

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 32, Number 10

October 2016



Flea Market

On September 10, 2016, members of SCCARA came together to participate in a club fund raiser by running the Electronics Flea Market at De Anza College. This is a manpower intensive endeavor but many heeded the call to help. In addition to the food booth we had an active sales table liquidating surplus club inventory/donations.

The day starts early with volunteers manning the gate from before 3 AM and goes until the lot clean up ends after 3PM. I would like to acknowledge those that gave so generously of their time: Paul HWN, Seth UZX, Rusty ZSK, Goetz GKB, Gregg FNA, Gary YRU, Wally YMD, Don PBQ, Svend EMB, Dona DAR, Janet PUQ, Lloyd FJI, Praveen VGB, Joan LFZ, and Mike LCJ.

All your efforts gained a net income of \$1841.25 for SCCARA. Of this total, Gary raised \$178 from odds and ends. It was a pleasure organizing and working with such a dedicated crew of volunteers. A heartfelt thank you to all.

We will have another opportunity to host the Electronics Flea Market on March 11, 2017. Unfortunately the weather might be inclement but that is the luck of the draw. I would hope I could rely on all who participated in September to also be available in March. Sign up sheets will be circulated as the date nears.

Thanks again to all who made this a success.
Lou WA6QYS

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, Sept. 8, 2016

More Countries Act on 60 Meter Amateur Allocations

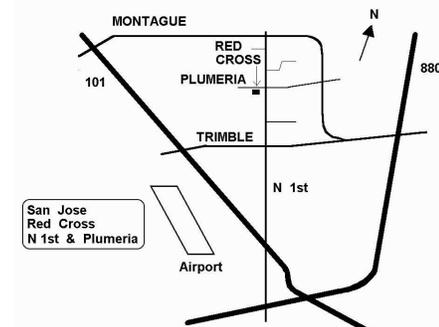
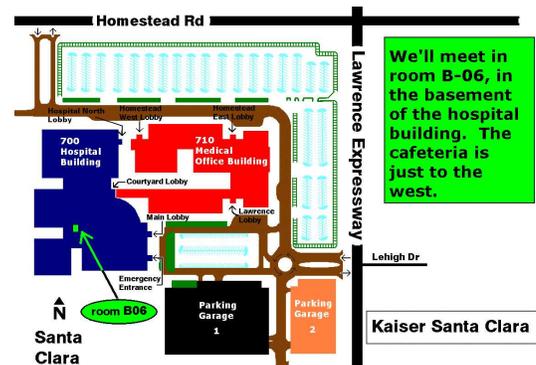
Belarus and Latvia are among the latest countries to open Amateur Radio bands at 5 MHz. The Belarus Federation of Amateur Radio and Radiosportsmen (BFRR) announced recently that radio amateurs there now have access to a new contiguous 15-kilohertz 60 meter band, consistent with the consensus reached at World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15). Class A licensees in Belarus may operate on 5351.5-5366.5 kHz on CW, SSB, and digital modes, on a secondary basis with a maximum output power of 50 W. In Latvia, radio amateurs also are now

Calendar

- 10/10 SCCARA General Meeting
- 10/14-16 Pacificon
- 10/17 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting

- Day: Monday, Oct. 10, 2016
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Hospital B-06
- Featuring: (to be announced)



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: 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

Amateur license testing, ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group,
Morris Jones, AD6ZH: 408-507-4698

permitted to use 5351.5-5366.5 kHz, with a maximum power output of 15 W EIRP. (Some Latvian hams now may also operate on the new 630 meter band, 472-479 kHz, with a power of 1 W EIRP and a transmitted signal bandwidth no greater than 800 Hz.)

Andorra returned to 60 meters earlier this summer under a new allocation of 5351.5-5366.5 kHz with a maximum power of 15 W EIRP, CW and USB, per consensus reached at WRC-15. Temporary for now, the allocation will become permanent starting in 2017. Andorra's previous 60 meter allocation was withdrawn last fall after WRC-15.

The South African Radio League (SARL) reports that its recommendation for a 100-kilohertz-wide 60 meter allocation, presented to telecoms regulator ICASA earlier this year, has received approval from the frequency spectrum department, although it's not yet authorized for use. The SARL proposal seeks the continued use of 5290 kHz for a WSPR propagation experiment and a secondary allocation of 100 kilohertz that includes the WRC-agreed range of 5351.5-5366.5 kHz, with a power maximum of 400 W.

The SARL supported a 5350-5450 kHz allocation proposed at WRC-15 by the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). Opposition to that proposal resulted in a compromise to allocate 5351.5-5366.5 kHz. Nonetheless, some countries, including the Netherlands, have given their radio amateurs access to the proposed 100 kilohertz.

Article 4.4 of the ITU Radio Regulations lets countries authorize frequency assignments that are contrary to the international Table of Allocations only on a non-interference, non-protected basis.

Telecommunications regulators in more than 40 countries have authorized access to 60 meters -- many, including the US, in the form of discrete channels -- on a secondary basis.

IARU Region 1 (Europe and Africa) earlier this year agreed to a paper presented by RSGB HF Manager Ian Greenshields, G4FSU, outlining a basic provisional band plan for the new 5 MHz allocation agreed upon at WRC-15. IARU Region 1 is hoping that its proposed 5351.5-5366.5 kHz usage plan will eventually be adopted by all three IARU regions.

The Region 1 plan sets aside 5351.5-5354 kHz for CW and narrowband modes; 5354.0-5366 kHz for all modes, USB voice recommended, and 5366.0-5366.5 kHz for "weak-signal narrowband modes."

The Region 1 plan strongly recommends that frequencies within the WRC-15 allocation only be used if there are no other frequencies available at 5 MHz under domestic (ie, ITU-R Article 4.4) authorizations. "Local nets and long rag-chew QSOs should not use the 5 MHz WRC-15 allocation, but should instead make use of the 3.5 MHz, 5 MHz domestic, or 7 MHz bands, where there is more spectrum available," the plan advises.

The recent St Paul Island CY9C DXpedition operated on 60 meters, activating that DXCC entity for the first time on that band.

From *The ARRL Letter*, Sept. 15, 2016

Amateur Radio Parity Act Passes in the US House of Representatives!

"The bill is passed without objection." With those words, Amateur Radio history was made on September 12, when the US House of Representatives approved the Amateur Radio Parity Act, H.R.

1301 on a voice vote under a suspension of the rules. The focus of the campaign to enact the legislation into law now shifts to the US Senate.

The House victory culminated many years of effort on ARRL's part to gain legislation that would enable radio amateurs living in deed-restricted communities to erect antennas that support Amateur Radio communication. The measure calls on the FCC to amend its Part 97 rules "to prohibit the application to amateur stations of certain private land-use restrictions, and for other purposes." While similar bills in past years gained some traction on Capitol Hill, it was not until the overwhelming grassroots support from the Amateur Radio community for H.R. 1301 shepherded by ARRL that a bill made it this far. The legislation faces significant obstacles to passage in the US Senate, however.

"This is huge step in our effort to enact legislation that will allow radio amateurs who live in deed-restricted communities the ability to construct an effective outdoor antenna," ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, said. "Thanks to everyone for their help in this effort thus far. Now we must turn our full attention to getting the bill passed in the Senate."

ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, who chairs the ARRL Board's Legislative Advocacy Committee, has been heavily involved in efforts to move H.R. 1301 forward. "This has been a multi-year effort that is finally seeing some light," he said. "The passage of the bill in the House is a major accomplishment, due to the hard work of so many -- from the rank-and-file member to the officers and directors."

Lisenco said it's not a time to rest on our laurels. "We are only halfway there. The focus now shifts to our effort in the Senate," he said. "We are beginning a massive e-mail campaign in which we need every member to write their two Senators using our simplified process. You will be hearing from President Roderick and from your Directors, asking you to go to our Rally Congress page. Using your ZIP code, e-mails will be generated much like our recent letter campaign. You'll fill in your name and address and press Enter. The e-mails will be sent directly to your Senators without you having to search through their websites."

Lisenco said getting these e-mails to members' Senators is a critical part of the process. "Those numbers matter! Please help us help you by participating in this effort," he said.

As the amended bill provides, "Community associations should fairly administer private land-use regulations in the interest of their communities, while nevertheless permitting the installation and maintenance of effective outdoor Amateur Radio antennas. There exist antenna designs and installations that can be consistent with the aesthetics and physical characteristics of land and structures in community associations while accommodating communications in the Amateur Radio services."

Limited Debate

During this week's limited debate, the House bill's sponsor, Rep Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), thanked ARRL and the Community Associations Institute (CAI) for reaching an agreement to move the bill forward "in a bipartisan and very positive manner." He pointed out to his colleagues that Amateur Radio antennas are prohibited outright in some areas.

"For some this is merely a nuisance," Kinzinger said, "but for others -- those that use their Amateur Radio license for life-saving emergency communications -- a dangerous situation can be created by limiting their ability to establish effective communication for those in need."

Kinzinger said that in emergencies, hams can provide "a vital and life-saving function" when conventional communication systems are down. He also praised the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS), a US Department of Defense-sponsored program, comprised largely of Amateur Radio volunteers, that also supports communication during emergencies and disasters.

Cosponsor US Rep Joe Courtney (D-CT) also urged the bill's passage. "This is not just a feel-good bill," Courtney said, recounting how Hurricane Sandy brought down the power grid, and "we saw all the advanced communications we take for granted...completely fall by the wayside." Ham radio volunteers provided real-time communication in the storm's wake, he said, saying the legislation was a way "to rebalance things" for radio amateurs who choose to live in deed-restricted neighborhoods by enabling them to install "non-intrusive antennas."

Courtney noted that he spoke recently with FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler, and said that Wheeler "strongly supports this legislation."

Leading up to the vote, Rep Paul Tonko (D-NY) also spoke in support of the legislation, calling it a common-sense approach that would build "fairness into the equation for Amateur Radio operators" in dealing with homeowners associations.

The earlier U.S. Senate version of the Amateur Radio Parity Act, S. 1685, no longer is in play, and the Senate is expected to vote by unanimous consent on the version of H.R. 1301 that the House adopted on September 12.

From *The ARRL Letter*, Sept. 22, 2016

Momentum Building to Urge Senate Passage of the Amateur Radio Parity Act

The response to ARRL's call to action urging the support of US Senators for the Amateur Radio Parity Act, H.R. 1301, has been gratifying -- although the campaign continues. More than 50,000 e-mails have been sent to Capitol Hill via Rally Congress, and all 100 US Senate members have been contacted. The League continues to encourage members of the Amateur Radio community who have not yet done so to reach out to their two US Senators seeking their support. Just where things stand with respect to the bill's future in the US Senate is not yet entirely clear.

"As of this moment, we have no date set for action by the Senate," said ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, who has been deeply involved in promoting passage of the legislation. "The Senate will adjourn the September work period soon and members will return home to campaign. If we do not achieve consideration before they go into hiatus, we will have to wait until they return after Election Day."

On September 12, the US House of Representatives approved H.R. 1301 on a voice vote under a suspension of the rules, culminating many years of effort on ARRL's part to gain legislation that would enable radio amateurs living in deed-restricted communities to erect antennas that support Amateur Radio communication. The bill calls on the FCC to amend its Part 97 rules "to prohibit the application to amateur stations of certain private land-use restrictions, and for other purposes."

Shepherded by ARRL, the overwhelming grassroots support for H.R. 1301 from the Amateur Radio community was credited for getting the bill through the US House, but it faces significant obstacles to passage in the US Senate. The earlier US Senate version of the bill, S. 1685, no longer is in play, and the Senate is expected to vote on the version of H.R. 1301 that the House

adopted this month. The vote came after ARRL worked with the Community Association Institute -- which represents homeowners associations -- to develop language that both organizations could support.

Rally Congress makes it easy to generate letters to Senators in support of The Amateur Radio Parity Act. The entire process takes just a couple of minutes.

“So it is critical that ARRL members continue to write their Senators,” Lisenco urged. “To those who have already written, thank you! If you haven't done so already, please do so today. We can only do so much. After that, it becomes the responsibility of the membership to participate.”

As the amended bill provides, “Community associations should fairly administer private land-use regulations in the interest of their communities, while nevertheless permitting the installation and maintenance of effective outdoor Amateur Radio antennas. There exist antenna designs and installations that can be consistent with the aesthetics and physical characteristics of land and structures in community associations while accommodating communications in the Amateur Radio services.”

More information on The Amateur Radio Parity Act is on the ARRL website: <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act>

A Record Breaker on 630 Meters!

Although US radio amateurs do not yet have access to 630 meters, Canadian licensees do, and one of them was on the North American end of the first two-way contact on that band between Canada and Australia. Steve McDonald, VE7SL, in British Columbia, and Roger Crofts, VK4YB, in Queensland, completed a contact on September 15 between 1225 and 1319 UTC using JT9 digital mode. The distance covered was on the order of 7000 miles.

“This morning a historic QSO for the Amateur Service was completed!” commented John Langridge, KB5NJD, who also holds an FCC Part 5 Experimental license, WG2XIQ. “This is also the longest two-way QSO on 630 meters ever completed.” The contact took place on 474.300 kHz.

McDonald said band conditions were just good enough to get the job done. “Well, it wasn't pretty as in 'pretty-quick,' but it's done,” he told Langridge in recounting the contact. McDonald told ARRL that the band “was not particularly good this far north and was much better just a few hundred miles to my south,” but had been improving “little by little.”

Crofts agreed that he and McDonald had a tough time of it. “It was a real struggle, but finally got there,” he told Langridge in an e-mail. “I thought we were going to miss out, because all the big signals had taken a dive. Obviously the path to VE7 was still hanging in there.”

McDonald said his antenna is “basically about the size of a 160 meter inverted L, but over extremely poor ground,” while Crofts, with what McDonald described as “a monster antenna” was doing the heavy lifting for the contact. McDonald was using a transverter that VK4YB had sent him for beta testing, driving an LF MOSFET amplifier converted for 630 meter use.

Meanwhile, Joe Lowe, NU6O, in California, reports that VK4YB also heard his W12XBQ Experimental Service beacon on September 14. “I was running 0.5 W ERP, 50 W TPO, into a 43-foot vertical in the backyard,” he told ARRL. “Very low power

and simple equipment are capable of DX on 630 meters!” Lowe said he was using WSPR mode.

An April 2015 FCC Report and Order, Order, and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (R&O/NPRM) proposed a new secondary 630 meter MF allocation at 472 to 479 kHz to Amateur Radio, implementing decisions made at WRC-12. It also allocated 135.7 to 137.8 kHz to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis. A Report and Order is pending.

Holiday Luncheon

December Meeting

Our annual holiday meeting will be a luncheon on Saturday, December 10th 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 woman costing about \$10.00. This type of exchange is always a lot of fun to participate in.

Reservations need to be in by Monday, December 5, (see the sign up sheet below). 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

SVECS Breakfast

The Silicon Valley Emergency Communications System will hold it's quarterly breakfast on **October 22, 2016**. It is held at the Santa Clara Senior Center, 1303 Fremont St. at Monroe in Santa Clara. There is an all you can eat breakfast for \$5 followed by a presentation at 10:00.

Our guest speaker will be Jon Boucher, Engineer/Paramedic, with the Santa Clara Fire Department. His topic will be Hazmat Recognition.

After a disaster such as an earthquake it is inevitable that Hazardous Materials will be released. In order for emergency communicators in the field to remain safe, it is critical to be able to recognize when Hazardous Materials are present. This presentation is designed to provide emergency responders with the ability to recognize Hazmat so that they can keep a safe distance and be able to pass along important information to command. Some of the topics covered will include:

- Common indicators of Hazardous Materials
- Common types of buildings and vehicles which carry Hazmat
- Placarding systems for buildings and vehicles

We will have our usual \$125 door prize and raffle drawing. Please bring your lightly used/surplus equipment for the raffle table donation.

It is imperative that you RSVP so we can purchase adequate supplies for the breakfast. RSVP at the SCCARA meeting or e-mail WA6QYS@arrl.net.

Further info: www.SVECS.net

Lou WA6QYS

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Sept. 12, 2016



{no minutes received. -- Ed.}

Board Meeting, Sept. 19, 2016



{no minutes received. -- Ed.}

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e-mail: wa6qys@arrl.net

WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, 408-269-2924
packet: home BBS N0ARY
e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com

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 and 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:

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

Newsletter Notes

The pdf version of the stand-alone membership form, and the form on the back of each *SCCARA-GRAM* can be filled in from your pdf reader. The filled in form can be printed by practically any reader. Typically you'd print the filled-in form and send it in with your dues.

Unfortunately, many pdf readers won't let you save a pdf form after filling it in. I've been looking into that. I use WordPerfect to create the *SCCARA-GRAM*. Turns out it has no way to adjust the pdf permission settings. So there's nothing I can do about that.

However, WordPerfect does set the "no security" pdf property. The latest version of Adobe Reader DC (and perhaps some others) will see that and override the rest of the permission settings. If you have that reader, you can save the pdf membership form after filling it in. Just be aware that if you're filling in the form on the back of the *SCCARA-GRAM*, the whole newsletter will be saved--with your filled-in form on the back. If you want to save your filled-in pdf membership form, best to use the stand-alone membership form (available on the club web site).

There is a work around for some of us. Many pdf readers will allow you to "print" to a file. If your reader has that option, select the file type as pdf and you'll be able to save the filled-in form that way.

Failing that, you'll just have to print it. At least you can fill it in from the reader instead of by hand. That will make life a little easier on our secretary if your handwriting isn't so great, (especially important for email addresses).

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

December Meeting Sign-up Form

Our annual December meeting will be a luncheon on Saturday, December 10, at 12 noon. This year our luncheon will be at Michael's at Shoreline, 2960 North Shoreline Blvd in Mountain View. You have a choice of three entrees, \$26.75 each. We need your reservations (this form) no later than Monday, December 5. I hope to see you all there!

73, Don Village K6PBQ

For the annual meeting in December. sign me up for the following lunch(es) at \$26.75 each:

_____ Roast beef English cut _____ Chicken Cordon bleu _____ 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



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.