

# SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County  
Amateur Radio Association

Volume 24, Number 10

October 2008



## Our 440 Repeater is Operational

The SCCARA 440 repeater is back on the air. It's in the same location as before ... atop the Regional Medical Center near the intersection of McKee Road and Jackson Avenue.

This is not the same repeater that was in place before. We (SCCARA) abandoned that unit when it failed because there was no documentation available to troubleshoot and repair it.

The current repeater is a used Motorola Micor purchased by Jim Tyranski (KG6UDW) and was formerly in service as W6KCS. Lou Steirer (WA6QYS) found a set of the tech manuals for the Micor Repeater and Wally Britten (KA6YMD) provided a copy of the manual for our existing RC-96 Controller. Channel elements recrystalled for our transmit and receive frequencies and a replacement Motorola Vibrasponder element to set the PL tone were purchased. The Telewave duplexer from the old repeater was reused. Don Steinbach (AE6PM) performed the hardware modifications and tuneup, built and installed a signal conditioning circuit for the S-meter function, and integrated the RC-96 Controller. Jim and Don installed the equipment into the final rack cabinet. John Glass (NU6P) reprogrammed the RC-96 Controller and later verified the autopatch capability. Lou (WA6QYS), Greg (KF6FNA), Gary (WB6YRU) and Don (AE6PM) completed the installation at the site and turned on power at about 1800 on September 17.

The transmitter power output is in the neighborhood of 18 watts, in agreement with our NARCC coordination documents.

The new/added S-meter design is very perceptive to small changes in signal strength at moderate signal levels, as it should be. To use it, bring the repeater up for at least 1/2 second, announce your call letters, then press 8 on your DTMF keypad. When you release your PTT, it will report your signal strength after a few seconds. The minimum reportable signal is S-ZERO (no limiting) and the maximum is S9 + 30 dB (full limiting). This is not the same as the S-meter on your HF transceiver.

This Micor hardware has been around since 1979 (or 30 years) and there is no way of predicting whether this system will last 20 minutes or 20 years. If SCCARA intends to maintain repeater capability we need to set aside some serious money (about \$1500 per repeater) for purchasing a replacement on short notice.

The bottom line is that the repeater is working. Try it out.

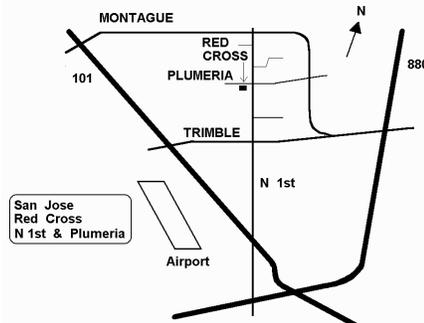
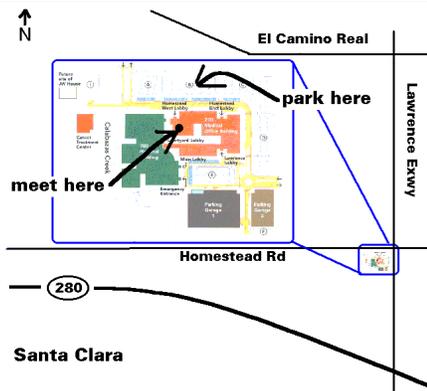
Don Steinbach, AE6PM

## Calendar

- 10/11 Electronic Flea Market (DeAnza) We host!
- 10/13 SCCARA General Meeting
- 10/17-19 Pacificon
- 10/20 SCCARA Board Meeting--(S.J Red Cross)
- 11/1 CW Sweepstakes (at the club station)
- 11/15 SSB Sweepstakes (at the club station)

## General Meeting

- Day: Monday, Oct. 13, 2008  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Rm 196, 1  
Featuring: George Williams, N6NKT, Red Cross Communications



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**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**

(all officers are also directors)

President	Jim Tyranski, KG6UDW	453-0745
	e-mail: kg6udw@arrl.net	
Vice President	Fred Townsend, AE6QL	263-8768
	e-mail: fred@dctolight.net	
Past President	- - -	
Secretary	David Dippon, AE6YE	
	e-mail: dippon@atstar.com	
Treasurer	Don Steinbach, AE6PM	867-3912
	e-mail: ae6pm@arrl.net	
Station Trustee	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
	e-mail: donvillage7@yahoo.com	
Director	Ned Tufekcic, AC6YY	690-7250
	e-mail: ac6yy@arrl.net	
Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	241-7999
	e-mail: wa6qys@aol.com	
Director	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
	e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net	
Director	John Parks, W6JPP	309-8709
	e-mail: w6jpp@arrl.net	
Director	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	269-2924
	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	

**COMMITTEES**

Activities	John Parks, W6JPP	309-8709
	e-mail: w6jpp@arrl.net	
Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	269-2924
	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	
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 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 (Mt Umunhum). User ports: 144.93 (1200 baud), 433.37 (9600 baud), telnet sun.n0ary.org (login "bbs"). Sysop: Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU (packet info: [www.n0ary.org/ncpa](http://www.n0ary.org/ncpa))

**TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

SCCARA contact Clark KE6KXO: 408 262-9334  
ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group,

## December meeting

Our annual Christmas meeting will be a luncheon on Saturday December 20 at 12:00 noon. This year our luncheon will be at the Creekside Inn 544 W. Alma Ave. San Jose (one block west of Hwy 87).

This year we will be having a gift exchange. The way it works is that everyone brings a wrapped gift suitable for a man or woman costing about \$10.00. This type of gift exchange is always a lot of fun to participate in.

Reservations need to be in by Friday Dec 5, (see sign-up sheet). Talk-in will be on our repeater, W6UU, 146.985- (simplex if you can't hit the repeater). Why not renew your membership at the same time?

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there!

73, Don K6PBQ

## Treasurer's Treatise

The current SCCARA account balances are: checking \$630.87, savings \$4342.64 and cash \$149.60 for a total of \$5123.11.

Two "lost" checks were cancelled and reissued (one to Clark Murphy and one to Fred Townsend).

None of the expenses for the 440 repeater have been submitted or paid. My estimate is \$400.00 to Jim Tyranski and \$207.56 to Don Steinbach.

There are no other unplanned liabilities outstanding.

Don AE6PM, Treasurer

## Club Station

Club Station Contests SCCARA will operate the following contests from our club station at the Red Cross. On Oct. 4 is the California QSO Party. In November the ARRL has 2 sessions for sweepstakes. On Saturday Nov. 1st we will operate the CW portion and on Saturday Nov. 15th we will operate the phone portion. These are great contests to operate as a club activity. So lets all make these fun contest for our club.

73 Don K6PBQ

## ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, October 3, 2008

### ANOTHER WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP MEDAL FOR ARDF TEAM USA

Ten years ago, only a few hams in North America knew that on-foot hidden transmitter hunting is an international sport with many names such as foxtailing, foxhunting, radio-orienteeering and Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) <<http://www.homingin.com/index.html>>. Few were aware that Eastern European countries had begun playing with ARDF decades ago; the first World Championships were in 1980. In 1988, stateside ARDF active hams in Portland, Oregon and Southern California were learning the ARDF ropes by holding on-foot

foxhunting events using international rules.

In the past 10 years, more hams in more places have discovered that this form of radiosport is great exercise for the body and the brain. According to ARRL ARDF Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, as the USA catches up with the rest of the world, the US's ARDF "big guns" continue to improve.

Earlier this month, the Korean Amateur Radio League <<http://www.karl.or.kr/>> hosted the ARDF World Championships <<http://www.2008ardf.org/>>, and for the sixth time, Team USA made the trip. Members of the American team ranged in age from 23 to 66, representing seven states. Team members earned their positions at the 2007 USA Championships near South Lake Tahoe, California as well as the 2008 USA Championships near Bastrop, Texas.

"Overall, this was Team USA's best performance ever," Moell said. "We had four Top 10 finishes in the two days of fox-finding competition, first with 2 meter AM signals, and then with 80 meter CW signals. ARRL's team faced more than 300 of the planet's best foxtailers that represented 24 other national Amateur Radio societies."

George Neal, KF6YKN, of Maspeth, New York, led Team USA, capturing a bronze medal in the category for men between ages 50 and 59 in the 2 meter foxhunt. He found all four required transmitters and got to the finish line in 1:23:42, less than six minutes behind gold medalist Igor Kekin of Russia. The other Top 10 finishers -- all in the 80 meter event -- were Vadim Afonkin of Boston, who was 5th in M40 category; Bob Cooley KF6VSE, of Pleasanton, California, who was 7th in M60, and Nadia Scharlau of Cary, North Carolina, who was 9th in W35.

"This was an excellent World Championships," Neal said. "The courses were very hard, almost brutal!" Radio-orientees are used to running among trees in forested land, using an orienteering map as a guide, but this year's 2 meter event on September 4 was quite different. According to Jay Hennigan, WB6RDV, of Goleta, California, the terrain of the 2400 acre site was unlike any he had ever experienced.

"The course was long and narrow, about three times as long as it was wide," Hennigan explained. "The start was in the north and the finish was in the south. On the map, it was about three-fifths woods, but that was all marked dark green, which meant you couldn't get through it unless you could find a pathway. Fortunately, there were a few trails in there to make it doable. The rest was marked yellow, which turned out to be cultivated fields and drained rice paddies. There were roads on either side, so it became a matter of running down the road until you thought you were perpendicular to a transmitter, slogging to it through the mud, punching in and then running to one of the side roads, depending on where the next fox appeared to be. It wasn't just rice, there were other crops including some kind of cabbage. We couldn't avoid trampling the plants, but the farmers weren't yelling or coming after us."

The 80 meter event on September 6 was mostly in more familiar forested terrain. It was a bigger site and a 10 percent longer course. Competitors said that they felt like mountain goats because it seemed as if each fox was on top of a different hill.

Excellent radio-orientees abound in Europe and Asia. Fourteen of the 25 nations at this year's World Championships took home one or more medals, but only five countries brought home gold. Three of them -- Russia, Ukraine and the Czech Republic -- dominated the medal count, capturing 71 percent of all medals and 92 percent of the golds. In these countries, ARDF is an important Amateur Radio activity in nearly every city and town. With so

many hams doing radio-orienteering, these countries can fill complete team rosters with the maximum allowable three persons in each age category for males and females.

Having a large team does not provide a cooperative advantage. Each competitor must work independently on championship courses. Any collusion or collaboration among team members is strictly forbidden; team scores are based only on the sum of individual performances.

Long-time map-and-compass orienteer Bob Cooley, KF6VSE, of Pleasanton, California, explained, that "It is important to make a lot of mistakes while practicing and to learn from them so that you don't make them in the future. I got the opportunity to get fooled in a variety of ways."

For more information on ARDF, including international rules, suggestions for equipment and ideas for local events, go to Moell's Web site <<http://www.homingin.com/index.html>>. "I welcome your local event stories and photos for future ARDF Updates," he said.

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## Meeting Minutes

### General Meeting, Sept. 8, 2008



*{no minutes were submitted by the deadline}*

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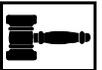
### Board Meeting, Sept. 15, 2008



*{no minutes were submitted by the deadline}*

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### Board Meeting, Aug. 18, 2008



The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by Jim Tyranski, KG6UDW.

Jim Tyranski proposed that David Dippon, AE6YE, appointed acting secretary through end of the year. John Parks, W6JPP, made a motion to confirm, and Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

John Parks announced that Ned Tufekcic, AC6YY, will be absent.

#### Treasury Report

Don Steinbach, AE6PM, reported the following:  
\$580.05 checking \$4342.64 savings \$157.60 cash \$5095.29 total. He also reported a number of outstanding checks.

Gwen Steirer submitted an expense report for Field Day food.

Last meeting's minutes were recorded by Joe Castellano and reviewed.

\$169.00 field day expenses as of this meeting other expense were expected

Jim Tyranski asked about another expenses related to Field Day.

\$64.00 from Greg Lane is still due

There will be a \$432.00 refund from Mt. Madonna park reservation.

Repeater Projects

There was discussion about the 70 cm repeater. Don Steinbach updated the board on the recent activities.

The program controller still to be programmed.

There should be two controllers—the old controller is already programmed.

Wally Britten suggested making the repeater audio slightly lower than normal speech.

There was also discussion about cabinets. Lou Steirer volunteered to transport the cabinet from Fred's QTH to Don's QTH.

John Parks announced that he will not be at the September board meeting.

Fred Townsend, AE6QL, mentioned working communications for the Red Cross. Mutual Aid communicator training is county provided.

There was a brief discussion about speakers for upcoming general meetings.

New Business

There was a discussion about patches and badges. Jim T is going to obtain pricing. There was a discussion about the need for patches or new badges. Don Village passed around a large circular SCCARA patch.

Jim Tyranski mentioned Adobe 9 for on-line meetings. He mentioned that a number of other possible schemes for on-line meetings. There was discussion about using the radio for emergency and off-schedule meetings.

Gary Mitchell asked about linking the 2 m and 70 cm repeaters. Station Trustee Report  
A battery cable with power poles is missing from the picnic. discuss about club batteries

Jim Tyranski proposed we take an inventory of club equipment

The club station open on 8/30/2008.

John Parks asked if we could ask the Red Cross to use a meeting room, instead of the cafeteria.

Repeater Trustee: No new status.

Don Steinbach asked if a change in the PL tone of the 70 cm repeater would require re-coordination.

Web Master: No new status.

Newsletter

Gary Mitchell mentioned the lack of content for the newsletter and that the deadline for submission is the last Monday of the month.

BBS

Traffic is being passed to the guys in Monterey. There was a discussion about a series of newsletter articles about the BBS, and Internet links between BBS systems.

The upcoming October flea market was discussed. Don Steinbach inquired about the plans, particularly about setting up a table and selling excess club items.

John Parks mentioned that Mitch donated ARRL books for SCCARA door prizes

Gary Mitchell asked about using excess cavities for BBS projects.

Jim Tyranski proposed that the next board meeting decided items to take to the October flea market, and decide use of excess cavities.

MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) for City of San Jose was discussed. We believed that it has been lost in the city bureaucracy. Its importance was discussed. Other repeater issues were discussed including the lack of cooperation with the City of San Jose. There was discussion of putting the 2 m repeater at 70 cm repeater site.

Gary Mitchell showed the board the new SCCARA business cards.

meeting adjourned at about 9:15 pm.

David Dippon, AE6YE, acting Secretary

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## Packet Pieces

### Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

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Date: 19 Nov 2005 22:20  
From: ZL3AI@ZL2BAU  
To: HUMOUR@WW  
Subject: Puzzle/Trip/Work

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Puzzle

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A man is looking at a picture and says:  
"Sisters and brothers have I none,  
But that man's father was my father's son."  
Who is in the picture? (see answer below)

Three Men On A Trip

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Fred, Jim, and Scott were at a convention together and were sharing a large suite on the top of a 75-story skyscraper.

After a long day of meetings, they were shocked to hear that the elevators in their hotel were broken and they would have to climb 75 flights of stairs to get to their room.

Bill said to Jim and Scott, "Let's break the monotony of this unpleasant task by concentrating on something interesting. I'll tell jokes for 25 flights, Jim can sing songs for the next 25 flights, and Scott can tell sad stories for the rest of the way."

At the 26th floor, Bill stopped telling jokes and Jim began to sing. At the 51st floor, Jim stopped singing and Scott began to tell sad stories.

"I will tell my saddest story first," he said. "I left the room key in the car!"

Work

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People who work sitting down get paid more than people who work standing up. --Ogden Nash

Puzzle answer: The man's son.

## 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, W6JPP, 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  
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 e-mail: donvillage7@yahoo.com  
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

If you've ever thought about doing more in the club, your chance is coming up. October is when we nominate officers and directors, elections are held at the November meeting. There are two seats open for directors (two-year term) and all officers are elected annually.

I'd like to encourage anyone seeking office to submit a statement in the newsletter. Let your fellow members know you're running and what your interests are.

Joe Castellano is our nomination committee chair, please contact Joe if you're interested or have any questions.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

## Annual December Meeting

Our annual December meeting will be a luncheon on Saturday December 20, at the Creekside Inn 544 W. Alma Ave. San Jose. **We will have a choice of three entrees, \$25.00 each.** Reservations need to be in by Friday, December 5. Talk in on our W6UU, 146.985- repeater ( simplex if can't hit the repeater).

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there. Why not renew your membership (back cover) at the same time? See December Meeting article for information on the gift exchange.

Don K6PBQ

For the annual meeting in December, Sign me up for the following lunch(es):

\_\_\_\_\_ Coulette Steak                      \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Marsala                      \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Total for lunch(es): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Give this form (or copy) with payment to the Treasurer or mail it to:

SCCARA  
PO Box 6  
San Jose, CA 95103-0006



**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: \_\_\_\_\_

Memberships begin January 1 and expire December 31.

**If renewing:** annual membership dues (base rate) are: \$20 Individual, \$25 Family, \$10 Student (under 18)

**For new members:**

If joining in January: base rate

If joining in February through October: base rate x (11 - month) x 10% (e.g. for June, that would be: base rate x 50%)

If joining in November or December: free for November and December if paying the base rate for the following year

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Dues payment for:**  individual  family  student

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.