

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

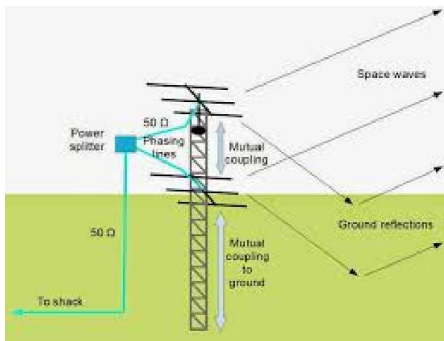
Volume 51, Number 4

April 2026



HF Beam Antennas

High-frequency (HF) beam antennas are directional antennas designed to focus radio energy toward a specific station, significantly increasing both transmitted signal strength and reception clarity.



By concentrating energy like a flashlight, they offer high gain and can reject interference from other directions.

Common Types of HF Beam Antennas

Yagi-Uda (Yagi): The most common beam antenna, consisting of a driven element, a reflector, and one or more directors on a horizontal boom. Adding more directors generally increases gain and directivity.

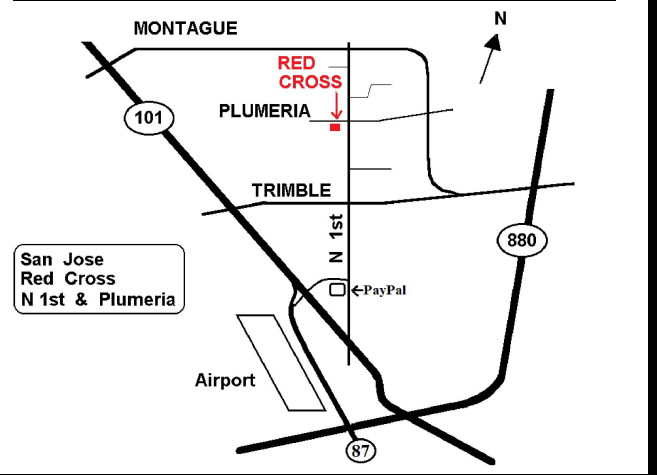


Calendar

- 4/11 Electronic Flea Market
- 4/13 SCCARA General Meeting
- 4/20 SCCARA Board Meeting
- 4/25 Club Station open

General Meeting

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



Hex Beam: A compact, multi-band directional antenna often chosen for its smaller footprint and lighter weight compared to a traditional Yagi.

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 texting preferred e-mail: kf6fna@comcast.net
Vice President	(open)	e-mail:
Secretary	(open)	e-mail:
Treasurer	Ned Tufekcic AC6YY	408-690-7250 e-mail: t94nt@hotmail.com
Station Trustee	Don Village, K6PBQ	408-263-2789
Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	408-241-7999 e-mail: wa6qys@aol.com
Director	John Parks W6JPP	e-mail: w6jpp@arrl.net
Director	Janet Motha, KF6PUQ	408 252-3939 e-mail: jmotha21@gmail.com
Director	(open)	e-mail:
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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 Regional Medical Center, San Jose, north of Hwys 680 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: <https://www.svve.org>
Morris Jones, AD6ZH: 408-507-4698



Log-Periodic Array (LPDA): Designed for a very wide frequency range, these antennas consist of multiple dipoles of varying lengths.



While they offer lower gain than a Yagi of the same size, they provide consistent performance across several bands without a tuner.

Cubical Quad: Uses square or rectangular wire loops instead of straight rod elements. Quads are known for high gain and being less affected by nearby objects.

Moxon: A specialized two-element beam with folded ends, making it very compact and popular for portable or space-constrained operations.

Key Benefits and Trade-offs

Signal Concentration: A standard three-element beam can provide a front-to-back ratio of up to 30 dB, helping to silence unwanted signals from the rear.

DX Performance: Beams are ideal for long-distance (DX) communication because they focus power and typically have a

lower radiation angle.

Cost and Infrastructure: Beam systems are generally expensive, often requiring a tower and an electric rotator to aim the antenna. A full setup including a tower and cables can cost approximately \$5,000.

Size: Lower-band beams (e.g., for 40 meters) can be massive; a 40-meter Yagi can have elements over 40 feet wide.



73, Ned AC6YY

Changing Call Signs

In the United States, you can change your amateur radio callsign through the FCC's **Vanity Call Sign** system or by requesting a new sequential callsign during a license upgrade.

<http://www.arrl.org/vanity-call-signs>

How to Change Your Callsign

Vanity Call Sign (Custom): You can request a specific, available callsign (e.g., your initials or a shorter 1x3 format) by logging into the FCC License Manager with your FRN (FCC Registration Number).

Sequential Change: When you upgrade your license class (e.g., Technician to General), you can check a box on **NCVEC Form 605** to receive the next available callsign in the higher-class pool.

<http://www.arrl.org/call-sign-renewals-or-changes>

Key Rules & Costs

Fee: There is currently a \$35 application fee for a vanity callsign. This fee is required even if your request is dismissed.

Eligibility: Your license class determines which callsign formats you can request. For example, only Amateur Extra licensees are eligible for shorter 1x2 or 2x1 callsigns.

Processing Time: It typically takes 18 days for the FCC to process a vanity application.

Geographic Restrictions: You are no longer required to change your callsign if you move to a different call district within the U.S..

Reclaiming Old Calls: If you change your callsign and regret it, you have a two-year grace period to reclaim your old one before it becomes available to others. YouTube +6

Managing the Change

Once your new callsign is granted, you must update your digital accounts:

Logbook of The World (LoTW): You will need to request a new certificate for your new callsign.

QRZ.com: Log in to your existing account and update the callsign field to maintain your page and history.

EchoLink & Winlink: You typically need to create a new account or contact support to transfer registrations to the new callsign.



73, Ned Tufekcic AC6YY

ARRL News

Start Planning for ARRL Field Day 2026

03/13/2026

It's not too early to gear up and get ready for ARRL Field Day! Field Day 2026 takes place June 27 – 28 and will bring together more than 30,000 amateur radio operators for one of the most popular on-the-air events in the US and Canada.

This year's Field Day theme is "Amateur Radio: A National Resource." Combined with the [ARRL Year of the Club](#), it provides the perfect opportunity for radio clubs to set up stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill, and service to our communities and our nation.

All of the information you need to get started can be found on the Field Day web page, including how to join the ARRL Field Day Facebook Group, where you can share your plans, tips, and tricks for a successful Field Day.

The overall objective for Field Day is to contact as many stations as possible on the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-, 15- and 10-meter HF bands, as well as all bands above 50 MHz, and to learn to operate in less than optimal conditions. Many clubs choose to set up in camp-style fashion with portable equipment, temporary antennas, and off-grid power sources.

Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2 (North and South America). DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries. Each claimed contact must include contemporaneous direct initiation by the operator on both sides of the contact. Initiation of a contact may be either locally or by remote.

Also check out the [Field Day site locator page](#) to help find participating stations near you. As an added incentive for anyone participating in ARRL's yearlong America250 Worked All States (WAS) Award, contacts made with ARRL Affiliated Radio Clubs all year, including during Field Day, will count toward your America250 WAS Affiliated Club Endorsement. Check out those details at <http://www.arrl.org/america250-was>.

For more information about ARRL Field Day, visit <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>.

New Book: Digital Networking for Ham Radio

02/20/2026

The ARRL has a new book, *Digital Networking for Ham Radio*, a practical, hands-on guide to designing and implementing high-speed data networks for amateur radio stations.

Written by Glen Popiel, KW5GP, the book brings together in one comprehensive resource the knowledge needed to build, configure, and expand digital networks for ham radio. From TCP/IP fundamentals to deploying mesh technologies such as AREDN®, HamWAN, and Meshtastic®, readers will find clear explanations and step-by-step guidance.

"When I began experimenting with amateur radio data networking, I realized there wasn't a single resource that clearly explained how it all works — especially TCP/IP in terms the average ham could relate to," said Popiel. "That inspired me to create a practical guide to designing and implementing high-speed amateur radio

networks. Since there's no speed limit above 70 centimeters, operators can integrate webcams, IP phones, and other networked devices. I hope this book encourages hams to explore, experiment, and enjoy networking on the microwave bands."

It covers selecting hardware, choosing network topologies, configuring systems, and staying compliant with FCC Part 97 rules. The book is designed for both newcomers and experienced operators who want to expand their stations with resilient, high-speed networking capabilities.

Treasurer's Treatise

Account	3/19/2026 Balance
Bank Accounts	
Checking	12,410.30
Savings	0.00
TOTAL Bank Accounts	12,410.30
Cash Accounts	
Cash	120.00
TOTAL Cash Accounts	120.00
OVERALL TOTAL	12,530.30



Ned Tufekcic AC6YY

Webmaster's Report

Doug N6DPO gave me the password for the sccara.org website. I was able to post current Newsletter for March.



Ned Tufekcic AC6YY

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, March 9, 2026



Meeting room 3, San Jose Red Cross, N. 1st St and Plumeria

Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:33 pm

Announcements

President Gregg KF6FNA:

Board meeting on our repeater on 16th after the 2 m net.

Last Saturday is 28th, club station will be open 10 am - 4 pm.

10 m net at 8 pm on Thursdays, 28.385 MHz USB.

Ned AC6YY has our new tuner and will set it up.

Electronic Flea Markets:

SVECS could use some help from SCCARA, they host April. It's common for clubs to help each other out.

FARS hosts this Saturday, 14th (they switched from Sundays to Saturdays)

SCCARA hosts July 11, 2026.

Black Bear Diner in Sunnyvale, El Camino & Cezanne Dr, many HAMS get together for an informal social on Wednesdays, 11:30 to 3:00.

Discussion on what people might like to make during a Balun transformer making meeting.

9:1 balun for non-resonant end-fed

49:1 balun for end-fend dipole

RF chokes

1:1 current balun

75 Ohm to 50 Ohm balun

hook-up wire in three colors to make winding easier

weather-tight plastic boxes

Hardware: screws, washers, nuts (stainless steel), connectors tools, solder and soldering pencil

Discussion on core sizes vs efficiency

Possible price breaks on bulk orders, maybe 20 or 30 toroid cores?

Discussion on coax patch panel for the club station, instead of a switch panel.

Plan on a balun making meeting 2 months from now (May), to allow time to get parts etc.

Adjourned 8:37 pm

Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, recording for the secretary

Board Meeting, March 16, 2026



Held verbally on our 2 m repeater W6UU/R

Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:44 PM

Attendance:

Officers: President Gregg Lane KF6FNA, Treasurer Ned Tufekcic AC6YY, Station Trustee Don Village K6PBQ.

Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Janet Motha KF6PUQ.

Absent: Director John Parks W6JPP

Visitors: Wally KA6YMD, Gary WB6YRU

(we don't have a quorum)

Announcements:

President's Report, Gregg KF6FNA:

SVECS will host the next electronic flea market

SCCARA hosts July 11, see me if you want to help out.

Vice President's Report, (vacant)

Gregg KF6FNA: We're planning on having a balun making session at a future meeting.

Secretary's Report, (vacant):

KF6FNA: The general meeting minutes were publish in the SCCARA-GRAM. Any corrections?

(none heard)

Accepted as published.

Board meeting minutes Feb 16 were publish in the SCCARA-GRAM. Any corrections?

(none heard)

Accepted as published.

Need Help?

Treasurer's Report, Ned AC6YY:
checked in mobile, will email the report later.

Station Trustee's Report, Don K6PBQ: Nothing new to report.

Standing Committees

Editor's report: Gary WB6YRU: Lately we've had some interesting articles, thanks Ned AC6YY. Hopefully we'll get more (not necessarily from Ned)

BBS Sysop's report: Gary WB6YRU: Nothing new to report, the BBS is running fine.

Repeater Chairman's report, Goetz K6GKB:
KF6FNA: I contacted Goetz, he has nothing new to report.

Webmaster's report, Ned AC6YY: Checked in mobile, nothing to report at this time.
Gregg KF6FNA: Ned AC6YY, our new webmaster now has the password and will be able to work on our web site.

Old Business

Gregg KF6FNA: We'll be adding a second beam antenna and rotor on the Red Cross roof for the club station. A work party will be organized soon, let me know if you're interested in helping out. We'll try for a day that raining or too hot.

New Business

Gregg KF6FNA: Ned will be purchasing parts for our balun making session. We'll update everyone on the Monday night nets.

Any other new business?
(nothing heard)

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM

Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, recording for the Secretary

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====
Date: 22 Jun 2010 19:11
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Diet Workshop

Everyone had weighed in, and our diet-workshop leader began her lecture on the week's topic - the problems of dining out. She talked about alternatives, such as requesting diet sodas and dressings, and having meat broiled instead of fried. Finally she turned the question over to the group for discussion. "What is the greatest problem you encounter when going out to eat?"

Replied one woman quickly, "Running into you!"

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

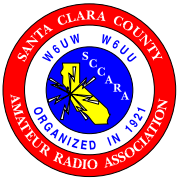
Newsletter Notes

When it rains, it pours. We've had a lack of articles for a long time, now Ned has been coming through with one after another. Thanks Ned!

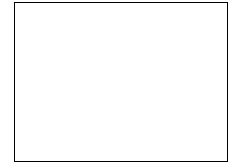
Take a look at the masthead, notice we've got four openings for officers and directors. If you'd like to get more involved, it couldn't be easier than it is right now. Please let Gregg, our president know. Since it's between election time, the president can appoint officers and directors until the next elections in the fall.



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 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.