports the US Space Force’s Phased Array Warning System (PAVE PAWS) early warning radar installations which scan the skies for incoming missiles and space junk.

Since 2007, the ARRL Lab has been conducting this crucial analysis using Longley-Rice terrain modeling to determine if an amateur fixed station, repeater, or EME station is eligible for a waiver to be granted by the military to run more than the 50 watts of RF power on the 70-centimeter band currently allowed with a 100-mile radius of either the Cape Cod Air Force Station in Massachusetts, or Beale Air Force Base in California. “We want to ensure that amateurs can exercise as many operating privileges as possible, while understanding the need for the Space Force to operate without interference,” said ARRL Lab Manager George Spatta, W1GKS.

The reports provided to the Space Force advise a “cone of protection” in azimuth and elevation at which the amateur would be limited to a power level which would not interfere with the radar.

Amateurs are secondary users on the 70-centimeter band and the ARRL Lab’s cooperation with the military helps ensure we do not interfere with this vital function of our nation’s security. As of this writing, the Lab is conducting this analysis for two different waiver requests. “It is an important part of the work we do to serve radio amateurs,” said Spatta.

From *The ARRL Letter*, Sept. 18 2025

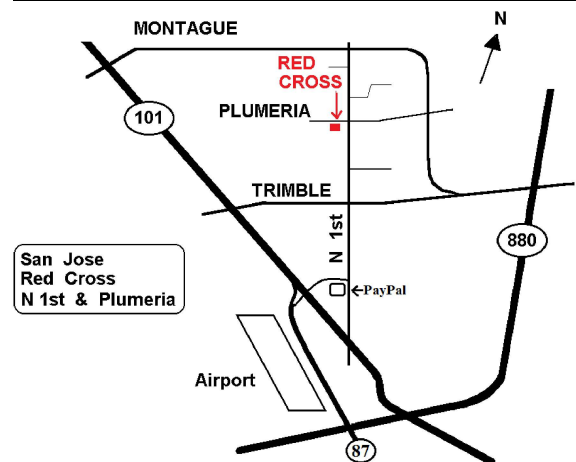
ARRL Launches Nationwide Grassroots Campaign

Calendar

- 10/10-12 Pacificon
- 10/13 SCCARA General Meeting
- 10/20 SCCARA Board Meeting (via 2 m repeater)
- 10/25 Club Station open (10a - 5p)

General Meeting

- Day: Monday, October 13
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: San Jose Red Cross, meeting room 3
- Featuring: {to be announced}



to Pass Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act

ARRL has launched a nationwide grassroots campaign aimed at securing the passage of federal legislation that would grant Amateur Radio Operators the same rights to install antennas on their property as those enjoyed by users of TV antennas, wireless internet, and flagpoles.

The campaign, announced in an [ARRL Member Bulletin](#) on September 17, 2025, follows the reintroduction of the Amateur

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)

President	Gregg Lane KF6FNA	408-393-5607
	e-mail: kf6fna@comcast.net	
Vice President	(open)	
	e-mail:	
Secretary	Doug Owens N6DPO	408-568-9870
	e-mail: dougowens100@icloud.com	
Treasurer	Ned Tufekcic AC6YY	408-690-7250
	e-mail: t94nt@hotmail.com	
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Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	408-241-7999
	e-mail: wa6qys@aol.com	
Director	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	408-891-1105
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	e-mail: w6jpp@arrl.net	
Director	Janet Motha, KF6PUQ	408 252-3939
	e-mail: jmotha21@gmail.com	
Director	(open)	
	e-mail:	

COMMITTEES

Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	408-269-2924
	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	
Repeater	Goetz Brandt K6GKB	408 259-7287
	e-mail: goetzbrandt@gmail.com	
N0ARY BBS	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	408-269-2924
	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	
Webmaster	Doug Owens N6DPO	408-568-9870
	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 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

Radio Emergency Preparedness Act in February 2025 (see [ARRL News 02/07/2025](http://arrrl.org/news/02/07/2025)). The bipartisan bills -- [H.R.1094](https://www.congress.gov/bills/119/congress/house/bills/1094) in the House and [S.459](https://www.congress.gov/bills/119/congress/senate/bills/459) in the Senate -- are designed to prevent restrictive homeowners' association (HOA) rules that currently prohibit or severely limit the installation of amateur radio antennas, even when such antennas are hidden in trees, placed in attics, mounted on vehicles, or look like flagpoles.

<http://www.arrrl.org/member-bulletin?issue=2025-09-17>

<https://www.arrrl.org/news/amateur-radio-emergency-preparedness-act-re-intro>

<https://www.congress.gov/bills/119th-congress/house-bill/1094/text>

<https://www.congress.gov/bills/119th-congress/senate-bill/459/text>

"This legislation is about restoring equal rights to licensed Amateur Radio operators," said ARRL President Rick Roderick. "These restrictions hinder not only the enjoyment of Amateur Radio, but also its vital role in emergency communication during disasters."

Public Support Needed for Passage

To advance the legislation, ARRL is calling on its members and all licensees of the US Amateur Radio Service to take action by sending letters to their congressional representatives. Through a dedicated online tool at <https://www.arrrl.org/HOA>, hams can easily generate and submit pre-drafted letters with a few clicks.

ARRL has emphasized that every letter matters. "Your Representative and Senators need to know that the passage of this legislation is important to you."

For more information about the ARRL grassroots campaign to pass the bill, please visit www.arrrl.org/current-legislation.

From *The ARRL Letter*, Sept. 25 2025

Hams Needed to Track NASA Moon Mission



Artemis II NASA astronauts (left to right) Reid Wiseman, KF5LKT; Victor Glover, KI5BKC; and Christina Koch, along with Canadian Space Agency (CSA) astronaut Jeremy Hansen, KF5LKU. [NASA Photo by Frank Michaux]

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is seeking volunteers to passively track the 2026 [Artemis II Orion spacecraft as the crewed mission travels to the Moon and back to Earth](https://www.nasa.gov/mission/artemis-ii/).

<https://www.nasa.gov/mission/artemis-ii/>

The Artemis II test flight will send NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, KF5LKT; Victor Glover, KI5BKC; and Christina Koch, along with Canadian Space Agency (CSA) astronaut Jeremy Hansen, KF5LKU, on an approximately 10-day mission around the Moon.

Targeted for no later than April 2026, the mission will rely on NASA's Near Space Network and Deep Space Network for primary communications and tracking support throughout its launch, orbit, and reentry. However, with a growing focus on commercialization, NASA wants to further understand industry's tracking capabilities.

This collaboration opportunity builds upon a previous request released by NASA's Space Communication and Navigation Program (SCaN) during the Artemis I mission in 2022. Ten volunteers successfully tracked the uncrewed Orion spacecraft on its journey thousands of miles beyond the Moon and back.

One of those volunteers tracking in 2022 was Scott Chapman, K4KDR, of Montpelier, Virginia. "Sometimes it's what you don't know that makes this kind of activity interesting," said Chapman. "All I had was a small S-band dish and receiver and wasn't sure what I could or couldn't hear...but when I started hearing the signals...it made everything worth it."

Chapman said he felt good about the whole process and, while it was interesting, it was also a lot of fun!

There were also other participants during the Artemis I mission, including international space agencies, academic institutions, commercial companies, nonprofits, and private citizens who were also attempting to receive Orion's signals. Chapman added that NASA is also looking for commercial partnerships to share in the process.

If you're interested in volunteering for next year's event, all of the information can be found at [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov). The response deadline is October 27, 2025, at 5:00 PM EDT.

<https://sam.gov/workspace/contract/opp/50d4e81f54e34118a8164fb786b554a6/view>

Pass the Bill

ARRL needs every radio amateur in the United States to send letters to Washington as we continue our nationwide grassroots campaign to pass the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act (H.R. 1094 / S. 459) to secure antenna rights. The process is simple: click the button at www.arrl.org/HOA, put in your call sign, and press the red SEND MY LETTERS button.

The letters will automatically be sent to your elected officials encouraging them to support the bipartisan bills. This legislation is intended to prevent restrictive homeowners' association (HOA) rules that currently prohibit or severely limit the installation of amateur radio antennas. Passage would give amateur radio operators the same rights to install antennas on their property as those enjoyed by users of TV antennas, wireless internet, and flagpoles. "You don't have to be a member," said Stratton. "Any amateur radio operator should go to the website."

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Sept. 8, 2025



{No minutes received. - Editor}

Board Meeting, Sept. 15, 2025



{No minutes received. - Editor}

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 to 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

Rumor has it we did significantly better hosting the last electronic flea market than we did at the June one. Still waiting to get an official report on that.

I'm not sure why we haven't been getting meeting minutes in recent months. It sounded like our Secretary was going to whip things back into shape.

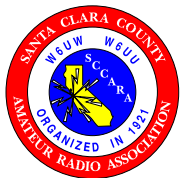
It was looking like we would not get any new members this year, then a visitor and new HAM, Don Laycock, joined at the last meeting. However, we might not see much of him, evidently he was visiting here from Knoxville, Tennessee.



73, Gary WB6YRU, editor



Happy Halloween

**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.