

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County
Amateur Radio Association

Volume 24, Number 1

January 2008



New Meeting Location

Our meeting location has changed. Not across town but by a few hundred feet. Beginning in January we will be meeting in ROOM A1 in CONFERENCE AREA 196 just inside the Kaiser Homestead West entrance. Thanks to Kaiser, we are scheduled to meet at their new facility at Homestead Road and Lawrence Expressway in Santa Clara for the rest of 2008. Remember that our general meetings are on the second Mondays of the month unless a special meeting is planned. Information about those will be found in the SCCARA-GRAM. Talk-in as always on our W6UU repeater.

Lou WA6QYS

Treasurer's Treatise

For The Record...

Per the bylaws of the Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association, the following members were elected to office for 2008:

Jim Tyranski, KG6UDW, President
Fred Townsend, AE6QL, Vice President
Don Steinbach, AE6PM, Treasurer
Mike Aronoff, WB0TOW, Secretary
Don Village, K6PBQ, Station Trustee

These officers serve for one year. Three members were elected to two-year terms (2008-2009) as Directors:

Lou Steirer, WA6QYS
Wally Britten, KA6YMD
Don Village, K6PBQ

Two current directors have one year remaining (2008) on their terms:

Don Steinbach, AE6PM
Ned Tufekcic, AE6YY

Don AE6PM, Treasurer

VHF contest

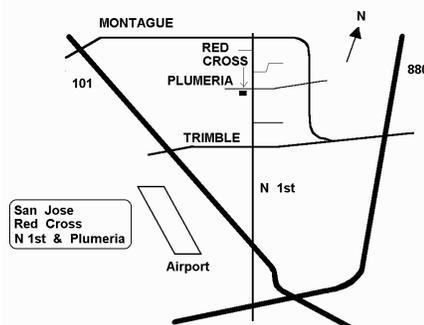
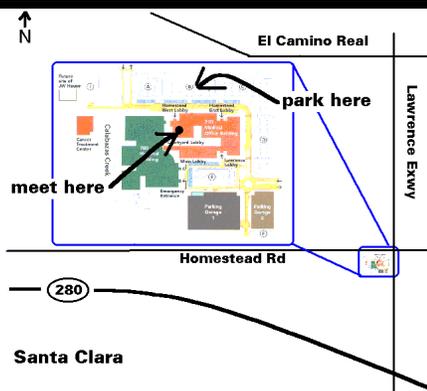
On January 19-21, 2008 SCCARA is having a club field activity for the ARRL VHF contest. Any one interested in joining

Calendar

- 1/14 SCCARA General Meeting
- 1/19-21 SCCARA's VHF contest activity
- 1/21 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 2/11 SCCARA General Meeting

General Meeting

Day: Monday, Jan. 14, 2007
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Room A1
Featuring: Dennis Vernier--on the air in China



The **SCCARA-GRAM** is published monthly by the **SANTA CLARA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**, PO Box 6, San Jose CA 95103-0006. Permission to reprint articles is hereby granted, provided the source is properly credited.

The deadline for articles is the last Monday of the month.

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.

Web page: <http://www.qsl.net/sccara>.

OFFICERS - DIRECTORS - STAFF

President	Jim Tyranski, KG6UDW	453-0745
	e-mail: kg6udw@arrl.net	
Vice President	Fred Townsend, AE6QL	263-8768
	e-mail: fred@dcctolight.net	
Secretary	Mike Aronoff, WB0TOW	781-5704
	e-mail: aronoff@att.net	
Treasurer	Don Steinbach, AE6PM	867-3912
	e-mail: dlsteinbach@comcast.net	
Station Trustee	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
	e-mail: donvillage7@yahoo.com	
Director	Don Steinbach, AE6PM	867-3912
	e-mail: ae6pm@arrl.net	
Director	Ned Tufekcic, AC6YY	690-7250
	e-mail: ac6yy@arrl.net	
Director	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
	e-mail: donvillage7@yahoo.com	
Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	241-7999
	e-mail: wa6qys@aol.com	
Director	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
	e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net	
Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	269-2924
	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	

COMMITTEES

Activities	John Parks, W6JPP	309-8709
	e-mail: w6jpp@arrl.net	
Repeater	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
	e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net	
N0ARY BBS	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	269-2924
	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	

SCCARA REPEATERS

SCCARA owns and operates two repeaters under the call W6UU:

2 meter: 146.985 - PL 114.8
70 cm: 442.425 + PL 107.2

Phone auto-dial and auto-patch is available. The two meter repeater is located at Eagle Rock near Alum Rock Park in the foothills of east San Jose. The 70 cm repeater and N0ARY BBS is located at the Regional Medical Center (formerly Alexian), east of downtown San Jose, north of 280 and 101.

SCCARA NETS

On our two meter repeater: Mondays at 7:30 PM, (not the second Monday--our meeting night). Coordinator: Don Village, K6PBQ. On ten meters, 28.385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00 PM. Net control: Wally Britten, KA6YMD. Visitors welcome.

N0ARY PACKET BBS

SCCARA hosts the packet BBS N0ARY (San Jose). User ports: 144.93 (1200 baud), 433.37 (9600 baud), telephone 408 259-8497.. Sysop: Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU (packet info: www.n0ary.org/ncpa)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

SCCARA contact Clark KE6KXO:	408 262-9334
ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group, Morris Jones, AD6ZH:	408 507-4698

the club come up to Skyline BLVD overlooking Stanford University. We will be up there approximately 0800 on the 20th until whenever, possibly staying overnight, weather permitting. Come and support your club for the sanctioned club activity.

From I 280 exit Page Mill road west to Skyline and turn right, go approximately 1 mile to the overlook. It will be the first parking area on the right side.

Be prepared for any kind of weather. Make sure you bring food and drinks for yourself. I will provide a BBQ for you to cook whatever.

There should be antennas up, but bring your own gear, and antennas if you wish. The crew will help you set-up and get on the air. If nothing else come on up and share comradery with your fellow club members.

W6JPP
SCCARA Activities Chairman

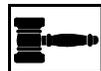
Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Dec. 15, 2007



{no minutes were submitted by the deadline. – Editor}

Board Meeting, Dec. 18, 2007



The meeting was called to order at 1921 hours.

The following members were in attendance:
Fred Townsend, AE6QL, Vice President
Don Steinbach, AE6PM, Director & Treasurer
Wally Britten, KA6YMD, Director
Lou Steirer, WA6QYS, Director
Ned Tufekcic, AC6YY, Director
Don Village, Director & Trustee
Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, Editor & BBS Sys Op
Mike Aronoff, WB0TOW, Secretary
John Parks, W6JPP, Activities Chairman
Clark Murphy, KE6KXO, (past president)
Gwen Steirer, KF6OTD, guest and force for civility

In the President's absence, the Vice President presided.

Secretary's Report -

The minutes were as published in the last SCCARA-GRAM. There were no corrections requested. The election results were officially noted (See "For the Record".) There have been 38 membership renewals to date (40%).

Treasurer's Report -

Current account balances were \$1,802.86 in checking, \$6,285.00 in savings, and \$695.25 cash-on-hand for a total of \$8,783.11. NARC dues have been paid for 2008. Approximately \$1,500 for the club day at the swap meet is pending.

Club Station Trustee's Report -

- The next station operating date is January 26th, after the SVCES breakfast.
- The Holiday Lunch was a great success with 40 members and guests attending. The Creekside Inn provided excellent food and the facilities were an improvement over last year. Some comments

reported (opportunities for improvement): A little cramped and rushed, no desert, need to control the gift exchange a little better. Many thanks to Don Village and his helpers for a job well done.

Vice President's Report -

- The speaker for the January general meeting will be Red Vernier, W6ALC, talking on operating in China. Elecrafit is scheduled for the February meeting. The dinner meeting is in March.
- Fred also delivered his draft rewrite of the bylaws to the committee chair. A discussion of the merits and disadvantages of becoming a 503C (Public Benefit Non-Profit) corporation followed, to be continued informally by the committee after the board meeting.

Webmaster's report -

- The annual donation to our web host (QSL.net) is due in January. Don Steinbach moved and Don Village seconded that \$50 be authorized for immediate payment. The motion passed without objection.

Repeater Report- There have been no changes.

Newsletter Editor's report -

- There have been a few more submissions for the newsletter, but more from the membership are needed. Color photos and other graphics can be included and will be reproduced on the web version.

Activities Chairman's Report -

- The trip to Force 12 is being coordinated with their open house weekend, and will include other vendors set up in their parking lot. Stay tuned for details.
- A mini-field day weekend is being planned for Angel Island. Operation as a special event station on one of the island's historic dates has been tentatively approved by the rangers. We would operate from the top of the hill, and trucks would be provided to get the equipment up there.
- A Spring picnic is also in the works, to be held in the park behind the Santa Clara Senior Center.
- There is an ARRL VHF contest in January. Last year club members set up on Skyline Drive for two days. We have permission to do so again this year. Ned moved and Don Steinbach seconded that this become an official club activity. The motion carried without objection. John Parks will coordinate and publicize the event.

Old Business-

- BBS Relocation. Gary had prepared a second addendum to his report providing details of possible sites and requirements. Membership of the committee was confirmed. The BBS currently forwards 20-30 bulletins a day, plus NTS and personal traffic. In any of the proposed locations, it would become a hub between SV and the Central Valley. After a warm discussion, Don Steinbach moved and Lou seconded that \$350 be authorized to cover planned and unanticipated costs of the move. The motion passed without objection. Don Steinbach then moved that the Board approve the move to the Crystal Peak site. The motion died without a second. Then Lou Moved that the move be approved to the Mt. Umunhum site. This also was not seconded. Fred, as acting chair, then tasked Gary and/or Lou with contacting Craig Anderson of the Silicon Valley WiFi Users and Experimenters Group (SVWUX) about sharing the facility they have.
- Lou will verify SCCARA's participation in the Stanford Powwow in May.
- There was no response for a work party to permanently water-proof the storage units. Fred will select a date and notify the membership.
- As has been previously reported, the new meeting location for general meetings will be Room A1 at the new Kaiser Santa Clara, just down the hall from the room we have been using. There will

be a talk-in on W6UU for those who have trouble making the adjustment, and Don will make the announcement on the Monday night net a few more times.

- Written instructions for the Red Cross station are still in the works. Don Steinbach and Lou will work on them.
- The borrowed repeater will be returned to Don Apte at the RACES meeting on 12/19.
- The thank-you gift to the crew at the storage lot where the club trailer safely resides (approved last meeting) will be delivered by Lou and Gwen at noon on Friday, 12/21.

New Business -

- Lou Moved and Don Steinbach seconded that Don Village be authorized to make reservations at Mt. Madonna for Field Day June 26-28. The motion passed without objection.

The meeting was adjourned at 2120 hours.

Minutes submitted by Mike Aronoff, Secretary

NOARY BBS News

The NOARY packet BBS will be moved to Mt. Umunhum soon. From this vantage point, users from Holister to Monterey to San Francisco will be able to use the BBS without going through a node. Also, it will be able to forward traffic directly with the other BBSs in area instead of having to go through nodes. This will improve forwarding performance.

The BBS is still in the equipment shack on the roof of San Jose's Regional Medical Center (formerly Alexian Bros.). The Umunhum site is that of Baycom (amateur radio experimenter's group, www.wa6ycz.org), several repeaters, a HF beacon, among other things. From San Jose, (especially in the area around highway 87 and 85) look slightly to the west of the old radar station on Mt. Umunhum. With binoculars you might see some antennas and small buildings—that's it!

The 2 M and 70 cm user ports will remain the same, but the telephone dial-in port will be replaced with a telnet port. Instead of dialing in directly with a terminal emulator (such as Procomm), you'll be able to telnet in from any computer with an internet connection. More info about that later.

For now, if you try to use the BBS and it doesn't answer, that's probably because the move is in progress. Just be patient, try again in a few days. I expect the move to be complete by mid January.

You may be wondering how the move can take place since the board has not yet approved it. Well, let me tell ya...

I asked the board to approve the move months ago. Specifically, they only need to approve paying for the BBS's electricity at the mountain-top site.

The club currently does not pay for electricity, but we do pay for some telephone lines. That cost would go away at the new site—the phone lines would be replaced with a free ethernet connection (internet).

So, it's a question of saving money on the phone lines, but gaining the cost of electricity. The phone lines cost more. Plus, I'd do all the work.

Naive little me, I thought this would be a no-brainer, a slam-dunk. But no. The board required extensive written proposals and documentation. They became consumed with the minutia of the move and fretted over the possible costs of every conceivable little hypothetical problem. Discussions at four different board meetings went by and still they couldn't make a decision.

I finally got fed up with the hand wringing, the nitpicking, and adding yet more pages of info to the proposal. So, I decided to pay for the electricity myself. This removes the question of money and thus the need for board approval. So, no more delay, by the time you read this, the move may already be in progress.

If anyone is interested in the technical aspects of the BBS or its new location, let me know. Also, see the www.wa6ycz.org web site.

73, Gary WB6YRU, BBS sysop

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, December 7, 2007

MISLEADING AND INCORRECT RUMORS SURROUND IARU REGION 2 BAND PLAN

Misleading and incorrect rumors are surrounding the recently revised band plan of IARU Region 2 <<http://www.iaru-r2.org/band-plan/>>, adopted at its triennial conference in Brazil in September. The following statement was authorized by ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN.

During the conference, held September 10-14 in Brasilia, representatives from IARU Region 2 societies met in committees prior to a final plenary session and adopted recommendations concerning a number of items important to Amateur Radio in the region. These included plans to improve emergency communication, enhance education and reduce interference to national emergency nets, as well as revising the Region 2 HF band plan.

The revised Region 2 band plan for 160-10 meters takes effect January 1, 2008. The band plan is based on the band plan adopted by IARU Region 1 <<http://www.iaru-r1.org/Spectrumbp.htm>> at its conference in Davos, Switzerland in September 2005.

IARU regional band plans have been in existence for many years. They are developed, reviewed and approved at regional conferences of the IARU Member-Societies. The band plans provide voluntary guidelines and recommendations for good operating practice that are intended to assist amateurs in making the most effective use of our limited frequency allocations. They are not restrictions and carry no regulatory authority.

Unlike the US, where the FCC's Part 97 rules regulate the frequencies allocated to the Amateur Radio Service by emission designator, many countries do not have government-regulated sub-bands within their amateur allocation. Because of this, the national Amateur Radio societies in these countries look to a band plan to provide guidance for the location of operating preferences. In such cases, these countries are urged to promote incorporation or recognition of a band plan into their regulations. In the United States, however, ARRL's band plans will continue to provide guidance for recommended operating preferences including the 160 meter band <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bandplan.html#160m>> plan that was revised in 2001 on the basis of membership input.

One virtue of voluntary band plans is that they are more flexible and can be amended more easily than the FCC rules; writing them into the rules would be counterproductive. As voluntary guidelines, the band plan cannot by definition be "more severe" than regulations; however, if the band plan did not suggest an operating pattern that is a subset of the regulations, it would serve no purpose.

There is also a mistaken assumption that the new IARU Region 2 band plan is an ARRL initiative seeking regulation by bandwidth. It is not, nor is it in any way a vehicle to achieve regulation by bandwidth.

It happens that the ARRL's "regulation by bandwidth" petition, the now-withdrawn RM-11306, also drew on the Region 1 band plan. This is acknowledged on page 10 of the petition <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/rm-11306/RM-11306-asFiled.pdf>>. The similarities between RM-11306 and the Region 2 band plan are the result of having some common roots, but the two are not otherwise related.

While a number of Amateur Radio organizations and publishers support and agree with the ARRL on the concept of regulation by bandwidth as an essential element to the orderly introduction of new digital modes into the HF bands, ARRL will not be pursuing a rulemaking until some degree of consensus can be achieved in the amateur community.

ARRL has conducted an open process of soliciting input regarding matters of importance to the Amateur Radio Service. That will continue prior to the submission of any proposals for future regulatory changes to improve the Amateur Radio Service.

As one of the 39 Member-Societies of IARU Region 2, the ARRL will, as always, continue to openly work to improve the Region 2 band planning process prior to the next conference and give its members ample opportunity to offer comments and suggestions. Members may provide input to their elected representative (identified on page 15 of QST), or to our Ad-hoc Band Plan Committee and e-mail address that was established in 2006 at <bandplan@arrl.org>.

Start or Renew Your ARRL Membership Through SCCARA

Membership in the ARRL is one of the best investments a ham can make in his (or her) hobby. Some of the individual benefits to members include:

- + receiving QST, the most popular amateur publication for over 85 years
- + access to the members-only features of the ARRL Web site
- + participation in the ARRL e-mail Forwarding Service (@arrl.net)
- + answers to your questions on FCC rules and regs
- + help with antenna, tower and zoning problems
- + participation in DXCC and other ARRL contests and awards
- + the outgoing QSL service
- + low-cost equipment insurance
- + preferred subscription rates for ARRL's technical magazine, QEX

In addition, the League represents our interests before the FCC, Congress, and international communications bodies; provides extensive support and guidance for affiliated clubs like SCCARA; maintains the largest Volunteer Examiner organization; and provides extensive educational services to hams and the general public as well.

SCCARA keeps its affiliation with the League as long as 60% of its members belong to the ARRL. We pay no other dues or fees. In addition, the club retains \$2.00 of each annual renewal and \$12.00 of each new membership when they are submitted through SCCARA. The process is simple. Bring your renewal notice to any meeting, or pick up an application from the Secretary. Make the payment (in the normal amount, check or cash) to SCCARA,

and return them to the Secretary or Treasurer. The club completes the process for you! Thanks from SCCARA and the ARRL!

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the packet network:

Date: 5 Jan 2005 05:53
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: HUMOR FOR TODAY 0105

'Twas The Day AFTER Christmas

'Twas the day after Christmas, and all through the house,
Every creature was hurtin', even the mouse.
The toys were all broken, their batteries dead;
Santa passed out, with some ice on his head.

Wrapping and ribbons just covered the floor,
While upstairs the family continued to snore.
And I in my T-shirt, new Reeboks and jeans,
I went into the kitchen and started to clean.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the sink to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the curtains, and threw up the sash.

When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a little white truck, with an oversized mirror.
The driver was smiling, so lively and grand;
The patch on his jacket said "U.S. POSTMAN."

With a handful of bills, he grinned like a fox
Then quickly he stuffed them into our mailbox.
Bill after bill, after bill, they still came.
Whistling and shouting he called them by name

"Now Dillard's, now Broadway's, now Penny's and Sears
Here's Robinson's, Levitz's and Target and Mervyn's.
To the tip of your limit, every store, every mall,
Now charge away--charge away--charge away all!"

He whooped and he whistled as he finished his work.
He filled up the box, and then turned with a jerk.
He sprang to his truck and he drove down the road,
Driving much faster with just half a load.

Then I heard him exclaim with great holiday cheer,
"Enjoy what you got. . . . you'll be paying all year!"

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 including who to contact for each.

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 from the club secretary.

Antennas, feed-lines, tuners: WB6EMR, K6PBQ, WB6YRU
Lightning protection, grounding: WB6YRU
Station set-up, equipment: K6PBQ
TVI/RFI: WB6YRU
Homebrew projects, construction: KD6FJI, WB6YRU
Computers: KB6NP; IBM PC: WB6YRU
Packet Network (BBS, forwarding): WB6YRU
Code operating and installations: WB6EMR, K6PBQ
DX (long distance/propagation): WB6EMR
Emergency operating/preparedness: WA6QYS
FM (VHF/UHF, repeaters):
HF operating techniques (SSB, CW): WB6EMR, K6PBQ
Classes/license upgrading: W6ACW
Legal/FCC rules: WB6YRU
SCCARA (club inner workings): K6PBQ, WB6YRU, WA6QYS
Children's Discovery Museum, volunteer operator: K6PBQ
EchoLink: KK6MX

W6ACW, Ed Hajny, (408) 739-6105

WB6EMR, James D. Armstrong, Jr.,
evening & msg: (408) 945-1202

KD6FJI, Lloyd DeVaughns,
(408) 225-6769 e-mail: kd6fji@arrl.net

KK6MX, Don Apte, (408) 629-0725
e-mail: kk6mx@aol.com

KB6NP, Jon Dutra, day & msg (408) 428-2058
evening (408) 867-8654
packet: home BBS NOARY
e-mail: jad@aol.com

K6PBQ, Don Village, (408) 263-2789

WA6QYS, Lou Steirer, (408) 241-7999
packet: home BBS NOARY

WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, msg (408) 265-2336
also (408) 269-2924
packet: home BBS NOARY
e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com

Newsletter Notes

I'd like to remind everyone that a photo now and again makes a nice addition to the newsletter. There are good opportunities for photos at all club events, for example: the Christmas luncheon or the upcoming VHF contest.

With digital cameras common these days, you've got fewer excuses. There's no film to develop and prints to scan. Just e-mail the jpg image to your newsletter editor with a caption.

Because of the cost of color copying, the printed version of the *SCCARA-GRAM* is still in B&W, but the electronic version (pdf file on our web site) is in full color.

So, articles are good, photos are good too.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor



SCCARA

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association
PO Box 6
SAN JOSE CA 95103-0006

Affiliate of the ARRL,
American Radio Relay League



FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SCCARA Membership Form for 2008

(Fill in name and call only if renewing and no info has changed)

Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: E A G T+ T N

Address: _____ Licensed since (yr): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____ Licence Expiration Date (mo/yr): _____

Telephone: () _____ New Member Renewal
 I'm also a member of the ARRL

E-mail: _____

Annual membership dues are payable at the first of the year and expire the following December 31.
New members joining on or after July 1, pay half the membership dues.

Annual Membership dues: \$20 Individual \$25 Family \$10 Student (under 18)
For family memberships (at the same address), please include a separate form for each family member.

I want the newsletter by: U.S. Mail internet (make sure your e-mail address is legible and correct)

Give this completed form (or copy) with payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or mail to the club address.