

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 50, Number 11

November 2025



ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, October 2, 2025

Amateur Radio Licensing Update During US Government Shutdown

A bulletin sent to ARRL Members included information about the impact of the US Government shutdown on licensing for the Amateur Radio Service.

The government shutdown began at 12:01 Eastern time on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, when Congress had not passed an appropriations bill or other plan to keep the government funded for the new fiscal year (begins October 1).

The Federal Communications Commission, which issues Amateur Radio Service licenses, issued a Public Notice on Tuesday, September 30, indicating that it would suspend most operations following a shutdown. "Aside from a few emergency and auction filing systems, all other Commission electronic filing systems will be unavailable to the public until normal agency operations resume," said the FCC Notice.

ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said the FCC systems appeared to go off-line around 1 PM Eastern time on Wednesday, and are redirecting to the Public Notice. This means the FCC will not be processing any amateur radio license applications during the shutdown, which includes individual, club, and exam session (new and upgrade) applications.

"But ARRL Volunteer Examiners should continue giving exam sessions," said Somma. "Keep doing what you're doing. Keep serving new and upgrade candidates for amateur radio licenses." Somma also urged that Volunteer Examiners continue to promptly forward session results from their exams to the ARRL VEC.

"Please do not hold your session results. Send your sessions to us, and ARRL VEC will continue to queue all applications as they are received. Once the federal government reopens, ARRL VEC will promptly resume submitting applications to the FCC for processing. So, keep sending sessions to the ARRL VEC."

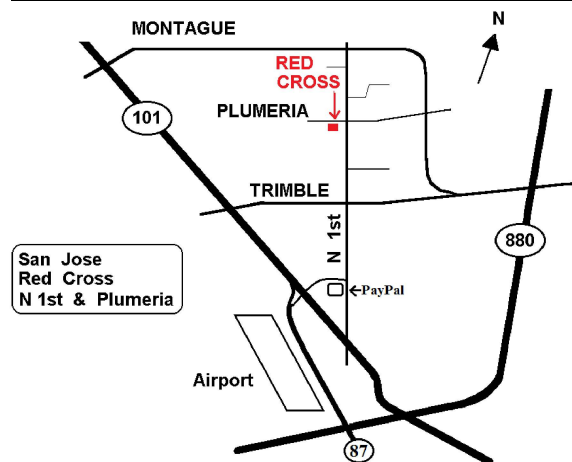
The FCC's shutdown notice indicated that CORES registration system would remain available for certain activities, but New Registrations are currently not being accepted. This means that new applicants cannot register for an FRN. This has created a temporary barrier for individuals who wish to take an amateur

Calendar

11/10	SCCARA General Meeting
11/17	SCCARA Board Meeting
11/29	Club Station open
12/8	SCCARA General Meeting – Dinner!

General Meeting

<u>Day:</u>	Monday, November 10
<u>Time:</u>	7:30 PM
<u>Place:</u>	San Jose Red Cross, meeting room 3
<u>Featuring:</u>	{to be announced}



radio exam but do not yet have an FRN. Existing users can still log in and access their accounts and applicants who already have an FRN can test without issue.

Given the current situation, there is active discussion within the testing community about temporarily allowing testing without an FRN, with the understanding that:

1. The applicant would take the exam and receive a CSCE (Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination).
2. Once CORES resumes issuing new registrations, the applicant

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

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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:

Morris Jones, AD6ZH: 408-507-4698

would:

- Register for an FRN.
- Contact the coordinating VEC with their FRN.
- Have their application submitted retroactively.

This approach would preserve momentum for new licensees and avoid delays in testing.

Please continue to check the ARRL website for updates as they become available.

The FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS) databases are also currently unavailable to the public. ULS and related systems (like the License Manager, License Search, Application Search, etc.) are not accessible during the shutdown. Users cannot file applications with the FCC, or access license data, including address information.

To find an amateur radio exam session, please visit www.arrl.org/find-an-exam. For a list of VE Teams that offer Online Exam Sessions, go to www.arrl.org/online-exam-session.

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Oct. 13, 2025



{meeting was cancelled due to heavy rain}

Board Meeting, Oct. 20, 2025



{no minutes were submitted.}

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====

Date: 6 May 2020 23:03
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: jokes 7/5

Anyone who's ever ridden in a cab in Washington DC knows they're some of the world's most brazen drivers. Oddly enough though, their current accident rate isn't all that bad. I asked one of the drivers one day the reason for that.

"Easy," he said. "all the really bad drivers are dead now."

An angry person is seldom reasonable.
A reasonable person is seldom angry.

In the frozen foods department of our local grocery store,

I noticed a man shopping with his son. As I walked by, he checked something off his list, and I heard him whisper conspiratorially to the child:

"You know, if we really mess this up, we'll never have to do it again."

Anchorwoman

"Most cars on our roads have only one occupant, usually the driver."

- Carol Malia, BBC Anchorwoman

"With high-def. TV everything looks bigger and wider--kind of like going to your 25th high school reunion."

Someone out there either has too much spare time or is deadly at Scrabble...

DORMITORY:

When you rearrange the letters: DIRTY ROOM

PRESBYTERIAN:

When you rearrange the letters: BEST IN PRAYER

ASTRONOMER:

When you rearrange the letters: MOON STARER

DESPERATION:

When you rearrange the letters: A ROPE ENDS IT

THE EYES: !

When you rearrange the letters: THEY SEE

THE MORSE CODE:

When you rearrange the letters: HERE COME DOTS

SLOT MACHINES:

When you rearrange the letters: CASH LOST IN ME

ANIMOSITY:

When you rearrange the letters: IS NO AMITY

ELECTION RESULTS:

When you rearrange the letters: LIES - LET'S RECOUNT

SNOOZE ALARMS:

When you rearrange the letters: ALAS! NO MORE Z 'S

A DECIMAL POINT:

When you rearrange the letters: IM A DOT IN PLACE

THE EARTHQUAKES:

When you rearrange the letters: THAT QUEER SHAKE

ELEVEN PLUS TWO:

When you rearrange the letters: TWELVE PLUS ONE

MOTHER-IN-LAW:

When you rearrange the letters: WOMAN HITLER

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

During the last meeting it was decided that the December general meeting will again be our traditional holiday dinner meeting, most likely at Denny's. No information about it was submitted for this edition. Stay tuned for details in the next edition.

Regarding the ARRL article about the government shut-down... I thought it may be obsolete by now, for this November edition, but surprisingly (or maybe not so surprisingly) the government shut-down still continues.

The on-line FCC license search page isn't working either. The web page is active, the database exists, and the search process is completely automated, but they just aren't allowing searches. Maybe they're making some kind of political statement?

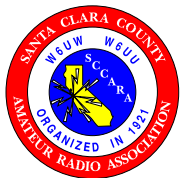


73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

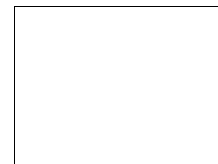


Need Help?

Amateurs have a long history of helping each other. An

**SCCARA**

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association
PO Box 106
SAN JOSE CA 95103-0106

**FIRST CLASS****ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED****SCCARA Membership for 2026**

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.