

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association



Volume 30, Number 10

October 2014

Club Office

October is when SCCARA nominates officers and directors for the following year. Elections are held at the November meeting. Officers serve one year terms, directors serve two year terms (half are elected in alternating years).

If you've ever thought about running for club office, here's your chance. Still just thinking about it? Let's talk at the October meeting. This time it's a dinner meeting, but that's OK. Use this opportunity to chat with the existing officers and directors if you have any questions.

Our secretary will not be running for re-election, so we'll at least need someone new for that office.

And don't be afraid to run for an office even if someone else is also running for that same office. The more who are interested in helping out, the better.

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, August 28, 2014

US-to-VK Transpacific Reception on 630 Meters Reported

A radio amateur and medium-frequency (MF) experimenter in Australia has received a 630 meter (475.62 kHz) transmission from a radio amateur and Part 5 Experimental operator in Texas. While the approximately 8710 miles covered is not a distance record nor a "first" for that part of the spectrum, it does represent the sorts of accomplishments that the Amateur Radio community in the US might come to enjoy if a band at 472-479 kHz ever becomes a reality. John Langridge, KB5NJD, in Texas, who holds Experimental license WG2XIQ, told ARRL that having his WSPR signal heard in Australia on August 25 at 0952 UTC by David Isele, VK2DDI, was a "huge surprise."

"I did not know until I got a text message that morning," Langridge said. "I am normally checking the band during the overnight hours but went to bed very early on Sunday night and slept until almost 7:45 AM local. I had not seen my e-mails, but the local community as well as the one in Oceania was abuzz. Needless to say I woke up very fast and started looking at data."

Langridge said he only recently renewed his FCC Part 5 license, requesting a power increase to 10 W in the process. He said the only longer WSPR reception report on 630 meters was in February

Calendar

10/10-12 Pacificon

10/13 **SCCARA General Meeting**-- dinner meeting

10/20 **SCCARA Board Meeting**--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

11/1 **CW sweepstakes** – at club station

11/15 **SSB sweepstakes** – at club station

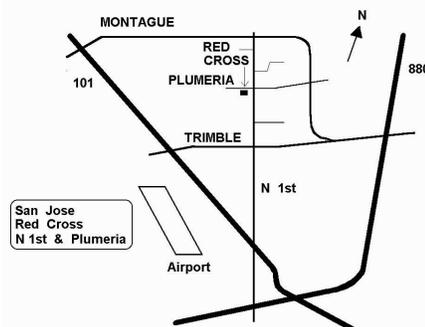
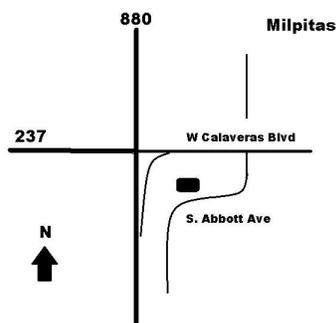
General Meeting

Day: Monday, Oct 13, 2014

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Denny's 333 S Abbott Ave Milpitas
(SE of Calaveras Blvd and 880.)

Featuring: Dinner meeting



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)

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

(all officers are also directors)

President	Fred Townsend, AE6QL	408-263-8768
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Vice President	Greg Lane KF6FNA	408-393-5607
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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

2013 and involved a 10,450 mile path from Australia to France. Signals from North America have been heard in Australia on 630 meters using other modes.

"Many of us use WSPR as an effective means of determining band conditions very quickly, which can lead to two-way [communication]," Langridge said. "WSPR has a very well-established listener base, which provides tremendous amounts of data with a 2-minute transmit cycle." He said WSPR is a good tool to introduce newcomers to 630 meters and MF operation, and that many MF operators, including him, stumbled into the nether ranges of the spectrum by way of monitoring WSPR and, as he put it, "seeing how amazing this band really can be."

WG2XIQ is equipped with an 80 foot tall asymmetrical T-top vertical, base loaded with a motorized variometer and almost 3 miles of radials. He generates a signal on 630 meters using an MF Solutions transmit downconverter, driving two GW3UEP Class D/E amps in parallel, combining them using a 0° hybrid combiner and filter with a low-pass filter. "I can make 200 W total power output, which at this time of year equates to about 4 or 5 W ERP," Langridge said. "During the fall and winter, once the trees have lost their leaves and system resistance goes down, that 200 W TPO will look more like 10 W ERP, so things only stand to get better as we move into the 2014 MF season."

On the Australian end, VK2DDI, who lives in New South Wales, said he was just taking "a quick look on 630 meters" when "up popped WG2XIQ" in a faint trace on his display. He was expecting it to be another Australian operator. "Pleasant surprise for all concerned," he said in a post to a 630 meter news group.

Isele uses a 30 meter thin, galvanized-iron vertical wire, strung between a ground rod and a high tree branch for receiving on 630 meters. It has no radials and no antenna tuner. "I hear better than most on most bands," he told Langridge, adding that he lives in a rural area 512 meters above sea level with few noise issues.

"There are so many misconceptions about what goes on below the AM broadcast band," Langridge told ARRL. "It's amazing how many people still know nothing about the 630 meter band." Langridge calls himself "one of those crazy individuals" who believes that one day radio amateurs will earn DXCC on 630 meters. "As modulation methods and receivers continue to improve, I do think it will be a reality," he said. "But it will be a lifelong pursuit. That alone will make it even more worthwhile."

The ARRL is sponsoring the WD2XSH experimental group in the vicinity of 500 kHz.

Balloons Carrying Amateur Radio Payloads Still Circling the Earth

Three plastic foil-envelope balloons carrying Amateur Radio payloads and launched from the UK by Leo Bodnar, M0XER, remain aloft and continue to circle the Earth. The oldest, identified as B-63, was released on July 8 and became the second of Bodnar's balloons to circumnavigate the globe. The first to do so, B-64, went up on July 12 and had completed one lap around the Northern Hemisphere by July 31. Air currents have carried the balloon within 9 km of the North Pole and within 10 km of its launch site. The last balloon to make it around the Earth was B-66, which Bodnar released on July 15.

Each balloon carries a tiny 10 mW solar-powered transmitter that can alternate between APRS and Contestia 64/1000 digital mode on 434.500 MHz (USB). The Amateur Radio payload weighs just 11 grams.

As of this week, the B-64 balloon (M0XER-4 on APRS) was north of Moscow, Russia, at an elevation of more than 40,200 feet; the B-63 balloon (M0XER-3 on APRS) appeared to be located nearly 42,000 feet above South Korea, and the B-66 balloon (M0XER-6 on APRS) appeared to be nearly 44,000 feet above Ukraine. Notes on the M0XER-3 and M0XER-6 APRS pages flag their reported trajectories with "Seriously bad path," however, and add, "This station appears to be flying at high altitude and using digipeaters, which causes serious congestion in the APRS network. The tracker should be configured to only use digipeaters when at low altitude."

The numeral following the "B" denotes the number of similar balloons Bodnar has launched (B-65 failed to deploy). The transmitter stores positions during its flight and transmits a log file that can recall 5 days of previous locations in the comments field of its APRS transmissions. If it has been out of radio contact, however, a straight line will appear on the APRS map.

From *The ARRL Letter*, September 4 2014

Amateur Radio Transponder Will Accompany Japanese Asteroid Mission into Deep Space

According to a news report, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Hayabusa 2 asteroid mission, now scheduled to launch in December, will carry the Shin'en 2 (Abyss 2) Amateur Radio satellite. A 17 kg, 50 cm diameter polyhedron, Shin'en 2, built by students at Kyushu Institute of Technology, makes extensive use of carbon-fiber reinforced plastic materials that can be bonded by heat to reduce its weight and the number of hardware fasteners. In addition to a Mode J linear transponder for Amateur Radio communication, Shin'en 2 will include CW and WSJT beacons. The inclusion of the transponder will offer an opportunity for earthbound radio amateurs to test the limits of their communication capabilities.

"For confirming the operational status of the spacecraft in deep space, the know-how of the Moon-reflecting communication technology can be applied. By using an Amateur Radio service transponder, amateur stations can communicate with each other when the spacecraft is in near-Moon orbit," a project outline on the Shin'en 2 website explains. "Beyond this distance, signal detection by Morse code and telemetry data transmitted from the spacecraft will be performed." The project is expected to help pave the way for future lunar rover missions.

Hayabusa 2 will make a round trip to the C-type asteroid 1999 JU3, arriving at the asteroid in mid-2018. It then would survey and take samples of the asteroid before departing in December 2019, and return to Earth in December 2020.

Shin'en 2 will be placed into an elliptical orbit around the Sun and travel into a deep space between Venus and Mars. Its inclination will be almost zero, which means Shin-En2 will stay in the Earth's equatorial plane. The distance from the Sun will be between 0.7 and 1.3 AU (an astronomical unit is 149,597,871 km).

The IARU-coordinated frequencies for Shin'en 2 are: CW beacon, 437.505 MHz; WSJT telemetry, 437.385 MHz; Inverting SSB/CW transponder, 145.940-145.960 MHz uplink (LSB)/435.280-435.260 MHz downlink (USB). The project also is hoping to gather listener reports.

At its maximum operational distance, it will be some 3 million km (1.86 million miles) from Earth about a week after launch.

-- Thanks to AMSAT-UK

From *The ARRL Letter*, September 25, 2014

List of "Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014" Co-Sponsors Swells Before Congressional Recess

An intense effort during the few days in September that Congress was in session has resulted in 47 co-sponsors for the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014 (H.R. 4969). Another half-dozen or so US House Members have indicated that they will sign on when Congress returns, something they can do only while Congress is in session. Congress went into recess on September 19. ARRL President Kay Craigie,

The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014, introduced in the US House of Representatives with bipartisan support in late June, calls on the FCC to apply the "reasonable accommodation" three-part test of the PRB-1 federal pre-emption policy to private land-use restrictions regarding antennas. The limited PRB-1 pre-emption currently applies only to state and municipal land-use ordinances. The FCC has indicated its reluctance to provide the same legal protections from private land-use agreements -- often called covenants, conditions, and restrictions or CC&Rs -- without direction from Congress.

N3KN, ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, Central Division Director Dick Isely, W9GIG, and ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, visited dozens of congressional offices this month. Elsewhere, other ARRL elected and appointed officials and members from across the US met with members of Congress and with their staffers, wrote letters, and made phone calls to urge co-sponsorship.

"This all-member effort is how we went from 17 co-sponsors on August 1 to 47 co-sponsors on September 18," President Craigie said this week. When Congress reconvenes in November, League representatives plan to follow up with US House members who did not have time to make their co-sponsorship official before Congress left town.

President Craigie stressed this week that H.R. 4969 is still very much alive, and she urged League members to keep working to convince their representatives to co-sponsor the bill. "These efforts will not be in vain, whether or not the legislator eventually decides to sign onto the bill," she said. "Realistically, we won't get support for H.R. 4969 from every member of Congress who is contacted by amateurs," she said. At the same time, members of Congress who were contacted now know that Amateur Radio exists in their districts and that hams have interests that deserve notice.

"A lot of politics is based on relationships. Contacts made with members of Congress about H.R. 4969 contribute to establishing relationships that can be maintained and enhanced in the future," President Craigie said. "Does your Congressman know how Amateur Radio makes your district a safer place to live if disasters occur? Does your Congressman know how radio amateurs in your district introduce young people to hands-on wireless communication, laying the foundation for careers? What we certainly can do is to build relationships that will serve our interests -- and the public interest -- if not right now, then in the future."

President Craigie encouraged League members whose representatives have become co-sponsors to thank their lawmakers, on the phone or in writing. "It's good manners and a good relationship-building strategy," she pointed out. "Members can also seek out opportunities during the current congressional recess to make a case for the bill at their representatives' district offices and at events. In short: Keep on!"

Club Station

SCCARA will participate in the following contests from our club station at the Red Cross: CW sweepstakes on Nov. 1st at 2100 UTC (2 pm). SSB sweepstakes on Nov. 15th at 2100 UTC (1 pm). The club station will be close on the last Saturdays of Nov and Dec for the holidays.

73, Don K6PBQ

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Sept. 8, 2014



{no minutes received by the deadline}

Board Meeting, Sept. 15, 2014



Red Cross Building, 2731 N. 1st. St., San Jose, Ca Status: unreviewed

The SCCARA Board Meeting was called to order by President Fred Townsend AE6QL at 19:39.

Attendance: President Fred Townsend AE6QL; Vice President Gregg Lane KF6FNA; Treasurer Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Trustee Don Village K6PBQ; Directors Wally Britten KA6YMD, Janet Motha KF6PUQ, Clark Murphy KE6KXO. Absent: Director Lloyd DeVaughns KD6FJI. Excused absences: Director Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Secretary Viki Moldenhauer KI6WDS. Guest: Paul Gorny KK6HWW.

Announcements: 1) Pacificon 2014, Oct 10 to Oct. 12 at the Santa Clara Marriott. 2) Introduction to Software Defined Radio, Thursday Nov. 13th, Aristotle Room, Keysight (Agilent) Technologies, 5301 Stevens Creek Boulevard, Santa Clara, 6 to 8 PM.

Secretary's Report: The minutes for the Aug. Board Meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Goetz K6GKB handed out the balance sheet as of 9-15-2014:

checking = 6,224.61
savings = 500.07
cash = 97.04
Total = \$6,821.72

Trustee's Report: Don K6PBQ will open the club station at the Red Cross on October 4, 2014 to work the California QSO Party. Let Don know if you are interested in also opening the club station on Oct. 25th to work the CQWW PHONE CONTEST. The club station will be open on Nov. 1st to work the CW Sweepstakes, and on Nov. 15th to work the Phone Sweepstakes.

Vice President's Report: The Oct. 13th meeting will be a dinner meeting at the Denny's in Milpitas, 1 block East of the 880.

President's Report: 1) Fred AE6QL suggested that we transfer the club data to Wally KA6YMD who has volunteered to manage SCCARA's Data Base. 2) Fred stated that the future of the

ASVARO Flea Market (SCCARA's fund raiser) was not certain. He suggested that Goetz estimate a budget for 2015. 3) A Nominating Committee will be chosen in Oct. for the Nov. elections of SCCARA Officers and Directors.

Old Business: SCCARA should get feedback from members about purchasing a new radio.

New Business: Don K6PBQ stated that the Holiday Luncheon Reservation at the Creekside Inn was not confirmed. He said the he would check out Micheal's Restaurant as a back-up.

Fred adjourned the meeting at 21:03

Gregg Lane, KF6FNA recording for the secretary

December Meeting

Our annual holiday meeting will be a lucheon on Saturday December 13th at 12:00 noon. This year our luncheon will be at Michael's at Shoreline 2960 North Shoreline Blvd in Mt. View. (east on Shoreline next to the golf course.)

We will also 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 exchange is always a lot of fun to participate in.

Reservations need to be in by Monday Dec. 8th, (see the sign up sheet). Talk in will be on our repeater, W6UU 146.985(-). Why not renew your membership at the same time?

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

73, Don Village, K6PBQ

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====
Date: 14 Jun 2010 02:40
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Department Baseball

An interoffice softball game was held every year between the marketing department and the support staff of one company.

The support staff whipped the marketing department soundly. To show just "how" the marketing department earns their keep, they posted this memo on the bulletin board after the game:

"The Marketing Department is pleased to announce that for the 2006 Softball Season, we came in 2nd place, having lost but one game all year. The Support Department, however, had a rather dismal season, as they won only one game."

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.

Topics and Elmers:

Antennas, feed-lines, tuners: NV6W, W6JPP, K6PBQ
Lightning protection, grounding: WB6YRU
Station set-up, equipment: K6PBQ, W6JPP
TVI/RFI: WB6YRU
Homebrew projects, construction: KD6FJI, WB6YRU
Packet BBS: WB6YRU
Code operating and installations: NV6W, K6PBQ
DX (long distance/propagation): NV6W
Emergency operating/preparedness: WA6QYS
HF operating techniques (SSB, CW): NV6W, K6PBQ
Legal/FCC rules: WB6YRU
SCCARA (club inner workings): K6PBQ, WB6YRU, WA6QYS
EchoLink: KK6MX
License testing, new amateurs: W6JPP

Elmer contact info:

NV6W, James D. Armstrong, Jr.,
evening & msg: 408-670-1680

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 N0ARY
e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com

Newsletter Notes

If you get the mailed paper version of the SCCARA-GRAM, read on...

Remember, since the cost of the mailed SCCARA-GRAM is more than the normal dues, the board voted to add an extra fee for the mailed paper SCCARA-GRAM starting January 2015. The updated membership form is here, starting in this issue.

If you want the mailed paper newsletter, please don't try to avoid the new fee by using a 2014 form, you'll just create extra trouble for our Secretary.

If you'll be switching to the electronic version and don't already get the e-mail notices, make sure we have your correct e-mail address. Each month you'll get a brief e-mail notice letting you know that the new SCCARA-GRAM is available for download on our web site. A direct link to the pdf file will be included in the notice. We don't e-mail the newsletter itself, so don't worry about filling up your e-mail box.

The electronic version of the newsletter is the same pdf file used to make the printed copy, so you won't lose anything. Each new SCCARA-GRAM is posted or mailed the weekend following the deadline, that's one week before the general meeting.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

December Meeting Sign-up

Our annual December meeting will be a luncheon on Saturday December 13th at 12 noon. This year our luncheon will be at Michael's at Shoreline, 2960 North Shoreline Blvd in Mountain View. We will have a choice of three entrees, \$25.00 each. We need your reservations (this form) no later than Monday Dec. 8th. I hope to see you all there!

73, Don K6PBQ

For the annual meeting in December, sign me up for the following lunch(es) at \$25.00 each:

_____ **Roast Beef English cut** _____ **Chicken Florentine** _____ **Broiled Salmon**

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

Give this form (or copy) with payment to the treasurer, or mail to: SCCARA PO BOX 106 San Jose CA 95103-0106.



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 2015
 If none of your info has changed, fill in name and call only

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: _____

You'll get a short e-mail notice each month letting you know when a new SCCARA-GRAM is ready for download.

Memberships begin January 1 and expire December 31.
If renewing: annual membership dues are: **\$20 Individual, \$25 Family, \$10 Student** (under 18)
For new members: Join now for 2015 at the normal rate, the rest of this year is included free

I want the newsletter on paper delivered by U.S. Mail for an additional \$30

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

Family memberships are more than one member at the same address, please include a separate form for each.

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