

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 30, Number 12

December 2014



December Meeting

Our annual holiday meeting will be a luncheon 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. 8, see the sign up sheet on page 7.

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

Prez Sez

Up on the soapbox... Again!

I just read in the Product Design & Development magazine (A copy of the article can be had by e-mailing me the address below) that "The largest solar power plant of its type in the world — once promoted as a turning point in green energy — isn't producing as much energy as planned." So far the plant is producing about half of its expected annual output for 2014, according to calculations by the California Energy Commission.

"Sprawling across roughly 5 square miles of federal desert near the California-Nevada border, the \$2.2 billion [\$1.6 billion in federal loan guarantees] Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System opened in February, with operators saying it would produce enough electricity to power a city of 140,000 homes."

Imagine for the moment you are designing an airliner and the jet engines only put out half as much thrust needed for takeoff because you failed to take in to account the sun isn't shining as much as expected and factors such as clouds, jet contrails and weather have had a greater impact on the plant than you anticipated. \$2.2 billion and you missed the target by 50%. I know if I was that engineer I would be looking for a new job or worse trying to stay out of jail if that airliner crashed.

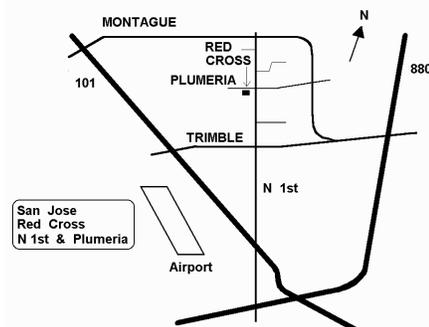
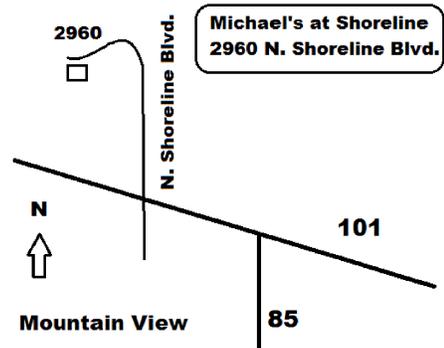
In my world you can't design that way and survive unless it involves solar or wind and the federal government. Look at

Calendar

- 12/13 SCCARA General Meeting -- Luncheon
- 12/15 SCCARA Board Meeting -- CANCELED
- 1/12 SCCARA General Meeting

General Meeting

- Day: Saturday, Dec. 13, 2014
- Time: 12 noon
- Place: Michael's at Shoreline
2960 N. Shoreline Blvd, Mt. View
- Featuring: Luncheon (res. required, see p. 7)



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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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

Solyndra. In case you have forgotten Solyndra was a manufacturer of solar cells based in Fremont, California. After spending half a billion the company was unable to compete and in September 2011, the company ceased all business activity, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, and laid off all employees. The onerous part about this scandal was the original investors and executives were not hurt by the failure. Instead the bond holders, normally in first position for bankruptcy, were left holding the bag. The executives floated down on golden parachutes. The bond holders, are us, as in the US.

Ok Fred, in this case, us is SCCARA. What does this have to do with Amateur Radio? Plenty! In the abstract putting money into fraudulent schemes takes money out of the pockets of honest citizens and industry. More directly these free energy schemes become sacred cows that other agencies, like the FCC are afraid to touch.

Case in point BPL (Broadband over Power Line): In this case, free Internet transport, not free energy. The FCC lied and obfuscated to the point of breaking the laws of physics in order to save this sick puppy. Thank goodness the scheme was so badly conceived it fell from its own blunders or we would be listening to BPL interference created hundreds of miles away. Second case the GroLux lights that pot growers love and hams hate. The ARRL has asked the FCC to stop their import but to date nothing has been done with these devices that wipe out the HF bands. Ask Don, AE6PM.

Finally this gets very personal. My neighbor has installed 22 photo voltaic arrays looking at my house. If you have listened to me you have heard me warn about the effects voltaic cells will have on your antenna ground plane and the fact that birds sitting on your antenna will do a number on underlying voltaics but what about when it's your neighbor's voltaics? So far I have just checked 160 meters. Only the strongest signals can be heard through the interference.

I grabbed a portable radio and checked out the interference. I didn't need to tune anything. The interference is quite broad banded. Worse I share a PG&E transformer with this house. The interference is both radiated from the house and conducted by the power lines. I know the power conversion equipment does not pass FCC requirements but I risk the friendship of the neighbor if I say anything. I am so screwed.

The good news voltaics only work when the sun shines. That is also the bad news if you are a solar power designer. Electricity can be stored by either inductors or capacitors but only in minute quantities. For larger power levels you must convert the dynamic energy to either potential energy such as water held in a dam or chemical energy. Neither is exactly economical nor small in size. Chemical storage is also potentially toxic and combustible or in other words not something you want stored in your neighborhood.

Again in the reversal of government function the carbon dioxide generated by fossil fuel powered generating stations is not toxic but regulated by the EPA whereas there does not appear to be any concern over energy storage devices. Yes you are told not to dispose of your batteries in a fire but nothing will be said if you drop them in your garbage or blast your neighbor with EMI. That is because the government advocates generating and storing energy in your neighborhood.

The startling fact is solar or wind farms have never replaced a single steam generating plant. Actually solar or wind make the electric grid less efficient and more difficult to manage because of the unpredictably of sudden cloud and wind changes steam power plants have to be on hot standby. There are four 'Peaker Plants' in the Santa Clara Valley. Peaker plants can be online in much less

than the 24 to 48 hours large steam plants need. I frequently see steam escaping these plants when I drive by. Escaping steam is wasted energy. Oh well our government knows best. They have told me so.

I hope to see everyone at the Christmas Dinner on the 13th of December. View your SCCARA-GRAM at www.sccara.org for details. Make reservations with our treasurer, Goetz.

73, Fred, AE6QL, ae6ql@arrl.net



ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, Oct. 30, 2014

KP1-5 Project Gets Permission to Activate Navassa Island (KP1) in January 2015

The KP1-5 Project has received word from the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) that it may activate Navassa Island (KP1) in January 2015. The DXpedition, using the call sign K1N, will be a maximum of 14 days, and exact dates will be determined by USFWS mission requirements and weather windows.

“Our experienced team of 15 is complete and is ready for the challenge,” said an October 22 KP1-5 Project news release from President Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and Vice President Glenn Johnson, W0GJ. “The weeks ahead will be extremely busy as the team has less than 90 days before the DXpedition comes on the air.”

As the announcement explained, January is the month of minimum bird nesting activity, and the USFWS had asked that the operation be completed during that month. Weather is unpredictable in January, however, and because Navassa is surrounded by cliffs, a safe landing by boat would be difficult or impossible.

“For safety reasons and in order to maximize our time on the island and on the air, a helicopter operation is planned,” the team's news release said. “Navassa is over 100 miles (160 km) from the nearest helicopter staging point, and as many as 10 round trips will be required at the beginning and end of the operation. Obviously, this means that there will be a significant cost for activating this No 1 ranked DXCC entity.”

The KP1-5 Project said it will be working with USFWS over the next few weeks to firm up details. The KP1-5 Project team has committed to fund 50 percent of the DXpedition's tab. “We are hopeful the DX community at large will fund the remainder,” The announcement concluded.

INDEXA has announced that it will provide substantial financial support for the Navassa Island KP1-5 Project DXpedition. More than half of the DXpedition team members are INDEXA officers, directors, and members.

From *The ARRL Letter*, Nov. 6, 2014

ARRL Asks FCC to Continue Issuing Hard Copy Licenses to Those Who Want Them

In comments filed November 5, the ARRL has recommended that the FCC continue to provide paper license documents to Amateur Radio licensees who want them. The League's remarks were in response to an FCC Public Notice (in WT Docket 14-161) that proposed to cease the routine issuance of hard-copy license documents to all Wireless Service licensees, including radio amateurs. While having a paper license document from the FCC to post on the wall of the ham shack has been a tradition, the Commission for several years has considered the “official” Amateur Radio license to be the virtual document residing in its Universal Licensing System (ULS) database.

“The FCC is willing to continue to mail paper licenses to those who request them,” ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, has explained. “However, they are making available to licensees -- starting right now -- the actual license to print via the FCC ULS, and it is allowing hams now to opt out of receiving paper licenses from the FCC directly.”

Under the FCC-proposed process, once a license application is granted, the ULS will generate an official electronic license but will no longer mail a hard copy license unless notified that the licensee wishes to receive an official paper license document. Until new procedures are final, however, the Commission will continue to print and mail official paper licenses, unless notified to stop.

“Should the Commission proceed with the Notice proposals,” the League said in its comments, “it is ARRL's strong recommendation that the Commission give serious consideration to continuing a default provision for sending an initial paper license document to new licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, along with detailed, simple instructions for how to make the elections set forth in the notice relative to future modified or renewed licenses.”

The ARRL pointed out that not everyone has easy access to, or is comfortable using, the ULS and that Amateur Radio licensees may occasionally need an official license document -- for example, when applying for a license upgrade at a VEC exam session or for vehicle call sign license plates.

“If there is not a license printed on distinctive license stock by the Commission, authentication issues arise and the possibility of electronic alteration of a license document is created,” the League.

The ARRL also suggested that requiring individuals to go online in order to obtain a license document may prove to be a roadblock to some applicants.

“It is not acceptable to erect barriers to entry for anyone to obtain an Amateur Radio license or to modify a license,” the League commented. “ARRL is concerned that there should be, especially for newcomers, an easy, intuitive path to make the election for license delivery method that does not involve ULS access at the outset.”

A portion of the menu on the left-hand side of the ULS license record page. “Set Paper Authorization Preferences” lets the licensee opt to receive a paper license or not. “Download Electronic Authorizations” allows the licensee to download a PDF copy of the license.

The Notice also has proposed, alternatively, that the FCC send the official electronic license via e-mail upon grant of an application, if the applicant has provided a valid e-mail address on the application form. Licensees not wanting to provide an e-mail address could obtain an official electronic license document directly from the ULS. The Notice further proposes that licensees could notify the Commission that they wish to receive or continue receiving official authorizations on paper.

The ULS License Manager online system now includes a setting that allows licensees to notify the FCC that they want to receive official licenses on paper. Licensees could change the default setting online, so that once an application has been granted, the FCC would mail an official paper license.

South African 5 MHz Research Project Sees Unexpected Results

A 5 MHz propagation research project in South Africa has encountered some unexpected results regarding near-vertical incidence skywave (NVIS) propagation on that band. The project is a joint venture between the South African Radio League (SARL) and the Kempton Park Amateur Radio Technical Society, where one 5 MHz beacon has been installed. An interesting, but tentative, finding was inconsistent NVIS propagation test results. NVIS takes advantage of skywave propagation for short-distance communication, especially on the lower end of the HF spectrum. An EE Publishers article described the preliminary test results.

“Comparing a communications path between two amateur stations, ZS6KN and ZS6KTS (distance of 51 km), it is interesting to note that in June 2014 there was a good communications path from just after [0500] till approximately 1630, after which the signals disappeared,” the article recounted, noting that the pattern for July was the same, but signals were considerably stronger than during August and September.

The experimenters also observed that the band opens earlier and closes later heading into summer (winter in the Northern Hemisphere), “which indicates variations in the ionization of the D layer of the ionosphere as the sun rises earlier and sets later,” the article said, noting, however, that not enough data have been collected to draw any meaningful conclusions.

The project uses several automated beacons using WSPR (Weak Signal Propagation Reporter), which was developed by Joe Taylor, K1JT.

The Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) has awarded two licenses to the SARL to carry out 5 MHz propagation research in advance of World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15). Conference agenda item 1.4 would grant radio amateurs a secondary allocation within the band 5250 to 5450 kHz. Several countries, including the US, have allocated discrete channels to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis.

Dominica Now Permits 60 Meter Operation

Dominica (J7) is among the latest countries to allocate spectrum in the vicinity of 5 MHz to Amateur Radio. The Dominica National Telecommunications Regulator, NTRC, has granted hams on the Caribbean island the ability to operate on five 3 kHz-wide channels on the 60 meter band. Dial frequencies are 5330.5, 5346.5, 5355.5, 5371.5, and 5403.5 kHz at 50 W PEP on SSB only.

The channels are only available to General and Advanced licensees in the Commonwealth of Dominica. With the exception of 5355.5, the channels are the same as those available to hams in the US.

-- Thanks to Dominica NTRC

From *The ARRL Letter*, Nov. 13, 2014

Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014 Attracts More than a Dozen New Co-Sponsors

The list of co-sponsors for the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014, H.R. 4969, has grown to 63. Sixteen new co-sponsors signed aboard as the 113th Congress re-convened for its final session before adjournment. ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, is urging ARRL members to keep in contact with their Congressional representatives and to encourage them to become co-sponsors to the bill.

“We are excited about the addition of 16 new co-sponsors when Congress reconvened after the November mid-term elections,” Henderson said. “Each new co-sponsor brings us one step closer to achieving our goal of getting HR 4969 enacted. We have a long way to go - but we are definitely moving in the right direction.”

A few more co-sponsors may still be in the wings. The current tally represents a considerable expansion of support from the number of US Representatives who had signed aboard as Congress adjourned prior to the mid-term elections. All 16 of the latest co-sponsors were re-elected on November 4.

H.R. 4969, which was introduced in the US House of Representatives with bipartisan support in late June, would call 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.

The League has opened a HR.4969 page. HR.4969 has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Rep Greg Walden, W7EQ1 (R-OR), chairs that panel's Communications and Technology Subcommittee, which will consider the measure.

AMSAT Invites Ideas and Suggestions for Next-Gen Satellites

AMSAT has invited the Amateur Satellite community to submit ideas and suggestions for the next generation of AMSAT satellites. AMSAT Vice President-Engineering Jerry Buxton, NOJY, announced the plan at the 2014 AMSAT Space Symposium in Baltimore. AMSAT asked that ideas be based on the CubeSat platform, as “this is the standard through which we will look for launches in the foreseeable future,” its announcement said.

“The door is open for everyone to submit their ideas,” Buxton said. “AMSAT Engineering has a long-term strategy, and this is the first step.” He outlined the goals of that strategy:

- Advance Amateur Radio satellite technical and communications skills.
- Enhance international goodwill.
- Grow and sustain a skilled pool of Amateur Radio satellite engineers.
- Establish and maintain partnerships with educational institutions.
- Develop a means to use hardware common to all opportunities.

“Within the bounds of the type of satellite it takes to achieve any of the various orbit opportunities, let's consider in those plans the possibility of developing a platform that can suit any and all orbits,” Buxton said in reference to the last goal.

Buxton pointed out that the purpose of the proposal is not just collecting suggestions. "Being an all-volunteer team," he said, "AMSAT needs your help in carrying out the idea." He asked that submissions be thorough. The deadline is May 30, 2015.

Read more at

www.arrl.org/news/amsat-invites-ideas-and-suggestions-for-next-gen-satellites.

-- Thanks to AMSAT News Service

From *The ARRL Letter*, Nov. 20, 2014

Two Japanese Satellites Will Carry Ham Radio Payloads into Deep Space this Month

[UPDATED 2014-11-20 2030 UTC] Two Amateur Radio satellites, Shin'en 2 (Abyss 2) and ARTSAT2: DESPATCH, will be heading into deep space this month. The satellites will hitch a ride with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Hayabusa 2 asteroid mission, which is scheduled to launch on November 29.



The Shin'en 2 satellite during assembly and testing. [Courtesy of Kyushu Institute of Technology/Kagoshima University]

A 17 kg, 50 cm diameter polyhedron, Shin'en 2, developed by Kyushu Institute of Technology and Kagoshima University, will carry into deep space an F1D digital store-and-forward transponder, but not the Amateur Radio Mode J linear transponder reported earlier. A linear transponder had been part of the initial design, but Hideo Kambayashi, JH3XCU, said that Japanese regulations would not allow it and that it would have taken a long time to negotiate a variance with regulatory authorities. "So, they gave up the use of the transponder," he said on the AMSAT-BB earlier this week. The data format is posted on the Kagoshima University website:

http://leo.sci.kagoshima-u.ac.jp/KSAT-HP/Shin-en2_Comm_E.htm

Inclusion of a transponder will offer an opportunity for earthbound radio amateurs to test the limits of their communication capabilities. The project also is hoping to gather listener reports.

The Hayabusa 2 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.

The Shin'en 2 satellite 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.

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'en 2 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).



ARTSAT2:DESPATCH will carry this 3D printer-generated sculpture into deep space.

The ARTSAT2:DESPATCH "art project" satellite -- a 1U CubeSat -- is a joint project by students at Tama Art University and Tokyo University. It will carry a 30 kg "deep space sculpture" developed using a 3D printer, plus an Amateur Radio payload -- a CW beacon at 437.325 MHz. 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

For sale

SCCARA still has the following items available. If the price isn't right, make an offer.

Bostitch heavy duty power stapler, model B8E. Will drive both regular and the heavier staples (included), up to 45 sheets. Bought new for the *SCCARA-GRAM*, but hardly used. Works. Typically sells for \$50 to \$60 new. **Asking \$25**



LCD projector, InFocus model LP 760. Displays 1024x768 pixels, 24,389 colors. Includes a variety of connectors for different computers. Uses 400 W Halogen lamp. Works. Original MSRP \$7299, seen on ebay recently for \$75. **Asking \$45**



Manual for Icom IC-22A 2 m FM mobile transceiver (we have two). **Asking 50¢ ea**

Contact Gary WB6YRU, wb6yru@ix.netcom.com

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Nov. 10, 2014



Kaiser, Santa Clara, 710 Homestead Rd. Rm. C1/C2 Status: unreviewed

President Fred Townsend AE6QL called the meeting to order at 19:41. Introductions were shared.

Announcements: Don K6PBQ reminded the membership 1) The SCCARA Holiday Party will be at Micheal's Shoreline in Mt. View, Dec. 13, 2014 at 12 noon. Cost is \$25. Reservation sheet is in the SCCARA-GRAM. 2) SSB Sweepstakes is Nov. 15/16, 2014. The club station will be open at the Red Cross for anyone that would like to participate.

Gregg KF6FNA announced that there was now an HF beam on the roof of the Red Cross. Coax has been run down to the SCCARA station so that it can be used for the SSB Sweepstakes. Thanks to Goetz K6GKB, Lou WA6QYS, John W6JPP, Wally KA6YMD and Paul KK6HWN for their help at the antenna party.

Goetz K6GKB announced that 1) he had brought some old CQ and QST magazines that were free to anyone who wanted them. 2) The W6E special call sign for the Oct. 17, 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake Anniversary had 26 contacts. This was SCCARA's 1st experience with a special event call sign. Should we do it again for Candle Stick Park Demolition?

Elections: John Parks W6JPP asked to be removed from the ballot for position of Director. Richard Clare WB6EWM and Jeanie Felix KG6YOR were added to the ballot for Directors. Viki Moldenhauer KI6WDS and Janet Motha KF6PUQ chose to decline from running for another term. Paul KK6HWN was appointed to run the elections. After counting the ballots, SCCARA 2015 Officers are:

President: Fred Townsend AE6QL

Vice President: Gregg Lane KF6FNA

Treasurer: Goetz Brandt K6GKB

Secretary: Gregg Lane KF6FNA

New Directors (2 yr term) : Clark Murphy KE6KXO

Richard Clare WB6EWM

Existing Directors (1 yr left) Wally Britten KA6YMD

Lloyd DeVaughns KD6FJI

Lou Steirer WA6QYS

Program: Fred AE6QL spoke about 1/2 wave, dual band, mag. mount antennas for mobile operation. After the antenna presentation, Fred gave a slide show while we shared refreshments.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:15

Gregg Lane KF6FNA, recording

Board Meeting, Nov. 17, 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 19:43

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. Excused Absences: Secretary Viki Moldenhauer KI6WDS and Director Lloyd DeVaughns KD6FJI. Visitor: Gwen Steirer KF6OTD.

Announcements: 1) The SCCARA Holiday Party will be December 13, 2014 at 12 noon. The location is Micheal's at Shoreline, 2960 N. Shoreline Blvd. in Mt. View.

Secretary's Report: 1) October's Minutes (published in the

SCCARA-GRAM) were approved as corrected. (Sweepstakes contest is in Nov., not Sept.) 2) Database: copies of the SCCARA database are being sent to Gregg KF6FNA and Wally KA6YMD from Secretary Viki KI6WDS. 3) Correspondence: A reminder was sent to the SCCARA BOD by Gary Mitchell KB6YRU, SCCARA-GRAM Editor, that a new fee has been added for a mailed paper newsletter. The January SCCARA-GRAM will be the last one mailed to members who haven't paid the new fee. Gary also requested individual photos of each officer and director so that they can be published in the SCCARA-GRAM. 4) Election Results: The results at the Nov. 10, 2014 General Meeting are as follows: President: Fred Townsend AE6QL; Vice President: Gregg Lane KF6FNA; Treasurer: Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Secretary: Gregg Lane KF6FNA; Directors: Clark Murphy KE6KXO and Richard Clare WB6EWM. The motion to accept the election results was made by Don K6PBQ and seconded by Goetz K6GKB. The motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Goetz K6GKB submitted the following account balances as of 11/17/2014.

Checking = 5660.70

Savings = 500.07

Cash = 237.04

TOTAL = \$6,397.81

Trustee's Report: Don K6PBQ reported 1) that SCCARA participated in the cw and phone Sweepstakes from the club station at the Red Cross. A new counter top and a new cupboard has been added to the radio room so that it feels less crowded. 2) The \$200 Creekside Inn Deposit has been reimbursed.

Vice President's Report: Gregg KF6FNA reported that a Cushcraft MA-5B HF beam antenna has been installed on the roof of the Red Cross. There will be another antenna party to install a rotor.

President's Report: Fred AE6QL reported 1) www.sccara.org forwarding to <http://www.qsl.net/sccara/> was operational. 2) Domain registration expires March 10, 2015. It can be renewed for \$18.17 per Annam. This does not include domain forwarding. 3) BOD Meeting scheduled for 12/15/2014 is cancelled.

Repeater report: Wally KA6YMD reported that the pl 107.2 repeater is turned off due to operational problems. Lou WA6QYS will email Don AE6PM to get advice on a course of action to determine source of problem. Lou will report back to the board.

New Business: 1) Goetz K6GKB will be QSL Manager for the W6E special event station. 2) Fred AE6QL will assume LoTW (log book of the world) responsibilities for SCCARA. In 2015, John W6JPP held this position for 2014.

Adjourned at 20:37

Gregg Lane KF6FNA, recording

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.

Newsletter Notes

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: 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

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
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e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com

Are you getting the paper *SCCARA-GRAM* by US mail? Remember there's a new \$30 fee for that starting 2015. Without that fee the January issue will be your last mailed paper newsletter. If you want to continue getting the mailed version, be sure to check the box on the membership form and add \$30 to your dues.

If you already joined or renewed and didn't include the fee, but now want the mailed paper option, you can still do that. Just use a membership form, (name and call is all that's needed), check the box, and enclose the \$30 fee.

In the Prez Sez column this month, mention is made that some solar panel power converters are noisy at 160 m. If you have this problem, don't despair, all is not lost.

Amateurs have done battle with noise sources forever. Noise from almost any device can be improved or eliminated with a little creative technical ingenuity. There are books on the subject from the ARRL. In just one minute of looking I found these: <http://www.arrl.org/shop/The-ARRL-RFI-Book-3rd-Edition>, <http://www.arrl.org/shop/AC-Power-Interference-Handbook>. There are other sources of information about dealing with noise as well. Plus it helps to ask around. Some of your amateur friends may have had the same problem and already cured it.

If the noise source belongs to the neighbors, there's the added complication of personal relationships. That can get tricky. Generally people react favorably to being offered free help to fix a problem. It depend on your approach. Ask your amateur friends about that too, some of them may have excellent advice.

That's one of the good things about a club like SCCARA, the membership. Someone here may be familiar with your specific problem and already has the solution.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

December Luncheon 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. If time is short, call me at 408-263-2789, you can pay later.

Why not renew your membership at the same time? There's a membership form on the back cover..

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 you're a member and no 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: _____

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:

If joining in January: normal dues

If joining in February through October: dues x (11 - month) x 10% (e.g. for July, that's: dues x 4 x 0.1, which is \$8)

If joining in November or December: normal dues. That's for next year, and 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.