

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 29, Number 6

June 2013



Prez Sez

Your board has been rethinking Field Day. We heard from the membership that Mt. Madonna County Park was too far away. Many felt that a local site would allow them to visit without the need to stay overnight so a renewed effort has been made to find a site within the greater San Jose area.

The idea that Field Day is a national preparedness drill that helps prepare the amateur community to assist in real emergencies is lost on many governmental agencies. They throw road blocks in the way that seemingly have no logical basis. For instance San Jose Parks and Recreation wants six months to think about requests to use city parks. Even six months advanced planning doesn't solve the restroom problem. The restrooms are locked up at night, not to keep people from using the restrooms but to keep people from camping in the restrooms. Whether they are locked up or used as living abodes the effect on the other park users is the same. You have to hold it at night or get your own key to the restrooms.

There are other more subtle issues. The club has traditionally operated as a 2AÆ meaning that we may have two HF stations on the air at any one time. In reality the GOTA and VHF/UHF stations add third and fourth transmitters. Even when the transmitters are in different bands the receivers can experience what is known as RFI, Radio Frequency Interference. Simply the transmitter from one station overloads the receiver of another station. Roofing and bandpass filters help reduce RFI but the best solution is isolation between antennas and transmitters. The rules state that all stations must reside within a 1000 foot circle. That's approximately three football fields in both length and width. Ideally then the antennas of one station would be located inside the north edge of the circle while the second station antennas would be orthogonally located at the east edge of the 1000 foot circle and so forth at south and west for the next stations. At Mt. Madonna we have about a 200 foot circle and at Alviso and the Red Cross it has been reduced to less than 150 foot circle. We find RFI to be a major problem on any small to medium sized lot. Fifty feet makes a big difference. Experienced HF users can sometimes deal with RFI but it has led to total confusion at the GOTA station. Ideally we would have a big park to spread out into. Finally, the LRV (trolley) seen at the Red Cross and other places is a major RFI generator on 80 meters. As much as some people like the Red Cross in many respects it is one of the worst locations.

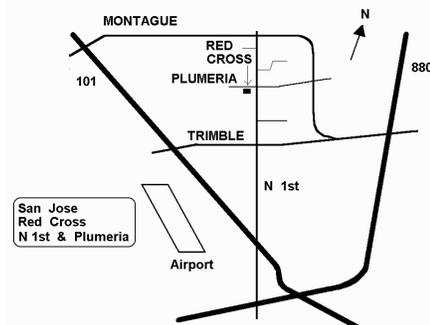
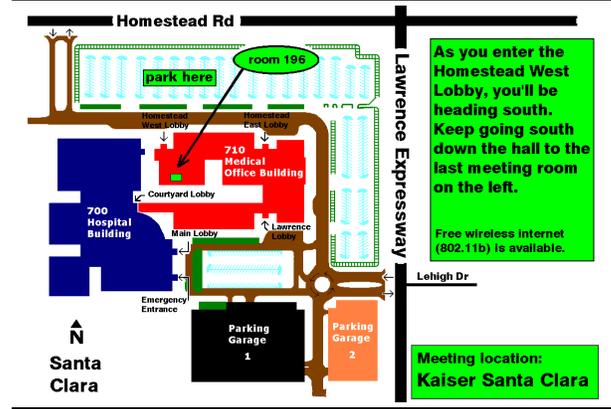
Taking all these considerations into effect your board has voted to return to Alviso. It is far from ideal but your board feels it is the best compromise. If you are able to participate in any way, please let your chairman, Gregg Lane know. Even a small effort will help lessen the load. On June 22 and 23rd do grab your friends and family and come out. Be sure let us know you are

Calendar

- 6/8 DeAnza electronic flea market
- 6/10 SCCARA General Meeting
- 6/17 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 6/22-23 Field Day

General Meeting

- Day: Monday, June 10, 2013
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Rm 196
- Featuring: Greg KF6FNA, Field Day preparation



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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>. (Webmaster: Wally Britten, KA6YMD, 408-293-3847, ka6ymd@arrl.net)

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS
(all officers are also directors)

President	Fred Townsend, AE6QL	408-263-8768
	e-mail: ae6ql@arrl.net	
Vice President	John Parks, W6JPP	408-309-8709
	e-mail: w6jpp@arrl.net	
Past President	Don Steinbach, AE6PM	408-867-3912
	e-mail: ae6pm@arrl.net	
Secretary	Viki Moldenhauer, KI6WDS	408-738-8781
	e-mail: vym@comcast.net	
Treasurer	Goetz Brandt, K6GKB	408-259-7287
	e-mail: goetz@ix.netcom.com	
Station Trustee	Don Village, K6PBQ	408-263-2789
	e-mail: donvillage7@yahoo.com	
Director	Clark Murphy, KE6KXO	408-262-9334
	e-mail: clarkmurph@yahoo.com	
Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	408-241-7999
	e-mail: wa6qys@aol.com	
Director	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	408-293-3847
	e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net	
Director	Greg Lane KF6FNA	408-393-5607
	e-mail: kf6fna@comcast.net	
Director	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	408-269-2924
	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	

COMMITTEES

Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	408-269-2924
	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	
Repeater	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	408-293-3847
	e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net	
N0ARY BBS	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	408-269-2924
	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: ncpa.n0ary.org)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

coming so we will have enough food for all.

73, Fred, AE6QL



Flea Market

SCCARA hosts the July electronic flea market

The July 13th De Anza Electronics Flea Market will be hosted by SCCARA. Do not miss this opportunity to help your club. It is a manpower intensive event. Help is needed at 04:30 at the gate, 05:00 setting up the food booth, 05:00 to 11:00 making coffee, selling donuts, coffee, sodas, water and bananas, 11:00-13:00 disassembling the food booth and cleaning up the Flea Market area. The shifts at the food booth are 2 hours. Please sign up for a shift or two, SCCARA will also have a sales table to sell surplus items. If you have anything you would like to donate to the club, please let me know. With the expenses of the new repeater, generator, re-cabling of the club towers our coffers need an infusion of funds. The flea market being our sole fund raiser, please consider contributing your time on July 13th and/or a sale-able item to the club.

Lou WA6QYS

SCCARA at Stanford

SCCARA had a demonstration HF station at the Stanford American Indian Pow Wow on Mother's Day weekend May 11th. An off center fed dipole antenna was suspended in the trees and the first station to be contacted was in the Canary Islands...no chirps noted. We worked a number of other stations but our main goal was to introduce Ham Radio to the public. Gregg, Fred and Clark answered questions from the curious onlookers. The SCCARA station is set up in conjunction with the luncheon that Gwen has organized for 20 years, so nobody leaves hungry. Some of the club members seen at the event were Gwen, Teresa, Don S. and Phyllis, Gregg, Fred and Clark.

Lou WA6QYS

SCCARA helps MS

Big Thanks to SCCARA! The MS Society, Joan and I would like to thank SCCARA for providing our radio communication for this years MS walk on April 27,2013 in down town San Jose. Thanks again to the following hams for their service Fred AE6QL, John KI6ANW, Wally KA6YMD,Lloyd KD6FJL,Bill AG6EM and Joshua N6TZF

73 Don K6PBQ

Repeater Report

Set up requirements for the Test Repeater. 1) set the CTCSS (PL) tone to Encode only for both systems. This will allow you to hear traffic on either system to avoid interfering with other users 2) Set the encode for the Test Repeater to 107.2. This

will allow access to the test system. There is NO patch or auto dial available on the test system. When calling identify which system you are on, Eagle or Test System.

Wally, KD6YMD, Repeater Committee Chair

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, May 2, 2013

PRESIDENT OBAMA NOMINATES FINANCIER AND FORMER TELECOM EXECUTIVE TOM WHEELER AS FCC CHAIRMAN

On Wednesday, May 1, President Barack Obama announced that he nominated Tom Wheeler to be the new Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. If the Senate confirms the nomination, Wheeler will replace Julius Genachowski who announced his resignation from the FCC in March. Pending Wheeler's confirmation, FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn -- the agency's soon-to-be senior Democrat -- will serve as the Commission's acting chairman.

Wheeler, 67, has served as an informal adviser to Obama in recent years and has been a major fundraiser for his political campaigns. He has a background as a venture capitalist and as a lobbyist for the communications industry. He is the former President of the National Cable Television Association (now known as National Cable & Telecommunications Association) and former Chief Executive Officer of the Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association. Currently, he is a Managing Director at Core Capital Partners, a venture capital firm in Washington, DC. Read more at www.arrl.org/news/president-obama-nominates-financier-and-former-telecom-executive-tom-wheeler-as-fcc-chairman.

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, May 13, 2013



{No minutes received by the deadline. -Editor}

Board Meeting, May 20, 2013



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

The SCCARA Board Meeting was called to order by Fred Townsend (AE6QL) at 19:40.

Attendance:

President: Fred Townsend AE6QL; Vice President John Parks W6JPP; Trustee: Don Village K6PBQ; Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS; Gregg Lane KF6FNA; Wally Britten KA6YMD; Clark Murphy KE6KXO, Gary Mitchell WB6YRU

Absences (excused): Secretary: Viki Moldenhauer KI6WDS; Treasurer: Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Past President: Don Steinbach AE6PM

Visitors: Gwen Steirer KF6OTD, Teresa Nemeth

Announcements: Field Day is June 21-23. SCCARA's flea

market is July 13.

Secretary's Report: The secretary was not present (but was dialed in by phone). The previous minutes were published in the SCCARAGram and will stand as submitted.

Trustee's Report: Don (K6PBQ) will have the station open this Saturday (May 25). The station will not be open the last Saturday in June because of Field Day, and also Don and Joan's 50th wedding anniversary. Bob (N3FAW) brought back the club radios that he had been configuring for RTTY and PSK31.

Vice President's Report: John (W6JPP) has no outside speaker lined up for the June meeting, as the club will discuss Field Day. He has had no response from Valley Christian High School, and will try to contact them again. Also the satellite people cancelled, citing overloaded commitments.

President's Report: Fred (AE6QL) has selected 3 videos for Field Day programs: one on amateur radio, one on Field Day, and one on operating the K3. Viki (KI6WDS) offered to get a 12x14 wall tent for the viewing area. Fred has a pop-up canopy, but wants dark shades for a viewing area: Gregg (KF6FNA) has light blue plastic tarps 7x9'6" from Harbor Freight for side shades.

Newsletter: Gary (WB6YRU) has reduced the number of copies he prints and saved 13%. After discussion of how many to print for the upcoming Field Day and flea market he will print 10 for Field Day and 15 for the flea market. He also submitted the newsletter costs. There was much discussion of color pictures in newsletter, printed copy price vs. internet cost, and multiple dues rates, but no motion was made. Copying: \$1225.82 Postage: \$137.28 Total: \$1363.10

BBS: Gary (WB6YRU) reported that since N0ARY is the only BBS on 144.93 MHz, it will be moved to 145.09 MHz, where all the others are. He will put an article into the newsletter.

Property list: There was discussion on the feasibility of adding an item number to the tables of items in the property list, but apparently the file format does not support non-manual numbering.

Repeater: Wally (KA6YMD) reported the repeater is working normally. There are no announcements on the new repeater yet. Lou wanted to have people check in a second time after the Monday night club net, but on the new repeater so that coverage could be compared. Notice of this will be given in a SCCARAGRAM article. Viki (KI6WDS) requested a writeup for the newsletter explaining how to set up a handheld for the new repeater. Wally also reported from the NARCC meeting that they held election of officers.

Web page: Discussion was held about adding the PDF files for all the old newsletters to the web page. Gary had confirmed with the web site QRZ that there is no upper limit on storage if content is amateur radio related. Unfortunately early newsletters are in WordPerfect, with manually half-toned images, so scanned versions of these might take up a lot of space. This issue will be worked offline.

Field Day: Gregg (KF6FNA) reported a less than overwhelming response at the last general meeting to requests for help and shift coverage, but the meeting attendance was not representative. Far more people said they would show up if it is held in the valley than at Mt. Madonna park. If we are changing it from Mt. Madonna we will need to announce the location change on the nets, and by phone calls. Gregg mentioned that because the island ("Stink Island") is still flooded at this time, we may plan on one tower (the trailer) and multiple wire antennas. Gregg (KF6FNA), John (W6JPP), Dennis (KJ6ZZJ), and Lou (WA6QYS) changed the

cables on the towers on Saturday.

Lou made a motion to have the Field Day location be Alviso; Gregg seconded; the motion passed with one abstention. There will not be an additional meeting to discuss the FD site.

Gregg wanted permission to reserve a port-a-potty; the larger handicap-accessible size was agreed upon. Don (K6PBQ) will cancel the Mt. Madonna reservation which should cover the port-a-potty charge

Lou (WA6QYS) reported that Goetz (K6GKB) was contacted by WB6SXV who wanted to donate his father's equipment; Lou picked up the equipment (mostly homebrew). Lou will let Viki know if the acknowledgment can wait until she returns.

Gary asked about selling some of the radios on the property list. This will be discussed in the future.

Fred adjourned the meeting at 21:01.

Viki Moldenhauer, Secretary KI6WDS

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 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 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

License testing, new amateurs: W6JPP

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

Field Day

FIELD DAY in ALVISO, June 22-23, 2013

ARRL FIELD DAY is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth full weekend of June of each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations. Field Day is a picnic, a camp out, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN! It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For SCCARA, Field Day is one of the highlights of our annual calendar.

Preparations for Field Day are on-going. The SCCARA antenna trailer is parked at 1425 State St., Alviso, in the front yard of Clark Murphy (KE6KXO). Thank you for making your residence available, Clark! With the help of Dennis (KJ6ZZJ), John (W6JPP), Lou (WA6QYS), Clark (KE6KXO) and Gregg (KF6FNA), all three crank-up towers have new steel cables. The club generator was brought out of storage for use at the Stanford Pow Wow and performed flawlessly! We will be checking coax, rotors and control cables on the first two weekends of June.

On Friday, June 21, 10:00 AM, club volunteers will meet at Clark's (1425 State St., Alviso) and load the club antenna trailer. At 1:00 PM it will be towed to the Field Day location so that the antennas can be deployed. Several members will spend the night to watch our equipment. Saturday morning will start with Don's (K6PBQ) famous pancake and egg breakfast for all to enjoy. In the afternoon the BBQ will be lit, providing hot dogs and hamburgers.

At 1800 UTC (1100 AM local time) Field Day officially starts and goes for 24 hours. SCCARA will be operating as a "2A" classification again. We will have four radio stations.

- 1) GOTA (get on the air)
- 2) UHF/VHF
- 3) Digital / CW-HF
- 4) Phone HF

Fred (AE6QL) Will be showing videos on Field Day, Amateur Radio, and the Elecraft K3 radio.

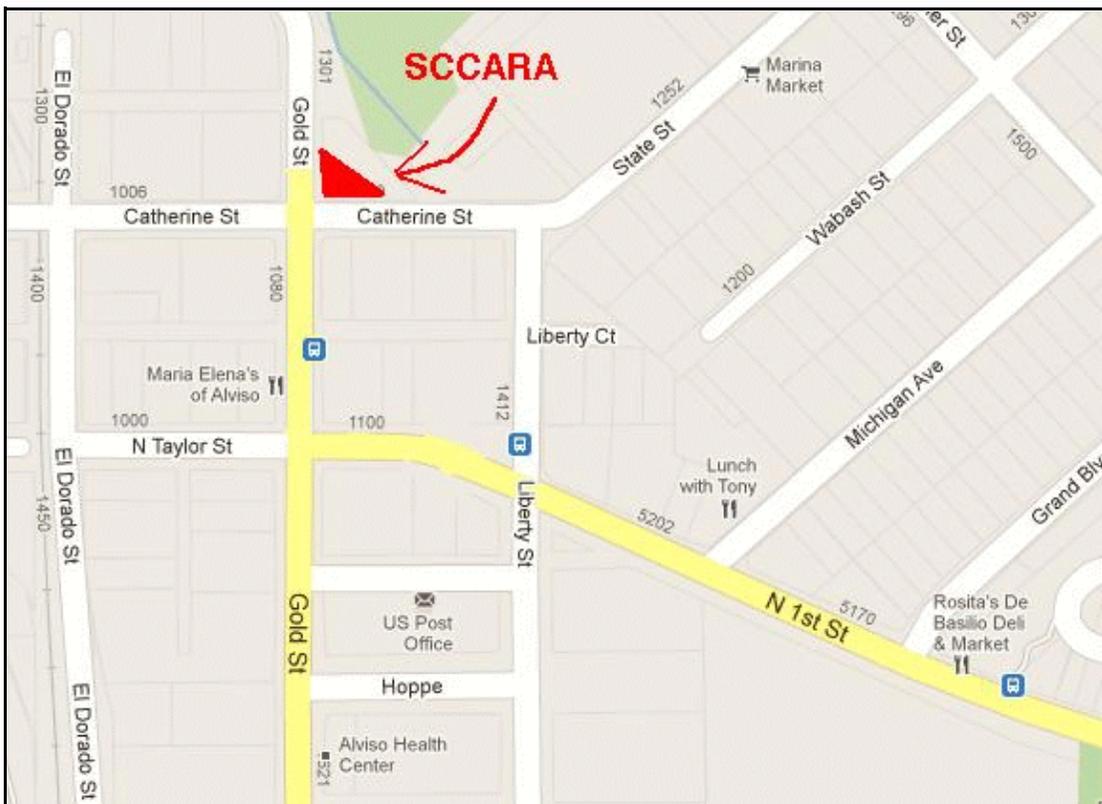
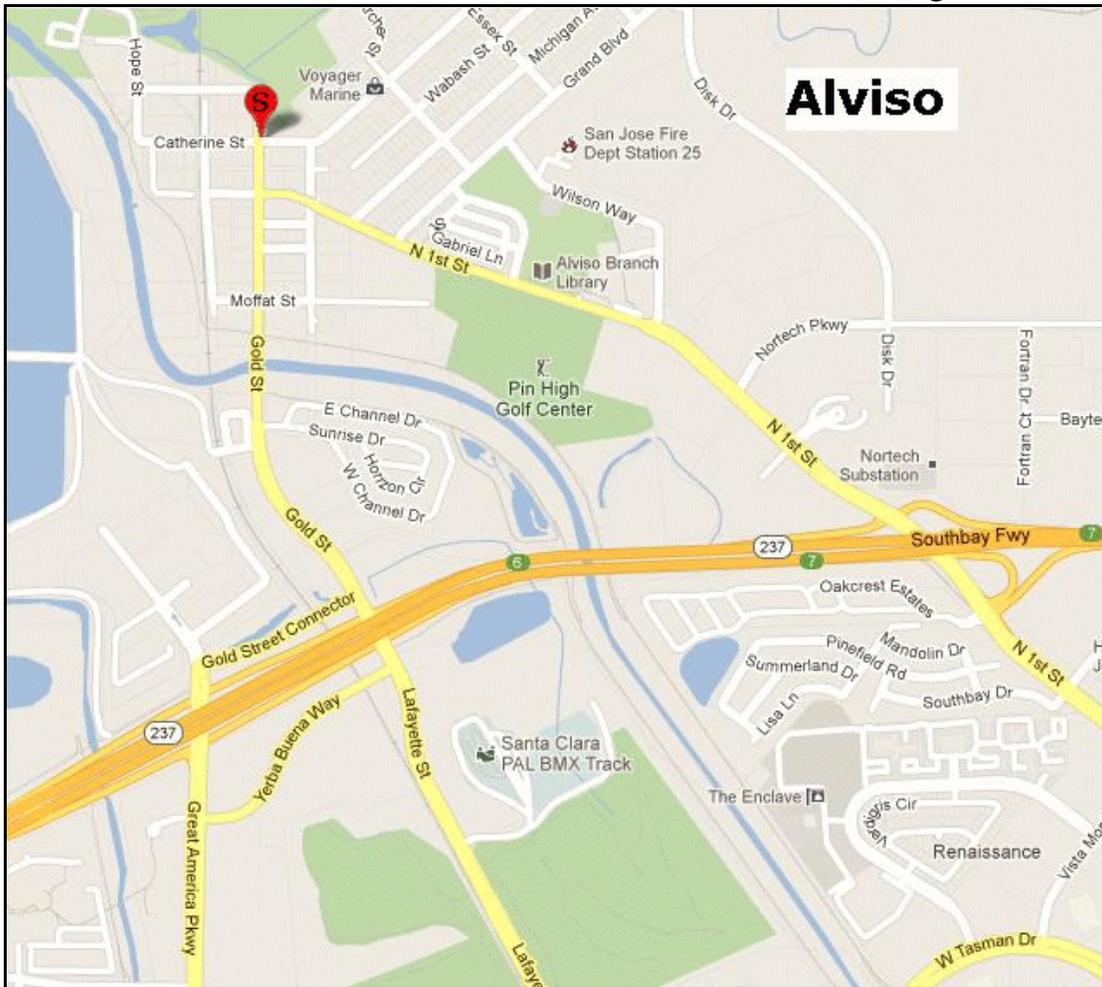
Sunday morning will be busy with the radio stations making their final contacts and foodies trying to empty the ice chests. When the contest ends and radios are turned off, anyone still hungry has a burger and we start the take-down and load up the trailer for its return trip to Clark's.

To get to SCCARA's Field Day location, exit HWY 237 on N. First St., and go North to Alviso. N. First becomes N. Taylor St. Turn right on Gold St. and go 1 block to Catherine St. We'll be at the N-E corner of Gold St. and Catherine St. And we'll be monitoring our repeater, 146.985- (PL 114.8 Hz).

For more information on SCCARA's Field Day, attend the monthly general meeting at Kaiser Hospital, Santa Clara on Monday, June 10, 2013.

73 Gregg KF6FNA

Where we'll be for Field Day:





SCCARA

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association
PO Box 106
SAN JOSE CA 95103-0106

Affiliate of the ARRL,
American Radio Relay League



FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SCCARA Membership Form for 2013

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: _____

make sure your e-mail is legible and correct if you want the newsletter by internet

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
(costs the club about \$35/year)

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