

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 30, Number 3

March 2014



Prez Sez

Your board has been looking at activities for the coming year. We have our summer activities, namely field day the fourth weekend in June and in August the picnic. I can't believe I missed the picnic in 2013. I showed up at Mary Gomez Park and no one from our crew was there. It was easy to see what the problem was. The park was already full so the picnic got moved to another park. Unfortunately I had dashed off leaving both of my VHF radios at home. Then I got an emergency phone call. By the time that was cleared it was well past noon.

Why couldn't we reserve a spot in Mary Gomez Park? Santa Clara City only reserves spots in one park and it isn't Mary Gomez. We are looking around for a better park perhaps not in the city of Santa Clara. We are looking for a better place for Field Day too. I have my eye on two very nice places, one in the City of San Jose and the other in the County but close. If you have any suggestions for either events please let us know.

It has also been suggested we have a spring event too. One person suggested we make it purely social and not bring the radios. Somehow a radio club without radios doesn't sound right but I will go with the majority vote. How do you feel about a no radio picnic? Let me or your board member know.

Those of you that attended the January meeting discovered we were in our alternate meeting location in the basement. The word is that most of our 2014 meetings will be in the basement. March will be an exception and one of the few that will be above ground. If you get lost look for the signs or use your radio. What a concept: radio directions I mean.

Another topic revisited: got any ideas for a program? What are your favorites? Please tell Gregg Lane, KF6FNA. This is your chance to get your favorite topic explored.

73, Fred, AE6QL, ae6ql@arrl.net



March Meeting

The March 10 meeting will be held in room C1/C2 on the ground floor of the Kaiser Medical Office Building.

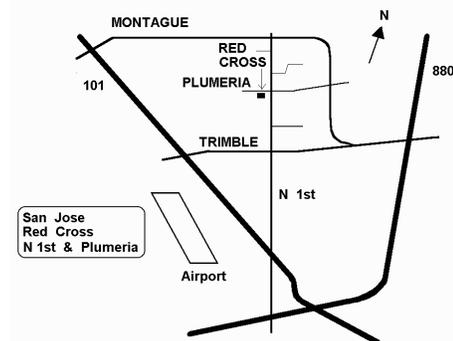
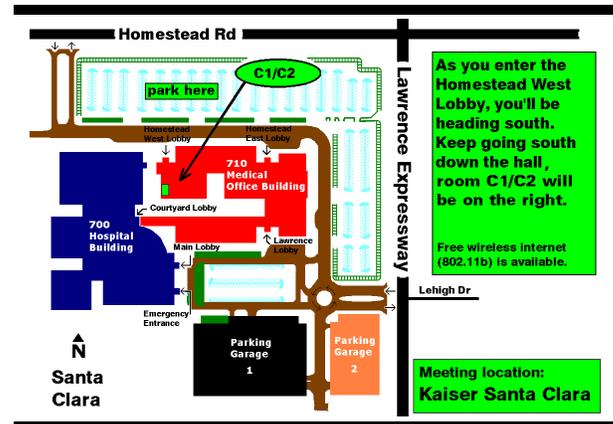
The speaker will be Don Steinbach AE6PM. Don will be speaking on remote operation of a ham station. SCCARA members who remember Don's previous presentation on Antenna

Calendar

- 3/8 DeAnza electronic flea market
- 3/10 SCCARA General Meeting
- 3/17 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting

- Day: Monday, March 10, 2014
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Room C1/C2
- Featuring: Don AE6PM on station remote control



The **SCCARA-GRAM** is published monthly by the **SANTA CLARA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**, PO Box 106, San Jose CA 95103-0106. 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>. (Webmaster: Wally Britten, KA6YMD, 408-293-3847, ka6ymd@arrl.net)

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(all officers are also directors)

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Vice President	Greg Lane KF6FNA	408-393-5607
	e-mail: kf6fna@comcast.net	
Past President	Don Steinbach, AE6PM	408-867-3912
	e-mail: ae6pm@arrl.net	
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	e-mail: vym@comcast.net	
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	e-mail: donvillage7@yahoo.com	
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	e-mail: clarkmurph@yahoo.com	
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	e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net	
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	e-mail: kd6fji@arrl.net	

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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 (connect to n0ary-1). User ports: 145.09 MHz at 1200 baud, 433.37 MHz at 9600 baud, and telnet sun.n0ary.org (login "bbs"). Sysop: Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU. For general packet info, see the NCPA web site ncpa.n0ary.org.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

Modeling know that Don is an excellent speaker, so we can expect an informative and enjoyable meeting.

Hope to see you there.

73, Gregg KF6FNA

Joan Village, Silent Key

Thursday, February 13, 2014 SCCARA, Friends of SCCARA, friends of the community, and Village Family said goodbye to Joan Village, wife of our station trustee, Don Village, K6PBQ and mother to the Village Family.

Joan played a part in many activities of the amateur radio community including SVECS breakfasts and SCCARA Field Day and Picnics but her starring role with in the MS Walkathon where she finished every year. I first met Joan when her daughter and mine participated in the YMCA Indian Princess program hosted by the Village Family. Later Don and I, almost neighbors, reacquainted in the Boys Scouts only to notice that we were both hams.



To Joan, Don, and your family; on behalf of SCCARA, I say 73 and 88.

Fred Townsend, SCCARA President

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, February 6, 2014

ARRL FIELD DAY INFORMATION NOW AVAILABLE

The 2014 Field Day packet is now available. ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air event. It takes place each year in the US and Canada on the fourth weekend in June, when thousands of radio amateurs gather with their clubs, in groups, with friends, or by themselves to operate "in the field" to simulate an emergency communication situation.

In 2013, the ARRL received more than 2500 Field Day entries, representing participation by more than 36,000 radio amateurs who completed in excess of 1.2 million individual contacts on CW, phone, and digital modes.

Field Day 2014 is June 28-29, and it's not too early to start planning.

Voice Crying in the Wilderness

Viki (KI6WDS), our club secretary, has withdrawn to a remote corner of Idaho where she is now living on the family ranch. This has become obvious to those who have tried to hear her on the morning 40 meter Rhubarb net or on the afternoon 20 meter net. Her Yaesu FT-857d simply does not have the power to push through the noise or span the distance between us.

While helping a San Jose lady dispose of her uncle's estate, a Heathkit SB-230 amplifier showed up as part of his huge ham shack inventory. Without thinking about it, I offered her \$300 for the 1975 grounded grid amplifier and took my chances that it might be just the thing for Viki outside Kooskia Idaho. This was the last amplifier made by Heathkit and at the time was a wonderment of power and silent operation. Turns out it used the latest EIMAC ceramic conduction cooling, no fan whatsoever! Quite a few manufacturers incorporated this tube into their equipment only to have EIMAC pull the plug on their designs and offer only a convection cooled version of the tube instead.

So there you have it, I bought a forty year old amplifier, which most likely had dried out electrolytic capacitors in the power supply, myriads of diodes probably fried, resistors no longer resisting and a final amplifier tube no longer available. How do you spell Midas backwards, was my first reaction. The touch that turns gold into lead has always been with me. Upon hearing my lamentations, Larry (W2QOV) said to bring the unit over to his house, we could simply replace his Heathkit SB-200 with my unit and push some power through it and on to a dummy load. Imagine my elation when after dipping and peaking the watt meter registered 750 watts!

The final step in the project was to take the amplifier over to Don (AE6PM), who was hiding from the severe Butte Montana winter in his snow bird residence in Saratoga. Don had the same Yaesu FT-857d that Viki has and this allowed the soft key to be modified for a mini DIN connection on the exciter. I thought I was a genius for discovering a way around the impossible job of soldering a mini DIN connector. I went down to Halted Specialties and bought a double ended 8 pin mini DIN cable, cut it in half and after exposing the wires did the easiest solder job imaginable. When I tried to impress Don with my brilliance, he said he had been doing this for years. Don has a way of tolerating ignorance that verges on the sublime. He verified that my wiring was correct and the package was ready for delivery.

Most people would check out the weather and driving conditions before heading for Idaho in February, but I was now on a mission from god and not to be stopped. And so it was that I got caught in some of the worst driving conditions imaginable. At one point a total "white out", no horizon, nothing but solid white and the dim outline of what I hoped was a vehicle ahead of me. Finally a complete stoppage that lasted one and half hours. Mile after mile of no visible pavement, the Amber Alert signs requiring chains for all but the lightest vehicles. Trucks and cars at all angles off the road. At one point I watched a vehicle slowly pirouette into a snow bank. As I was judging the driver's ineptitude, I hit the same icy spot and just barely recovered traction.

When I finally arrived in Kooskia Idaho, Viki answered my call with a direct command to stay put, she and her sister would come into town and get me. We left my car in the grocery store parking lot and headed to the ranch in a four wheel drive, studded tire SUV driven by Kari, Viki's sister. It is a thirteen mile trek to the ranch involving endless repetitions of Y's in the road. A veritable Yogi Berra nightmare, but Kari took them all with success even though it was getting dark. The last piece of road is private and was being cleared by a ranch hand with a Kubota tractor outfitted with a snow plow.

I was directed to my quarters in the great main house where Viki

and her father live. Kari has her own house several hundred yards away. The third house is a rental unit. There is a large maintenance shed, an enormous green house, a working chicken coop with chickens and guinea hens, a goat barn with goats delivering, a horse corral with a tack shed and much much more. A great three part solar array farm provides power which is plumbed into the individual houses. And so it was that I began installing the amplifier on the second floor operating station that Viki has set up at the west end of the main house. I simply repeated the setup used at Don's house with the exception that keying the CW tone needed for tuning was less than high tech. Having forgotten about this little detail, we luckily found a jumper cable with 3.5mm audio jacks at each end. One end went into the radio and the other end has to be shorted with a crinkly mess of aluminum foil to key the exciter. Very high tech but it works and Viki can now be heard.



So here is wishing long life to Viki's EIMAC 8873 ceramic induction cooled final tube. They don't make them anymore.

Goetz Brandt, K6GKB

Electronic Flea Market at De Anza College

Electronics Flea Market time is here again. The first one of the season will be on March 8th sponsored by SVECS (Silicon Valley Emergency Communications System). If you could spare a couple of hours that Saturday helping with the event give Lou, WA6QYS, a call at 408-241-7999. Is there a better way to spend a Saturday morning than buying some bargains at the flea market and afterwards volunteering at the food booth of our worthy brethren, the SVECS organization?

SCCARA's turn to host the flea market will be on August 9th. Reserve the date.

2014 Schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Hosted by</u>
Mar. 8	Silicon Valley Emergency Communications System.
Apr. 12	West Valley Amateur Radio Association.
May 10	Silicon Valley Chapter, American Red Cross.
June 14	Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association.
July 12	South Peninsula Amateur Radio Klub.
Aug. 9	Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association
Sept. 13	Southern Peninsula Emergency Communications System.

Oct. 11 Foothills Amateur Radio Society. Canceled due to Pacificon

Lou WA6QYS

{Note from the Editor:

These are always on the second Saturday of the month.

They start early in the morning and end around noon.

For details see www.electronicshelfmarket.com .}

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Feb. 10, 2014



Kaiser Hospital, 710 Lawrence Expressway, Santa Clara, Ca 95051 Status: Unreviewed

The SCCARA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING was called to order by Fred Townsend AE6QL at 19:32

Members and guests introduced themselves. Fred welcomed back Herman DeKruyff KI6ETZ who has been ill.

Announcements: Fred AE6QL has not been able to confirm whether or not the March 15, 2014 Radio Fest- Monterey has been canceled. Listen on the Monday Night SCCARA 2M Net for any updates. Also, Fred is planning a technician Ham Cram class at the VA Hospital in Palo Alto on March 15, 2014. --Lou WA6QYS passed around a volunteer sign-up sheet for the SVECS March 8, 2014 Flea Market at DeAnza College. SCCARA has traditionally worked closely with SVECS. --SCCARA will host the Aug. 9, 2014 Flea Market at DeAnza. (Flea Markets are March through Oct.) --George N6NKT announced that the Red Cross van that has been used to support the flea markets (the Q vehicle) has been decommissioned. --Fred AE6QL mentioned that due to the 49er's Stadium in Santa Clara, there might be a parking crunch for Pacificon 2014. A \$12/vehicle parking fee is being considered. --Gregg KF6FNA announced that services for Joan Village, wife of Don Village K6PBQ, will be Thursday, Feb. 13, 2014, 11AM, at the Lima Family Mortuary, 466 N. Winchester, Santa Clara, CA. Gwen KF6OTD has a card that members can sign that will be given to Don. Lou WA6QYS is collecting donations for flowers for Joan's service.

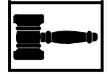
Gregg KF6FNA introduced the evening's speaker, George Williams, N6NKT, who is the Radio Officer at the San Jose Red Cross and a member of the 3D2C DxPedition. George spoke about his experience on his first mini dxpedition to the east side of the California Sierra Mountains to work the California QSO Party from a rare county. He set up in the Horton Creek Campground which is about 12 miles north of Bishop, Ca. His operating was done from inside his full size van. He set up a TA33JR tri-band beam and a 5 band Butternut vertical. His power came from a gasoline powered generator and had 2 deep cycle batteries for back-up. His rig was a Kenwood TS450 with built in tuner and filters for CW and SSB. George had help on initial set up from Patty Winters N6BIS, but was on his own after that. He showed how one person with a van can carry all of the gear and supplies necessary to set up a ham station and operate a contest. He combined radio, 6 hours of travel, and some car camping skills to have some adventure and FUN!! In conclusion, he highly recommends that hams consider a mini dxpedition of their own. The advantages of finding a location out of the RF noise that hams often encounter in town can provide fun with better operating

results and a new perspective on ham radio.

Refreshments were enjoyed after George's presentation. Fred adjourned the meeting at 20:50

Gregg Lane, KF6FNA, recording

Board Meeting, Feb. 17, 2014



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 19:33

Attendance: President: Fred Townsend AE6QL; Vice President: Gregg Lane KF6FNA; Treasurer: Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Trustee: Don Village K6PBQ; Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Wally Britten KA6YMD, Janet Motha KF6PUQ, Clark Murphy KE6KXO; Absences: Viki Moldenhauer KI6WDS (excused), Lloyd DeVaughns KD6FJI; Visitors: Gwen Steirer KF6OTD.

Announcements: Lou WA6QYS announced that the next SVECS Quarterly Breakfast will be on April 26, 2014 at 09:00.

Secretary's Report: The minutes as published in the SCCARA-GRAM were approved as amended (spelling correction).

Treasurer's Report: Goetz K6GKB handed out the balance sheets as of 2/5/2014: Checking=\$4,550.54, Savings=\$500.07, Cash=\$490.88, Total=\$5,541.49 Goetz also requested a copy of the SCCARA ROSTER so that he could send out e-mails.

Trustee's Report: Don K6PBQ will have the club station open Sat. 2/22/2014 at 10:00. He will announce his arrival at the Red Cross on the SCCARA 2M repeater. Don also stated that he has sent in the club station license renewal application by snail mail. He has had no response from the FCC yet.

Vice Presidents Report: Gregg KF6FNA will announce March's speaker in the SCCARA-GRAM and on the Mon. night 2M net. He also stated that George Williams N6NKT, the Red Cross Radio Officer gave the go-ahead for antenna work on the club station.

President's Report: Fred AE6QL suggested increasing membership through use of SCCARA Fliers in the Club Information Stand at HRO. The March General Meeting will be in rooms C1/C2 in the Kaiser Medical Office Building. Since it is a small room, SCCARA should request that it have only 4 tables in the room. Fred also announced that he will be teaching a technician ham cram class at the VA Hospital in Palo Alto on Sat., March 15, 2014. Testing will be at the same location on Sun., March 16, 2014. The class might not be filled with veterans, so there may be room for additional students. Anybody interested in taking the class should contact Fred.

Newsletter: no report given.

BBS: no report given.

Repeater: Wally KA6YMD reported funny sounds on the 107.2 tone Test Repeater.

Web Page: no report given.

Old Business: none

New Business: Don K6PBQ reported on prospects for the 2014 Holiday Banquet. He reported that the Milpitas Denny's had a room available without charge but required a guarantee of \$100 minimum order. Meals would be ordered from their regular menu. Don also reported that Cocoa's meals might run \$4 less than the Creekside Inn, but that Don thought that the Creekside Inn had superior food.

Fred AE6QL adjourned the meeting at 20:33

Gregg Lane, KF6FNA, recording

Treasurer's Treatise

2013 Year End Statement

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
INCOME		
Uncategorized	419.00	
Club Badges	3.50	7.00
Club Dues	1030.00	1214.00
Coupons		52.16
Creekside Inn	28.00	
Flea Market	2530.00	3251.00
Flea Market Food	634.43	622.90
Holiday Luncheon	728.00	193.62
Sale Of Assets	75.00	
TOTAL INCOME	5447.93	5340.68
EXPENSES		
Uncategorized	20.00	
AMSAT	80.00	80.00
Banner Repair		20.00
BBS	100.70	346.49
Business Cards	43.73	114.58
California Tax	10.00	10.00
Club Flier Ad		32.45
Equipment	2755.08	290.67
Field Day	836.38	477.33
Flea Market	1625.00	1650.00
Holiday Luncheon	649.74	200.00
Insurance	200.00	200.00
Misc	42.30	
Office Supplies	21.89	19.54
PO Box	70.00	72.00
Postage	60.40	166.06
QSL DX		79.95
Club Station	101.09	
SCCARA-GRAM	1318.10	1066.61
Welcome Package	55.35	63.95
TOTAL EXPENSES	7989.76	4889.23
TOTAL CASHFLOW	-2541.83	451.45

ACCOUNTS 2013

	<u>Starting</u>	<u>Ending</u>
CHECKING	4154.67	4518.89
SAVINGS	500.07	500.07
CASH	403.65	490.88
TOTAL	5058.39	5509.84

Goetz Brandt, K6GKB, Treasurer

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

Newsletter Notes

In the *Prez Sez* column, Fred asks for ideas on a few different things. Well, how about Amateur TV?

At the last meeting, Don KK6MX tells me he has an ATV repeater that will do both analog and digital TV, but he doesn't have a place to put it. There's room for other things where the NOARY BBS is located. The club sponsors two voice repeaters and the BBS. Is there any interest in an ATV repeater?

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor



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 2014
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.