



# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 51, Number 1

January 2026



## Parks On The Air

My recent POTA Activations:

On 12/21/2025 I activated  
Park: US-0189 Don  
Edwards San Francisco Bay  
National Wildlife Refuge

Radio: Elecraft KX3  
Power: 10 watts  
Antenna: Screwdriver  
Total 30 CW QSOs  
Website:

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/don-edwards-san-francisco-bay>



On 12/15/2025 I activated  
Park: US-4571 Juan  
Bautista de Anza National  
Historic Trail

Radio: YAESU FT-991  
Power: 60 watts  
Antenna: Screwdriver  
Total 83 CW QSOs  
Website: <https://www.nps.gov/juba/index.htm>

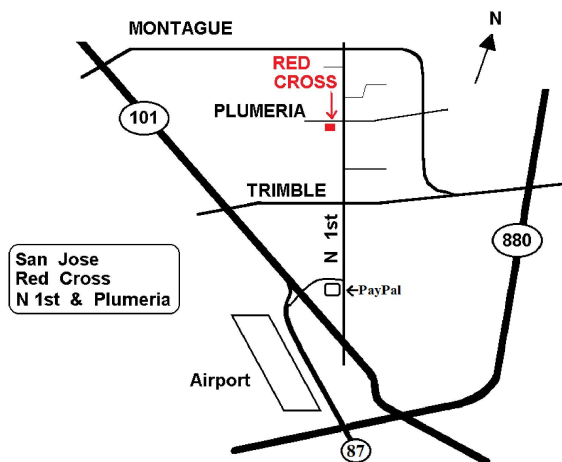


## Calendar

1/12 SCCARA General Meeting  
1/19 SCCARA Board Meeting  
1/31 Club Station open

## General Meeting

Day: Monday, January 12  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Place: San Jose Red Cross, meeting room 3  
Featuring: {to be announced}



On 12/6/2025 I activated  
US-3570 Sonoma State  
Historical Park. On that  
weekend I was in Napa and  
Sonoma State Park was the  
closest place I could drive and  
do POTA.

Radio: YAESU FT-991  
Power: 60 watts  
Antenna: 20 meters Hamstick.



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](http://www.sccara.org)

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

(officers are also directors)

President Gregg Lane KF6FNA 408-393-5607  
texting preferred  
e-mail: [kf6fna@comcast.net](mailto:kf6fna@comcast.net)  
Vice President (open)  
e-mail:  
Secretary (open)  
e-mail:  
Treasurer Ned Tufekci AC6YY 408-690-7250  
e-mail: [t94nt@hotmail.com](mailto:t94nt@hotmail.com)  
Station Trustee Don Village, K6PBQ 408-263-2789  
Director Lou Steirer, WA6QYS 408-241-7999  
e-mail: [wa6qys@aol.com](mailto:wa6qys@aol.com)  
Director Wally Britten, KA6YMD 408-891-1105  
e-mail: [ka6ymd@arrl.net](mailto:ka6ymd@arrl.net)  
Director John Parks W6JPP  
e-mail: [w6jpp@arrl.net](mailto:w6jpp@arrl.net)  
Director Janet Motha, KF6PUQ 408 252-3939  
e-mail: [jmotha21@gmail.com](mailto:jmotha21@gmail.com)  
Director (open)  
e-mail:

#### **COMMITTEES**

Editor Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU 408-269-2924  
e-mail: [wb6yru@ix.netcom.com](mailto:wb6yru@ix.netcom.com)  
Repeater Goetz Brandt K6GKB 408 259-7287  
e-mail: [goetzbrandt@gmail.com](mailto:goetzbrandt@gmail.com)  
N0ARY BBS Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU 408-269-2924  
e-mail: [wb6yru@ix.netcom.com](mailto:wb6yru@ix.netcom.com)  
Webmaster Ned Tufekci AC6YY 408-690-7250  
e-mail: [t94nt@hotmail.com](mailto:t94nt@hotmail.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](http://ncpa.n0ary.org).

#### **AMATEUR LICENSE TESTING**

ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group: <https://www.svve.org>  
Morris Jones, AD6ZH: 408-507-4698

Band conditions were great.

Total 96 CW QSOs.

Website: [https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=479](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=479)

## **California QSO Party**

### **CQP 2025**

#### **Top 10: Single-Operator Low Power: Fixed Station**

| Place | Callsign | QTH  | CW QSOs | PH QSOs | Mults | Score   |
|-------|----------|------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1     | KN6VQ    | VENT | 905     | 297     | 58    | 191,922 |
| 2     | K6GHA    | SCRU | 669     | 333     | 58    | 155,034 |
| 3     | KE6PY    | SDIE | 678     | 47      | 54    | 114,912 |
| 4     | NF6R     | KERN | 634     | 0       | 55    | 104,610 |
| 5     | NC6V     | RIVE | 632     | 0       | 55    | 104,280 |
| 6     | N6EF     | SACR | 576     | 0       | 56    | 96,768  |
| 7     | N6PN     | CCOS | 565     | 0       | 55    | 93,225  |
| 8     | N6OKU    | ORAN | 0       | 772     | 58    | 89,552  |
| 9     | N6MU     | ORAN | 574     | 0       | 51    | 87,822  |
| 10    | AC6YY    | SCLA | 533     | 0       | 53    | 84,747  |

I made the top 10!



73, Ned AC6YY

## **Early Radios Being Shown Off in Our 1925 Film**



You may recognize these images from our 1925 film. That's Philip Scofield, 6JK (left) and Frank Quement, 6NX showing off the "latest and greatest" of the time. (Their calls later became W6JK and W6NX.)

What exactly are those radios? I've always wondered if those were home made or commercially manufactured. Back then the home made variety were just as good as commercial radios. Well, I kept my eyes open and it has started to pay off!



The ARRL has created a radio museum, called “Radio Alpha,” <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-museum-and-research-library>. I thought maybe that could provide some info. Alas, they don’t (yet) have much prior to 1935, but it’s new, they’re working on it.

I sent these images to one of the people on that project, Chuck Penson WA7ZZE, and he was looking into it. He passed it to Jim Kreuzer N2GHD for comment. Jim was able to provide some info., he said:

“I took a good look at the images you sent and can tell you that they are both home brew apparatus, not manufactured and date from the 1924 - 1928 period. The unit on the left is a TPTG transmitter, while the receiver is of the regenerative variety with a 1 or 2 step audio amplifier.”

The film was made in 1925, so it had to be 1924 or early 1925. That’s at the early end of Jim’s time estimate.

TPTG is Tuned-Plate Tuned-Grid, which was common at the time for one-tube transmitters. However, this transmitter has two tubes. It’s possible the other tube is an amplifier.

Regenerative radios were common before the super heterodyne technique was invented. That’s where the RF amplifier has almost enough feedback to oscillate... almost. The effect is to improve sensitivity. The receiver also has two tubes, one of which I’m guessing must be the audio amplifier.

It’s possible the schematics and other info can be found in one of the radio electronics magazines published around that time. If something turns up, I’ll mention it here.

It’s great to get this added info and to learn a little more about what the club’s forebears were doing.



73, Gary WB6YRU

## Membership

Don’t forget to renew your SCCARA membership! All club memberships expire at the end of the year, so if you haven’t renewed yet... OOPS!



Please do in now while it’s on your mind. There’s a form on the back of this newsletter or get one from the secretary at any meeting.

We hope you’ll decide to stay with SCCARA.

And if there’s anything you’d like to see the club do, please feel free to mention it. We’re always happy to get suggestions or new ideas.

## ARRL News

From *The ARRL News*, 12/11/2025

### FCC Allocates 60-Meter World-Wide Amateur Band Approved at WRC-15; Continues Amateur Use of Four Additional 60-Meter Channels, and Updates 420 MHz Coordination Information

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on December 9, 2025, released a long-awaited Report and Order adopting a new amateur radio spectrum allocation in the 60-meter band that was approved for world-wide use on a secondary basis in the WRC-15 (World Radiocommunication Conference 2015) Final Acts. The Commission also agreed with a petition from ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® to continue to allow amateur operations on four existing 60-meter channels outside the international allocation with a full 100 watts. The new rules will go into effect 30 days after publication in the Federal Register, when amateurs may then begin using the allocation.

Specifically, the Commission allocated 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz (60 meters) to the amateur service on a secondary basis with a permitted power of 9.15 watts ERP. The Commission also authorized amateurs to continue using four existing channels outside of the 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz band centered on 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz on a secondary basis with a permitted power of 100 watts ERP. There are no antenna restrictions but antenna gain must be used to calculate ERP.

The 60-meter allocation is available to amateurs holding a General Class or above license. The maximum permissible signal bandwidth is 2.8 kHz.

Amateurs are cautioned that this allocation is strictly on a secondary basis, and amateurs must avoid interfering with non-amateur stations using this spectrum. This obligation includes the responsibility to monitor for such stations using appropriate receiver bandwidths. The FCC emphasized that “allowing amateur operations in this band while fully protecting incumbent primary Federal operations is our priority, and even intermittent interference in this band could jeopardize important Federal operations.”

The Commission left open ARRL’s 2017 Petition for Rulemaking to implement this WRC allocation (RM-11785), stating that “we expect the Commission may address any necessary power adjustments for the new 15 kilohertz international allocation in that proceeding.” ARRL will be observing operations in the new band to evaluate the effect of the 9.15-watt limit and already has been monitoring the regulations and experiences of amateurs in other countries.

Finally, in the same Report and Order, the FCC updated 420-450 MHz coordination and contact information for geographic areas where the peak envelope power (PEP) of amateur stations operating is generally limited to 50 watts. There was no substantive change to the areas covered by the power limitation.

From *The ARRL News*, 12/19/2025



## Obsolete Part 97 Rules to be Deleted Feb. 10, 2026

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in October 2025 adopted a Report and Order to delete almost 400 obsolete rules pertaining to its wireless services. As previously reported by ARRL, among the deletions were four in Part 97 that govern the Amateur Radio Service.

ARRL reports that the notice of the Report and Order has now been published in the Federal Register. Unless an objection is raised by January 2 that the Commission finds to deserve its consideration, the following four Part 97 provisions will be deleted as of February 10, 2026:

§ 97.27. This provision is duplicative of a statutory provision related to the FCC's right to modify station licenses.

§ 97.29. This provision specified an obsolete procedure to replace paper licenses. ARRL proposed deleting this section in comments filed earlier this year.

§ 97.315 (b)(2). This obsolete provision grandfathered HF amplifiers purchased before April 28, 1978 by an amateur radio operator for use at that operator's station, and grandfathered those manufactured before April 28, 1978, for which a marketing waiver was issued.

§ 97.521(b) and Appendix 2. This rule and appendix relate to obsolete VEC regions.

## Treasurer's Treaties

Financial Statement, year ending 2025  
(1/1/2025 through 12/31/2025)

### Income

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Club Dues - 2025 | 240.00   |
| Club Dues - 2026 | 100.00   |
| Donation         | 20.00    |
| Flea Market      | 5,471.35 |
| Interest         | 0.87     |

**Total Income** 5,832.22

### Expenses

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Band Pass Filters        | 430.00   |
| BPL15A                   | 140.00   |
| Business Cards           | 223.49   |
| CW Filter                | 184.25   |
| CW Paddle                | 100.00   |
| Dinner Expense           | 50.00    |
| End Fed Dipole           | 230.00   |
| Field Day Hand-outs      | 49.71    |
| Flea Market              | 2,400.00 |
| Fuses for IC703          | 20.00    |
| Insurance                | 300.00   |
| TS-440 Chipsets          | 24.76    |
| NANO VNA Adapters        | 38.90    |
| PO BOX 106               | 226.00   |
| Repeater coordination    | 20.00    |
| Repeater Electrical Bill | 150.22   |
| SCCARA-GRAM              | 306.54   |
| Secretary of State       | 20.00    |
| Sodas                    | 50.00    |
| Trailer Storage          | 360.00   |
| Welcome Package          | 23.24    |

**Total Expenses** 5,347.11

**Net** 485.11

## Year-end Account Balances

| Account  | 2024      | 2025      |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Checking | 12,452.41 | 12,937.52 |



Ned Tufekcic, AC6YY, Treasurer

## Club Station

SCCARA's club station is at the Red Cross, located at the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Plumeria in San Jose.

We are normally there on the last Saturday of the month for general operating. We also come down for contests such as California QSO party and Sweepstakes (both CW and SSB). We can also open it at other times upon request.

We have also operated Field Day as well. We are able to operate two or three stations at a time on HF and a digital station as well.

Having our station is a good opportunity for members who don't have HF capability to get on the air.

The station is also available for emergency communications by the Red Cross.



73, Don Village K6PBQ  
Station Trustee

## Meeting Minutes

### General Meeting, Dec. 8, 2025



*(Dinner meeting, no minutes were taken)*

### Board Meeting, Dec. 15, 2025



Held verbally on our 2 m repeater W6UU/R

Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:42 PM

#### Attendance:

President Gregg Lane KF6FNA, Treasurer Ned Tufekcic AC6YY, Station Trustee Don Village K6PBQ. Directors Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Wally Britten KA6YMD.

Excused: Directors John Parks W6JPP, Janet Motha KF6PUQ.  
Visitors: Gary WB6YRU

President's Report, Gregg KF6FNA:

The club station open Saturday Dec. 27.

We need speakers for next year, contact me with possibilities or

any ideas.

Our Secretary and webmaster is no longer with the club, we need a replacement.

Ned AC6YY: Doug contacted me, asked me to take over as webmaster.

Secretary's Report, (Doug N6DPO resigned).

Treasurer's Report, Ned AC6YY: Checking is \$12866  
I'll put together the year-end statement after the end of December.

Trustee's Report, Don K6PBQ: Everything is working, status quo

Standing Committees

Editor's report: Gary WB6YRU: No announcement for the holiday dinner meeting was submitted, a modified version of last year's announcement was used. The year-end Editor's report was posted on the Board email list. If anyone would like a print out of it, let me know. Also, a prototype of the SCCARA-GRAM was posted on the Board's email list. This is the starting point used for each edition. It's posted as a backup.

Also, I've been maintaining the property list. The latest updated version has been posted to the Board. Let me know if anyone wants in on paper. Of particular note are a few things that need repair. The board may want to consider disposing of them rather than expend money repairing old equipment.

BBS Sysop's report, Gary WB6YRU: There was a software bug that disconnected the user if they logged in and had any messages AND their account was set to list in ascending order. That's been fixed.

Repeater Chairman's report, Gregg KF6FNA: I called Goezt who confirmed everything is working fine.

Webmaster's report:

Gregg KF6FNA: Ned AC6YY will be our new webmaster, thanks Ned!

Old Business:

Gregg KF6FNA: regarding our POTA station (Parks On The Air), John W6JPP talked about the need to get a new battery.

Ned AC6YY: I have two batteries for it, one is 9 AH and one is 15 AH.

Gregg KF6FNA: We'll have to ask John what he had in mind, but he's currently in the hospital getting his heart checked out.

Gregg KF6FNA: We have a new HF beam and tower for the club station that needs to be installed. (It involves going up on the roof of the Red Cross. The roof is flat but delicate, so certain precautions must be taken with the mounting.) If anyone is interested in helping, contact me, We'll put together a work party when we have good weather.

New Business:

Gary WB6YRU: This falls under the Station Trustee's jurisdiction. The club station has needed upgrading for some time now, it can't easily handle more than one radio. As is, the one existing antenna switch is not adequate, we have to manually disconnect and reconnect coax cables to get each radio connected to the right antenna.

At the November general meeting I handed out a diagram of how the club station could have a set of antenna switches wired up for three stations and four antennas. The basic idea could be expanded for more radios and antennas. So far I haven't heard any comments about it. Antenna switches aren't cheap, but I really think it would be worth it to make operation easier and more orderly, especially during Field Day.

(some discussion, nothing resolved)

Gary WB6YRU: I recently sent a comment to the board explaining how we could simplify the dues for new members, with some specific changes to the membership form. I haven't heard anything so far. Any comments?

(no comments)

If we were meeting in person I would have handed it out on paper, but since we meet on the air here, I've been sending these things to the Board list. If that isn't working for people, we need to come up with an alternative that will.

Gregg KF6FNA: I'll get together with you later and see what can be done.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM

Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, recording for the Secretary

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## Packet Pieces

### Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====

Date: 27 Apr 2020 01:05

Message #: 84738

To: HUMOUR@WW

Subject: jokes 27/4

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Lines You See And Hear Everyday,  
To Be Taken With A Grain Of Salt!

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For a limited time only

[As long as supply lasts or until the law catches up with us,  
whichever comes first]

Not available in any store

[We wouldn't sell any of this rubbish if you could actually  
see it before you pulled out your wallet]

Must be 18 or older

[this really attracts our 13 year old target audience]

Lifetime Guarantee

[the life of the product. What - did you think we meant  
YOUR lifetime??]

Call now and be one of the first 50 customers

[or the next 50 or the next 50 or...]

Just for ordering <our product> you will get this special  
widget at no extra cost

[It's easier to put one of these widgets in your box than it  
is to cart them to the landfill where they belong]

The Obesity Research Institute has tested <our product>  
and found it to be the most effective weight loss solution..  
[we created the ORI, it is staffed by one of our employees,  
and located in a back room in our building]

In a double blind clinical study conducted at a major  
university, 78% of participants lost more than 20 pounds  
[we hope you don't notice that we never actually said that  
it was <our product> that was used in this study]

As a doctor, I believe that <the product> is the best  
weight loss solution available today

[I paid for my Ph.D in life experiences and got the paper

yesterday]

Just one of these miracle pills will burn fat while you sleep  
[Remember us? Before we changed our name we sold these pills as a miracle hair restoration treatment]

If after 6 months as a member of match-u.com you still haven't found that special someone, we will give you a second 6 months free

[If you are such a loser that you cannot find someone on your own, and such a loser that you have to join an online dating service, and really such a loser that you cannot find someone among all the other losers here, we feel really bad about taking more money from another loser, but we're sure you would pay if we asked]

Click here to download a free ringtone for your phone  
[If you do this, you will be subscribed for life at \$50 a month whether you agree to our terms or not]

You will receive 1 about every other month to inspect and keep it if you like it or return if you do not  
[the average month is 30 days, so 31 days is the second month, that's why you will get 10 of these offers in a year].

-----  
There is an old Pub in Marble Arch, London, which used to have a gallows adjacent to it. Prisoners were taken to the gallows (after a fair trial of course) to be hanged. The horse-drawn dray, carting the prisoner, was accompanied by an armed guard, who would stop the dray outside the pub and ask the prisoner if he would like "ONE LAST DRINK".

If he said YES, it was referred to as ONE FOR THE ROAD. If he declined, that Prisoner was ON THE WAGON. So there you go ... More history.

They used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot and then once a day it was taken and sold to the tannery. If you had to do this to survive you were "piss poor", but worse than that were the really poor folk, who couldn't even afford to buy a pot, they "Didn't have a pot to piss in" and were the lowest of the low.

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water Temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June, because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married. Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!"

Houses had thatched roofs, thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs." There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom, where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top

afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence. The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance. Hence: a thresh hold. (Getting quite an education, aren't you?)

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over they would hang up their bacon, to show off It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "Bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to Share with guests and would all sit around talking and "chew the fat". ?

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning and death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or "The Upper Crust".

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of "Holding a Wake".

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people, so they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, thread it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus someone could be, "Saved by the Bell "or was considered a "Dead Ringer". And that's the truth.

Now, whoever said history was boring !

Vice President

-----  
Bernie was so excited about his promotion to Vice President of the company he worked for and kept bragging about it to his wife for weeks on end. Finally she couldn't take it any longer, and told him, "Listen, it means nothing, they even have a vice president of peas at the grocery store!"

"Really?" he said. Not sure if this was true or not, Bernie decided to call the grocery store. A clerk answered and Bernie said, "May I speak with the Vice President of peas, please?"

The clerk replied, "Canned or frozen?"

One-Liners

-----

There is something wrong if you're always right.

A pessimist mourns the future.

"A mother takes twenty years to make a man of her boy, and another woman makes a fool of him in twenty minutes." --Robert Frost

People complain most about things over which they have no control.

Beware of buying anything when the manuals are bigger than the equipment.

Stupidity is not a handicap. Park elsewhere.

Be different: conform.

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## 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](mailto:goetz@ix.netcom.com)

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

W6JPP, John Parks  
e-mail: [w6jpp@arrl.net](mailto:w6jpp@arrl.net)

K6PBQ, Don Village, 408-263-2789

WA6QYS, Lou Steirer, 408-241-7999  
e-mail: [wa6qys@arrl.net](mailto:wa6qys@arrl.net)

WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, 408-269-2924  
packet: home BBS N0ARY  
e-mail: [wb6yru@ix.netcom.com](mailto:wb6yru@ix.netcom.com)

## Newsletter Notes

It been the "**SCCARA-GRAM**" for half a century!

Actually, we're not really sure when the newsletter was first called the "SCCARA-GRAM." The records are few and far between prior to 1985.

Our first known newsletter was a prototype in late 1953 called "The Junk Box." It had that name for a few years during the 1960's too but not consistently, many editions were simply called the "Bulletin." Before 1953 it seems we only sent out postcards.

We have a September 1974 edition that refers to itself as the "Bulletin." So the first SCCARA-GRAM had to be *after* that.

The earliest actual "SCCARA-GRAM" we have is September 1976. It has an article about the previous meeting where Joyce Walters was recognized for "...typing up the SCCARA-GRAM for the past several years." That's rather curious since it was called the "Bulletin" in late 1974. Most likely they meant she had typed up the *newsletter*, regardless of what it was called.

It's possible the first SCCARA-GRAM was in 1975, but there's no surviving evidence for that. At least it can't be any earlier. And it *definitely* was the SCCARA-GRAM in 1976.



So, it's been 50 years! It's the **GOLDEN** anniversary of the **SCCARA-GRAM** !



HOORAY!

OK, so maybe it's not *that* big of a deal, but I'm going for it anyway! 😊

By the way... some of you younger members may be wondering why we called it the JUNK box at first. Does that sound too much like "trash bin" or "waste basket"?

Well, back in the day, nearly all amateur radio operators were electronic experimenters. We were the only ones allowed to build or work on transmitters without a radio-telephone license. That's why we have to pass technical tests for an amateur license. In fact, an amateur radio license used to be almost as good as an electronic engineering degree.

Most of us organized our electronic parts, but we all had what was affectionally called "the junk box." It was an odds-ends box containing all kinds of misc. electronic parts and was one of the first places we looked when we needed something.

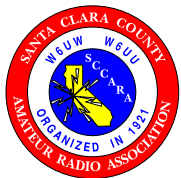
The upshot is: the junk box contained all sorts of good and interesting things! So that was a fitting name for an amateur radio club newsletter.



73, Gary WB6YRU, editor  
And Happy New Year!



"Oh no, I'm being replaced by AI!"

**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.