

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 26, Number 12

December 2010



December meeting

Our annual Christmas meeting will be a luncheon on Saturday December 18 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 women 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 10 (see sign-up sheet). Talk-in will be on our repeater. W6UU, 146.985-. Why not renew your membership at the same time. Looking forward to seeing all of you there

73, Don Village K6PBQ

{Attn procrastinators: It's OK to send in your reservations NOW, but you should give Don a call to let him know it's in the mail His number is in the masthead on page 2. - Editor}

President's Prose

The election is over and the Officers and Directors will be introduced at our December annual holiday meeting at Creekside. Hopefully, Bob Vallio, W6RGG, Pacific Division Director, will be there as well to say a few words about ARRL activities.

I recently purchased the 2011 ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications. The last one I purchased was the 2007 edition and the first one I owned (and still have) was 1955 when I was first licensed. The price has gone up a bit over the years, from \$3.00 to \$49.95. The banner on the front of the book states "The comprehensive RF Engineering Reference", and that's certainly a true statement. There isn't a topic that I can think of that isn't covered. A CD of the book plus support files is included. If you've purchased a technical book or textbook lately you probably know that \$100 for a single book isn't unheard of, so this is a real bargain. I'm always a cheerleader for the League publications and haven't been disappointed yet.

The Technician Class license class and exam session held at West Valley College on November 13 produced 21 new licensees from a class of 23. I'm still interested in knowing if SCCARA members have any interest in a class geared toward a General or Extra license upgrade. I've asked the question several times at our general meetings with no response.

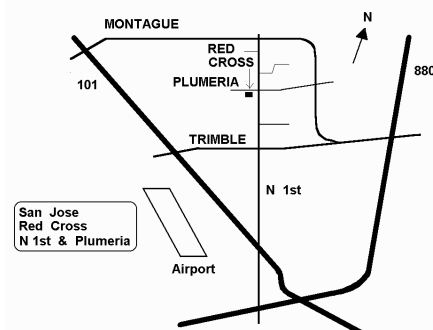
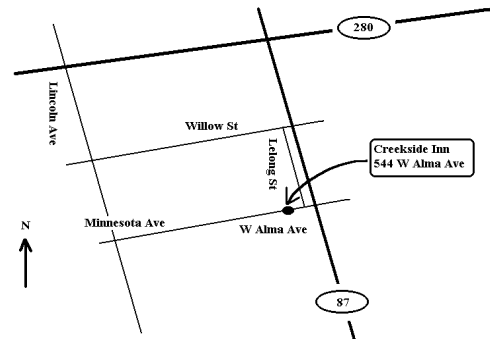
The Board is considering some equipment upgrades, repairs,

Calendar

- 12/18 SCCARA General Meeting--luncheon
- 12/20 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 1/10 SCCARA General Meeting

General Meeting

- Day: Saturday, Dec. 18, 2010
- Time: 12 noon
- Place: Creekside Inn 544 Alma Ave. San Jose
- Featuring: Luncheon (see sign-up sheet)



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
(all officers are also directors)

President	Don Steinbach, AE6PM	867-3912
	e-mail: ae6pm@arrl.net	
Vice President	Fred Townsend, AE6QL	263-8768
	e-mail: ftownsend@sbcglobal.net	
Past President	- - -	
Secretary	Viki Moldenhauer, KI6WDS	738-8781
	e-mail: vym@comcast.net	
Treasurer	Ned Tufekcic, AC6YY	690-7250
	e-mail: ac6yy@arrl.net	
Station Trustee	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
	e-mail: donvillage7@yahoo.com	
Director	John Glass	
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

Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	269-2924
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	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)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

replacements and relocations. Anything we do costs money and we're weighing how to best allocate our (your) funds for the long term.

Keep in mind that the SCCARA repeater is like a big telephone party line with many more people listening than talking. That said, it's a good idea to restrict the topics to items more-or-less pertaining to ham radio and/or of a friendly and personal nature.

Finally, don't forget the 2-meter FM net on Monday nights, and the 10-meter SSB net (28.385 MHz USB) on Thursday nights

73, Don, AE6PM



ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, November 24, 2010

AMATEUR RADIO IN SPACE: HAMS INVITED TO LISTEN FOR NEW SATELLITES

Five research satellites were carried to orbit on November 19 aboard a Minotaur V rocket from Kodiak Island, Alaska. All the satellites use Amateur Radio frequencies and hams have been invited to participate in their missions by monitoring and collecting data.

Two of the satellites are FASTRACs -- relatively small "nanosatellites" -- built by students at The University of Texas in Austin. They enter orbit as a single spacecraft, but then separate into FASTRAC 1 (known as "Sara Lily") and FASTRAC 2 (referred to as "Emma"). Both satellites use 1200 or 9600 baud AX.25 digital communication and transmit at 1 W output, so they should be receivable with omnidirectional VHF or UHF antennas and decodable by ordinary packet radio hardware and software. After their scientific missions are complete, the satellites will be reconfigured to function as digipeater relays for Amateur Radio use, as part of the Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS). Read more at www.arrl.org/news/hams-invited-to-listen-for-new-satellites.

From *The ARRL Letter*, December 2, 2010

ARRL STRENGTHENS THE CASE FOR MANDATORY BPL NOTCHING

The ARRL filed an ex parte submission with the FCC on November 30, providing additional support for its position that the FCC should require mandatory notching of the amateur bands by Broadband over Power Line (BPL). The ARRL's filing stated such devices can cause harmful interference to Amateur Radio operators, and requested that the FCC "establish rules that are appropriate for unlicensed BPL systems and which minimize the interference potential."

After the FCC released its Request for Further Comment and Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in July 2009, the ARRL filed comments and reply comments and made oral and written ex parte filings, urging the adoption of Part 15 Rules which reflect both the capabilities and practices of the bulk of the BPL industry,

and which are sufficient to protect licensed radio services in the HF and VHF bands.

"It has been painfully apparent that the present rules permit the deployment of BPL in configurations which cause severe, ongoing harmful interference if operated on radio spectrum that is in use locally," the ARRL asserted in its filing. The ARRL, in its numerous filings on this issue has "strenuously urged" the FCC to require full time, mandatory notching of all amateur allocations to at least 35 dB notch depths. "This level of notching is both achievable by present BPL systems and is typically, but not universally, implemented by the BPL industry." Read more at www.arrl.org/news/arrl-strengthens-the-case-for-mandatory-bpl-notching.

SOAR HIGH IN THE ARRL 10 METER CONTEST

The highest of the HF bands will be the central operating focus of many amateurs in the ARRL 10 Meter Contest, December 11-12. During the event, many propagation modes will be available: Sporadic-E will help you work stateside stations, a touch of meteor scatter in the morning will give you split-second chances to work stations -- you'd better be quick, though! -- and DX stations could find their way into the log, thanks to some recent signs of life from the F-layer. "Ten meters was open from the United States to Africa, Europe and South America during the CQ World Wide DX CW contest on the weekend of November 27," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. "Let's see if those conditions remain for the second weekend in December." Read more at www.arrl.org/news/soar-high-in-the-arrl-10-meter-contest.

ON THE AIR: THE SPRATLY ISLANDS DXPEDITION GETS WINGS

The 37 operators from 15 countries who make up the DX0DX DXpedition Team that will go to the Spratly Islands is finalizing preparations for the almost month-long DXpedition that begins January 6, 2011. Instead of going by boat, the team will instead fly to Thitu Island where they will set up their operation. Thitu is the second largest island in the Spratly Islands. The Spratlys are a group of more than 750 reefs, islets, atolls, cays and islands in the South China Sea between Vietnam, the Philippines, China, Malaysia and Brunei. They comprise less than 4 square kilometers of land area, spread out over more than 425,000 square kilometers of sea. Read more at www.arrl.org/news/the-spratly-islands-dxpedition-gets-wings.

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Nov. 8, 2010



Kaiser Hospital, 710 Lawrence Expressway, Santa Clara CA 95051 Status: Approved

The SCCARA General Membership Meeting was called to order by Don Steinbach AE6PM at 19:33.

Introductions of members and guests were made.

Announcements: - Elections of officers and board members are tonight. - There is a ham radio license test at West Valley College this Saturday. - Don Village K6PBQ reported that: - on Nov 20th, the club station at the Red Cross building will be open for the SSB ARRL Sweepstakes. - the Christmas luncheon is Dec 18th

at 12 noon at the Creekside Inn; get your reservations in to Don K6PBQ. - the club station will not be open the last Saturday of November or December - Lou has reserved a room at Kaiser for the General Meetings for the next year. - Fred Townsend AE6QL will be working the Dickins Faire at the Cow Palace, for the four weekends after Thanksgiving; contact him for discount tickets. - Clark mentioned the radios the club has for sale (details in the SCCARA-GRAM). John W6JPP will bring them to the next regular General meeting (January).

Elections of Officers and Board Members was held. The current status was: President: Don AE6PM, running unopposed; Vice-President: Fred AE6QL, running unopposed; Treasurer: no one running; Secretary: Viki KI6WDS, running unopposed; Directors: John NU6P, running unopposed, Greg KX6FNA, running unopposed. Nominations were closed for President Vice-President, Secretary, and Directors. Nominations were accepted: John Altieri W6HW for Treasurer. Wally KA6YMD moved that positions with no opposition be voted in by acclamation, John W6JPP seconded, motion passed by unanimous acclamation.

Fred AE6QL introduced Don AE6PM as speaker, on the subject Introduction to Antenna Modelling. Fred first showed slides of the Bear Creek Road Acorn Factor. Don's presentation discussed several antenna modelling programs, including one on the ARRL Antenna Handbook's CD, and showed screenshots of how to use one of them and the graphical outputs.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:50.
Viki Moldenhauer, Secretary

Board Meeting, Nov. 15, 2010



Red Cross Building, 2731 N 1st St, San Jose CA Status: Unreviewed

The SCCARA Board Meeting was called to order by Don AE6PM at 19:40.

Attendance: President: Don Steinbach AE6PM; Vice President: Fred Townsend AE6QL; Secretary: Viki Moldenhauer KI6WDS; Treasurer: Ned Tufekcic AC6YY; Trustee: Don Village K6PBQ; Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Wally Britten KA6YMD, John Parks W6JPP; Excused Absence: Directors John Glass NU6P, Gary Mitchell WB6YRU; Visitors: Gregg Lane KF6FNA, Clark Murphy KFKXO, Gwen Steirer KF6OTD.

Announcements: Don AE6PM announced the SCCARA-gram inputs are due to Gary no later than Monday November 29.

Treasurer's Report: checking = \$4682.09; savings = \$3847.03; cash = \$126.89.

Secretary's Report: The October Board Meeting and November General Meeting Minutes were reviewed. John W6JPP moved to accept the minutes as amended; Lou WA6QYS seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Vice President's Report: Fred AE6QL said the January presentation on RTTY is tentative. Don AE6PM suggested a schedule, even if tentative, be placed in the SCCARA-GRAM.

Old Business: - Lou WA6QYS has made meeting room reservations for the Red Cross building for 2011; we are officially in the radio club room.

- John W6JPP will bring the SCCARA equipment for sale to the club meeting in January; he'll put into the SCCARA-GRAM that it will be available for purchase at the meeting that night, bring checks or cash.

- HF transceiver upgrade: John W6JPP reported that the committee (John W6JPP, Ned AC6YY, and Gary WB6YRU) reviewed products against the criteria of: durable enough for Field Day, easy visual operation, all filters built-in, HF and CW only. The recommendation is the ICOM 7200, at a package price of \$1395 by mail order. Discussion was held about existing club radios, a preference for buying locally to support HRO and get customer service. No decision was reached, pending evaluation of current equipment and a possible future donation.

- The 70cm repeater upgrade is up and running at Don AE6PM's; next is to build up the interface and get it mounted. The 440 repeater is working well, though there is a periodic delay on recycling on 2m.

- Discussion was held on the 2m repeater backup including issues with access, interference with the Central Valley and coverage of the Bay Area depending on location. A poll was taken of everyone's opinion. All seven members present were in favor of moving forward although Wally and Fred expressed reservations based on the above. Viki abstained. Lou moved to have John Glass NU6P look into 2m repeater cost and delivery status; Don K6PBQ seconded; motion was approved unanimously.

New Business: - Software for the Secretary is still under investigation.

- CY 2011 financial planning: income and expenses were discussed. A rough breakdown of expenses is:

Asvaro (flea market)	2000+
Field Day reservation	400+
Field Day expenses	500+
insurance	400+
SCCARA-GRAM	2000?+
maintenance reserve	500
= total expenses	5800.

Income is roughly:

Flea market	2000 - 3700+
membership	2000
= total income	4000 - 5700.

- These are planning numbers only. Accurate projections of SCCARA-GRAM costs were not available. A 2-meter repeater backup and HF transceiver upgrades are being considered.

- Discussion was held about the meaning and impact of the state requiring vendors at the flea market to collect sales tax.

Station Trustee's Report: Don K6PBQ announced the station will be open this Saturday for the ARRL Sweepstakes.

Editor's Report: Gary reported by email that we're saving over ten percent now that the other clubs have been moved over to electronic delivery and suggested the board might want to consider having honorary memberships be electronic delivery.

N0ARY BBS Report: Gary reported by mail that the N0ARY BBS is running fine. The only thing new to report is that there are plans to switch the 6 meter antenna to vertical polarity and move it to a better location. This won't affect users, the 6 meter port is for longer distance forwarding. Some of the other BBSs have mounting issues with a 6 M horizontal antenna. Also vertical is not directional, which is better for nodes and centrally located BBSs.

Repeater Chairman's Report: Wally KA6YMD said things are working as well as can be expected.

Web Masters Report: Wally KA6YMD said it is working as well as can be expected.

Other miscellaneous announcements: John W6JPP expressed pleasure working with the board, as he steps down to let other members get involved at the board level. Fred AE6QL mentioned the FCC has formalized rules on vanity calls, and a path to replace a station trustee. Discussion was held about asking Bob Vallio to introduce officers at the December lunch meeting, and getting a group picture.

Future Actions: The Fixit List still consists of moving the axle, attaching the jack wheel, and fixing the aux tail light on the trailer; repairing coax cables, and adding antenna rotator connectors. Newly added was troubleshooting and repairing the FC-757AT antenna tuner at the Red Cross.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:00.
Viki Moldenhauer, Secretary

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====
Date: 18 Nov 2010 17:05
From: NOKFQ@NOKFQ
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: TENJOOBERRYMUDS

In order to continue getting-by in America (our home land), we all need to learn the NEW English language! Practice by reading the following conversation until you are able to understand the term "TENJOOBERRYMUDS".

With a little patience, you'll be able to fit right in. Now, here goes...

The following is a telephone exchange between maybe you as a hotel guest and room-service somewhere in the good old U S A today.....

Room Service : "Morrin. Roon sirbees."

Guest : "Sorry, I thought I dialed room-service."

Room Service: "Rye . Roon sirbees...morrin! Joowish to oddor sunteen???"

Guest: "Uh..... Yes, I'd like to order bacon and eggs.."

Room Service: "Ow July den?"

Guest: ".....What???"

Room Service: "Ow July den?!?... Pryed, boyud, poochd?"

Guest: "Oh, the eggs! How do I like them? Sorry.. Scrambled, please."

Room Service: "Ow July dee baykem? Crease?"

Guest: "Crisp will be fine."

Room Service: "Hokay. An Sahn toes?"

Guest: "What?"

Room Service: "An toes. July Sahn toes?"

Guest: "I... Don't think so."

RoomService: "No? Judo wan sahn toes???"

Guest: "I feel really bad about this, but I don't know what 'judo wan sahn toes' means."

RoomService: "Toes! Toes!...Why Joo don Juan toes? Ow bow English moppin we bodder?"

Guest: "Oh, English muffin!!! I've got it! You were saying 'toast'... Fine...Yes, an English muffin will be fine."

RoomService: "We bodder?"

Guest: "No, just put the bodder on the side."

RoomService: "Wad?!?"

Guest: "I mean butter... Just put the butter on the side."

RoomService: "Copy?"

Guest: "Excuse me?"

RoomService: "Copy...tea...meel?"

Guest: "Yes. Coffee, please... And that's everything."

RoomService: "One Minnie. Scramah egg, crease baykem, English moppin, we bodder on sigh and copy Rye ???"

Guest: "Whatever you say.."

RoomService: "Tenjooberrymuds."

Guest: "You're welcome"

Remember I said "By the time you read through this YOU WILL UNDERSTAND 'TENJOOBERRYMUDS'"and you do, don't you!

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, W6JPP

TVI/RFI: WB6YRU

Homebrew projects, construction: KD6FJI, WB6YRU

Computers: older IBM PC: WB6YRU

Packet Network (BBS, forwarding): WB6YRU

Code operating and installations: WB6EMR, K6PBQ

DX (long distance/propagation): WB6EMR

Emergency operating/preparedness: WA6QYS

HF operating techniques (SSB, CW): WB6EMR, K6PBQ

Legal/FCC rules: WB6YRU

SCCARA (club inner workings): K6PBQ, WB6YRU, WA6QYS

EchoLink: KK6MX

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

W6JPP, John Parks, (408) 309-8709 e-mail: w6jpp@arrl.net

K6PBQ, Don Village, (408) 263-2789 e-mail: donvillage7@yahoo.com

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

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

Annual December Meeting Sign-up

Our annual December meeting will be a luncheon on Saturday December 18, at the Creekside Inn 544 W. Alma Ave, San Jose. We will have a choice three entrees, \$25.00 each. **Reservations need to be in by Friday December 10.** See December meeting article for information on the gift exchange. Talk-in will be on our repeater, W6UU, 146.985-. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there. Why not renew your membership (back cover) at the same time?

73, Don K6PBQ

For the annual meeting in December, sign me up for the following lunch(es) at \$25 ea.

____ Coulette Steak ____ Chicken Marsala ____ Salmon

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

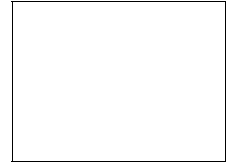
Give this form (or copy) with payment to the treasurer or mail to: SCCARA PO Box 6 San Jose, Ca 95103-0006



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 2011

If none of your info has changed, fill in name and call only

Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: E A G 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.