

# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 32, Number 5

May 2016



## May Meeting

The speaker for the May 9 Meeting will be Chris Swartout N6WCP. Chris is active in San Jose Races and owner of Blackwood Inovations ([www.blackwood-inovations.com](http://www.blackwood-inovations.com)) which markets Lithium batteries. I saw Chris's presentation on batteries when he gave it at the Santa Clara Races meeting and thought it to be the best solution for portable operating that I have seen. Don't forget to check out his website before the SCCARA meeting. See you there!

Gregg KF6FNA

## SCCARA will be at the May 14 Flea Market

SCCARA will be renting a space at the May Electronics Flea Market at De Anza. We will be raising funds for the club by selling items that have been donated. SCCARA members will also be able to sell their own items a this table. Set up of the sales table will be around 05:30 (after SVECS sets up the main canopy for refreshment sales) and tear down at noon (or when we sell out). If you would like to help with set up/tear down or help with sales, please contact Gregg KF6FNA by phone or email.

SVECS is the sponsor of this Flea Market. If you have time, I'm sure that they could also use some help. Contact Lou WA6QYS if you would like to help SVECS.

I am looking forward to good weather for the May Flea Market. I know that SCCARA has canceled twice due to rain. Keep the Faith!! We will PREVAIL!!!

Gregg KF6FNA  
kf6fna@comcast.net  
408-393-5607

## Prez Sez

### Field Day Revisited

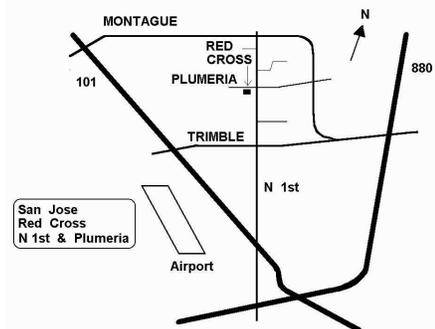
Your board considers Field Day its premium activity of the year. In the past we have had a lot of fun at Mt. Madonna but with the increasing years, many wanted a location that was close to

## Calendar

- 5/9 SCCARA General Meeting
- 5/14 Electronic Flea Market -- we'll have a table
- 5/16 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

## General Meeting

- Day: Monday, May 9, 2016
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Hospital B-06
- Featuring: Chris Swartout N6WCP on batteries



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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, [kaf6ymd@arrl.net](mailto:kaf6ymd@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](http://sun.n0ary.org) (login "bbs"). Sysop: Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU. For general packet info, see the NCPA web site [ncpa.n0ary.org](http://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

town. After a fire at Mt. Madonna we used the Red Cross one time. Unfortunately the light rail vehicles make a lot of electrical noise and their power lines parallel to our antennas radiated that noise. We could hear the LRV coming a ¼ mile away. Then we used Alviso for a few years but I think all would agree it wasn't the most beautiful location. The wind and lack of shade were a real problem. As well both the Red Cross and Alviso suffered the common problem of being too small.

Close is handy if you want to chat between stations but it's a big issue if say the Phone and CW stations wanted to share the same band. Close stations cross couple and you end up receiving another club station rather than the faraway station you are trying to contact. That's because receivers have only so much selectivity. Selectivity is the ability of a receiver to discern one station from another nearby station. By nearby we mean both nearby in location and frequency. When a transmitter is too close to a selectively deficient receiver it is unable to dig out the faraway station. Some call that QRM, RFI, or just confounded noise. That causes frustration and fatigue for the operator.

There are many solutions to insufficient selectivity but the easiest is to put distance between stations. In the near field offending signals are reduced by the inverse cube of their distance. I know that sounds complicated but it simply means a little distance will make a big difference. So much so that the FD rules prohibits stations within the same class of spreading more than 300 meters (1000 feet) apart.

Roofing filters help with this problem immensely but among the rigs we use only my Elecraft K3 has roofing filters. This may explain why one year the GOTA station running a K3 got more points than our phone station.

During the great San Francisco Earthquake of 1902 the city parks were the temporary home for many after the quake. SJRACES knows in the event of a real emergency that they will likely be operating in City Parks. Therefore it is their policy to use various City Parks so the limitations of each park will be known. Since preparing and informing for the real emergency is the theme of Field Day, it seems proper for SCCARA to also follow the same guidelines as SJRACES and use local parks.

Last year we tried Vasona County Park. The setting was nice but the red tape associated with reserving the park wasn't. The County wanted \$1200 for various fees and our members would still have to pay a parking fee assessed at the gate. Furthermore the park was only open from 7 AM to sunset so access would be restricted at night. We couldn't drive stakes in the ground so antennas had to be self-supporting or guyed to trees. Eventually the fees, except for the parking, were waved but other restrictions remained.

There was a lot that was right with Vasona. The scenery was nice and the restrooms easy. The trees were excellent for hanging antennas. For the first time that I am aware Google Earth was used for precise locating of antennas. The scaled maps made it easy to find orthogonal (at right angles) locations at just the right distance for the OCF Windom antennas. The Windoms tune 80 through 6 meters so it was not ever necessary to change antennas.

This year we will continue with the park theme. We will be using San Jose City's Houge Park. Houge Park is located between Twilight Drive & White Oaks Avenue, San Jose, CA 95124. Plug in 3962 Twilight Dr, San Jose, CA 95124 or 37.256674, -121.942032 to your GPS.

A good way to start your Field Day experience is by logging for another operator. You'll learn the ropes by listening and help the operator by logging on the computer. If you are curious about the logging software and want an advanced look I offer a copy to anyone interested. Just bring a DVD or better a USB flash drive to the meeting. Also I can give you programming software for many rigs. There are manuals, test tutoring and how too videos as well. An 8 Gig flash driving costing only \$3 at Fry's will do for programs and manuals. If you want videos as well,

better get a 16 or 32 capacity. (It's also a good idea to always bring a flash drive to all meetings. That way you can get a copy of our speaker's notes.)

While you are operating a club station you will want to know there is the usual park stuff including a horseshoe pit, exercise course, basketball court, two tennis courts, and a special youth playground for ages 2-5 as well as a regular playground for ages 5-12.

There will be assistance for finding our exact location. As usual we have the club repeater (146.985 MHz, minus offset, PL 114.8) or simplex 146.52 MHz. Also Wally will be using his cell (408) 891-1105 for directions. Parking is easy and close to our event with wheel chair access.

See you there!

73, Fred, AE6QL, ae6ql@arrl.net



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## ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, March 31, 2016

### ARRL to Review, Evaluate, and Explore Possible Improvements for OO Program, and other matters

The ARRL Executive Committee has directed the Headquarters staff to "review and evaluate the Official Observer (OO) program, solicit input from the field organization, and explore areas of possible improvement including in the area of training for OOs." ARRL Second Vice President Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT, will oversee the study. The action stemmed from a discussion during the EC's March 12 meeting in Westlake, Texas. At the meeting, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, observed that there have been "several positive developments" with respect to FCC enforcement, since the EC last met in October 2015. But with the closure of some FCC field offices and the retirement of several experienced engineers who have been helpful with enforcement matters in the past, the EC discussed how the OO program might be better positioned to help the FCC. A preliminary report is due at the EC's October meeting.

In other matters...

The EC directed the development of a Petition for Rule Making to implement the 15 kHz band allocation at 5 MHz that came out of World Radiocommunication Conference 2015, while retaining the existing five discrete channels at 5 MHz.

WRC-15 laid the foundation for a global, secondary Amateur Radio allocation of 5351.5 kHz to 5366.5 kHz at up to 15 W effective isotropic radiated power in the US (some Region 2 countries will be permitted up to 25 W EIRP). The new worldwide band won't be available for use in the US until the FCC institutes a rule making proceeding and establishes operating parameters for the band.

The ARRL has served notice on the National Frequency Coordinators' Council (NFCC) to terminate the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that spells out how the two organizations will cooperate in achieving common goals. At the EC's direction, ARRL CEO and EC Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, wrote (page 1, page 2) to Mark Stennett, NA6M, as the most-recent known NFCC president, after Sumner reported "clear evidence" that the

NFCC is no longer functioning.

The letter gave the NFCC 90 days' notice of the ARRL's intention to terminate the MoU, signed in 2013. Sumner stressed the sentiment of the Executive Committee, however, that the League would greatly prefer that the NFCC membership elect and install a new Board of Directors, and that the NFCC resumes its functions.

Imlay told the EC that he has asked FCC staff why there has been no action on the ARRL's Petition for Rule Making RM-11708, since the FCC solicited comments on the petition more than 2 years ago. The petition, in part, asked the FCC to remove the symbol rate limitation for data emissions in band segments below 29 MHz where RTTY and data emissions are now permitted. It also asked the Commission to establish a 2.8 kHz maximum bandwidth for data emissions on MF and HF bands.

Chairing his first EC meeting, ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, thanked all participants for their hard work and attention and observed that this was David Sumner's last meeting as CEO and Secretary. He will retire on April 18.

### Comedian, Actor, TV Writer and Personality Garry Shandling, ex-KD6OY, SK

Comedian, actor, and TV personality Garry Shandling, ex-KD6OY, died March 24 after suffering an apparent heart attack in Los Angeles. He was 66. Shandling became a HAM as a teenager in the 1960s, long before he entered show business.

"When I was 13 I had a HAM radio set (true!), so I could sit in my room and talk to people the world-over. Geeky? Or just ahead of my time!?" Shandling tweeted in May 2011.

Shandling grew up in Arizona and majored in electrical engineering at the University of Arizona, but he went on to earn a degree in marketing and complete some post-graduate work in creative writing. He worked in marketing for a time, until a script he wrote for "Sanford and Son" turned into his first big break into entertainment.



His most recent Amateur Radio license -- issued to him under a pseudonym, Dave Waddell -- expired in August 2009. His call sign was KQ6KA. Shandling obtained the call sign under an assumed name, apparently so that he could get on the air without being recognized as a celebrity. He had an Advanced class license. Prior to that, he was KD6OY under his real name, and WA7BKG in his early years in Arizona.

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From *The ARRL Letter*, April 7, 2016

### ARRL MF Experiment Coordinator Sees Ongoing Research Role After Hams Gain 472-479 kHz

The coordinator of the 600 Meter Experimental Group, Fritz Raab, W1FR, said this week that he sees an ongoing role for medium frequency (MF) experimentation, even after Amateur Radio gains access to the new 630 meter band (472-479 kHz). An FCC Report and Order authorizing Amateur Radio access to 2200 meters (135.7-137.8 kHz) and 630 meters is expected to be released soon. In his 1st quarter report for 2016 on the WD2XSH Experimental license work, Raab said that once the new ham band is in place, he

expects ARRL experiment participants to pursue work in that part of the spectrum under their Amateur Radio licenses. But he said that more MF research remains, and he would recommend continuing work under the WD2XSH Experimental a while longer, shifting focus to 461 to 472 kHz.

"This will clear the amateur frequencies, while allowing the experimenters to run unattended propagation beacons without using the limited bandwidth that will be available to amateurs." The WD2XSH Part 5 Experimental license does not expire until 2020. A substantial community of Amateur Radio operators already conduct experiments using their own FCC Part 5 licenses in the low frequency (LF) and MF spectrum, in addition to the WD2XSH experiment.

Raab this week suggested several possibilities for expanded experimental work in the vicinity of 630 meters without cluttering the limited 7 kHz of spectrum in the soon-to-be-authorized amateur band. Among other things, he envisions work using wider-bandwidth modulation protocols, the use of higher power than the 1 W EIRP expected to be authorized for the new ham band, and commemorative transmissions.

"Eventually, this operation might show that the amateur allocation could be expanded or allowed to use more power," Raab said.

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From *The ARRL Letter*, April 14, 2016

### **ARRL VHF Contest Revitalization Committee Calls for Comments on Proposed UHF and Up Event**

The ARRL VHF Contest Revitalization (VCR) Committee has drafted rules for a proposed new UHF and Up Contest and now is seeking input from the contesting community. The invitation follows the Committee's review of "considerable input from the amateur community."

"In proposing the new rules, the Committee sought to respond to some of the most frequently received comments and to provide a 'test bed' for changes that might be considered for other non-HF contests in the future," ARRL Central Division Vice Director and VCR Chair Kermit Carlson, W9XA, explained. "At this time, everything is a proposal -- open for comment, and definitely in flux."

Carlson said several common themes stood out among the comments and suggestions the Committee has already received. These included:

- Use distance-based scoring rather than a geographic multiplier system.
- The August timing is too close to other VHF+ contests, and/or it's too hot for roving.
- More incentive is needed to invest time and effort in making higher-band contacts.
- Existing rover rules are too complicated and too restrictive.
- Current VHF+ contests have too many entry categories.
- Scoring potential varies widely from one geographic region to another.

The draft contest proposal uses distance scoring, with point multipliers for contacts made on higher bands. To encourage roving, it simplifies rover rules to include those who do not travel

great distances, and mobile stations. It includes just three entry categories and features regional, rather than national, competition. It adds team competition for small groups of operators who may not be part of a contest club.

The event would be held in the spring, between the January and June VHF contests.

Nothing is final yet -- not even the name of the contest, Carlson stressed. The Committee would like to hear from veteran and prospective VHF+ contest participants before it moves ahead with any additional changes. Submit comments by e-mail by June 15.

The Committee also encourages more local outreach -- articles, announcements, seminars, and mentoring -- to draw new participants into this and all radiosporting activities. Expanding the pool of potential contacts will make these contests more enjoyable for everyone, and Carlson said he hopes that commenters will share their outreach ideas with the Committee too.

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## **April Meeting**

If you missed the April 11 sccara meeting... the program was given by David P. Viera KI6CLA. David (who is active in the **50 MHz and Up** group - [www.50mhzandup.org](http://www.50mhzandup.org)) had given this same presentation on *Building A 10 GHz Transverter* to the **BAY-NET** group ([www.bay-net.org](http://www.bay-net.org)) and you can find a copy of it at their website. Look for it under the presentation list for BAY CON 2016.

Gregg KF6FNA

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## **SVECS hosts De Anza Electronics Flea market**

The May 14<sup>th</sup> 2016 Electronics Flea Market will be hosted by SVECS (Silicon Valley Emergency Communications System) sponsors of the AA6BT ARES/RACES repeater.

SCCARA and SVECS have worked hand in hand at their respective flea markets for many years. So as to maintain this symbiotic relationship let me invite SCCARA members to help with SVECS' flea market effort. Work shifts are available from (A) 0500-0700, (B) 0700-0900, (C) 0900-1100 and (D) 1100-1300. Let me know which shift(s) you would like me to reserve for you. Your help is needed and appreciated. Give me a call or E-mail me with your shift preference(s).

SCCARA hosts the flea market September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Thanks, Lou WA6QYS  
wa6qys@arrl.net 408-241-7999

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## **Meeting Minutes**

**General Meeting, April 11, 2016**



{no minutes received. -- Editor}



{no minutes received. -- Editor}

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

Date: 27 Mar 2011 18:24
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: The C.E.O.

A fellow had just been hired as the new CEO of a large high tech corporation. The CEO who was stepping down met with him privately and presented him with three numbered envelopes.

Well, things went along pretty smoothly, but six months later, sales took a downturn and he was really catching a lot of heat.

The new CEO called a press conference and tactfully laid the blame at the feet of the previous CEO.

About a year later, the company was again experiencing a slight dip in sales, combined with serious product problems.

After several consecutive profitable quarters, the company once again fell on difficult times.

The message said, "Prepare three envelopes..."

Date: 18 Jun 2010 03:04
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Did I Say That?

Police in Los Angeles, California had good luck with a robbery suspect who just couldn't control himself during a lineup.

When detectives asked each man in the lineup to repeat the words: "Give me all your money or I'll shoot," the man shouted, "that's not what I said!"

Amateurs have a long history of helping each other. An experienced amateur who helps another is traditionally called an "Elmer."

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:
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 Network (BBS, forwarding): 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

Contacts:
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
packet: home BBS N0ARY
e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com

Newsletter Notes

As you read in the Prez Sez column, this year we'll participate in Field Day at Houge Park (pronounced "HO-gee" with a hard 'g'), a neighborhood park in south-west San Jose.

You may already know that we start the set up process Friday afternoon, the day before the contest starts. What you may not know is that Houge is also home to the San Jose Astronomical Association (http://sjaa.net) and Houge is one of their public star party sites where they set up telescopes for FREE public viewing.

The SJAA has a public star party scheduled for that same Friday evening. It starts when it gets dark and runs for about three hours. There is a parking lot at the north end of the Park, the telescopes occupy the western-most parking spaces.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor



**SCCARA**  
 Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association  
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 SAN JOSE CA 95103-0106



**FIRST CLASS**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**SCCARA Membership Form for 2016**

If renewing and none of your info has changed, we only need your name and call

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Licensed since (yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Licence Expiration  
 Date: (mm/dd/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ New Member Renewal I'm also an ARRL member

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

(only for club communications and the SCCARA-GRAM (pdf) newsletter)

Memberships start January 1 and expire December 31. Annual dues are: **\$20 Individual \$25 Family \$10 Student** (under 18)  
 For family memberships (members at the same address), please include the above info for each member, (use separate forms).

**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: \$20 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 per year, prorated (\$2.50 per month).  
 So that's \$27.50 if starting in February, \$25 if starting in March, \$22.50 if starting in April, \$20 starting in May, etc.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total membership payment for:**      **individual**                      **family**                      **student**

Give this completed form and payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or mail to the club address.