

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 33, Number 12

December 2017



Dinner Meeting



Mark your calendars. Reserve the date. The Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association will hold its Holiday Dinner at Harry's Hoffbrau on Monday, December 11th.

Harry's is located at 390 Saratoga Ave. just north of Highway 280 (between 280 and Steven Creek Blvd). We have the corner area reserved from 6:30 PM. As you enter the front door turn left down the first aisle of tables and booths and proceed to the next room. This is where we will have our Gala Holiday Feast.

Do come and join your fellow SCCARA members and by all means bring the entire family. Guests, ham or not, are cordially invited. The menu offers delicious meals large or small at reasonable prices. Their draft beers are endless in variety. Something for every taste, including sodas. Let us reminisce about our past activities and plan for future adventures.

Looking forward to seeing all SCCARA members December 11th.

Please let Don Village, K6PBQ, know how many are coming in your party, before 12/7/2017. 408-263-2789 or email donvillage7@yahoo.com.



Lou WA6QYS



Membership

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2018. There's a form on the back of each *SCCARA-GRAM* and on our web site.

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, November 2, 2017

New Digital Modes Changing Complexion of Bands and Perhaps of Ham Radio

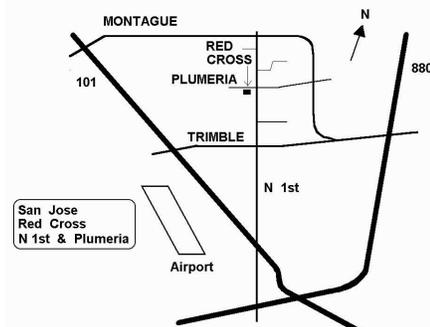
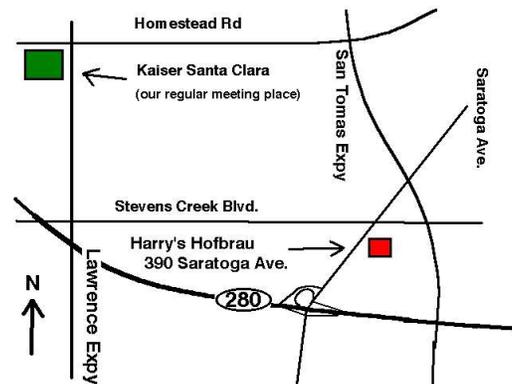
The wave of software-based digital modes over the past several years has altered the atmosphere of the HF bands. Some suggest the popularity of modes that make it possible to contact stations neither operator can even hear has resulted in fewer CW and SSB signals on bands like 6 meters and 160 meters. Traditional modes

Calendar

- 12/11 SCCARA General Meeting - Dinner meeting
- 12/18 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting

Day: Monday, December 11, 2017
Time: 6:30 PM
Place: Harry's Hoffbrau, 390 Saratoga Ave
Featuring: Dinner meeting



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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 site: www.qsl.net/sccara

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(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.

AMATEUR LICENSE TESTING

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

require far more interaction and effort on the part of the operator; the newer digital modes, not so much. The recent advent of the still-better "quick" FT8 mode, developed by Steve Franke, K9AN, and Joe Taylor, K1JT -- the "F" and the "T" in the mode's moniker -- has brought this to a head. Some now wonder if FT8 marks the end of an era and the start of a new, more minimalist age.

"We've been as surprised as anyone about the rapid uptake of FT8 for making QSOs on the HF bands," Taylor told ARRL this week. Rather than viewing FT8 as a total game-changer, he sees a dividing line between such digital modes and more traditional modes.

"SSB and CW are general-purpose modes," Taylor asserted. "They are good for ragchewing, DXing, contesting, emergency communications, or whatever. FT8 and the other modes in WSJT-X are special-purpose modes. They are designed for making reliable, error-free contacts using very weak signals -- in particular, signals that may be too weak for the more traditional modes to be usable, or even too weak to hear." (See <https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjt.html>)

Taylor notes that the information exchanged in most FT8, JT65, and other digital-mode contacts "is little more than the bare minimum for what's considered to be a valid contact." In addition to call signs and signal reports, stations may exchange grid squares and acknowledgments.

Radio amateurs recently commented in response to a Top Band Reflector post, in which Steve Ireland, VK6VZ, averred that because of FT8, "160-meter DXing has changed, perhaps forever" in recent weeks. Ireland said he downloaded FT8 but just couldn't bring himself to use it on the air. "My heart isn't in it," he wrote. "My computer will be talking to someone else's computer, and there will be no sense of either a particular person's way of sending CW or the tone of their voice. The human in radio has somehow been lost."

In his blog (<http://ve7sl.blogspot.ca/>), Steve McDonald, VE7SL, compiled not only Ireland's posts, but some responses to it, although not identified by name or call sign. One commenter suggested that the game-changing aspect of FT8 is that those who typically operate CW or SSB will gravitate to FT8. "The amount of activity on the FT8 frequency of any band is phenomenal," the commenter observed. A few complained that no skill is involved in making contacts using computer-based digital modes.

Another suggested that FT8 is already falling victim to its own success, with too many stations crowding around the designated FT8 frequencies. Others were more philosophical, with remarks along the lines of this one: "It is allowing people who have smaller stations the opportunity to get on and use their radios and a computer to make contacts they never would have been able to make. This is great for ham radio!"

Taylor would agree. As he sees it, FT8 won't replace modes such as CW or SSB. "Nevertheless, it's clear that -- at least in the short term -- many hams enjoy making rapid-fire minimal QSOs with other hams, all over the world, using modest ham equipment," he said. "For this purpose, FT8 shines."

From *The ARRL Letter*, November 9, 2017

Announcing: The ARRL International Grid Chase

A new and exciting operating event will kick off on January 1, 2018, at 0000 UTC (New Year's Eve in US time zones), when the ARRL International Grid Chase (<http://www.arrl.org/aigc2018>)

gets under way. The year-long event hopes to build on the success of the highly successful 2016 National Parks on the Air (NPOTA). The objective is to work stations on any band (except 60 meters) in as many different Maidenhead grid squares as possible, and then upload your log data to ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW). Registration (<https://lotw.arrl.org/lotw-help/getting-started/>) in LoTW is free, and it costs nothing to participate

Many hams are familiar with grid squares from the VHF/UHF and satellite realms, and everyone lives in one. ARRL's VUCC is based on grid squares, and some contests on HF, VHF, and UHF also use them as a scoring factor.

The Maidenhead grid square system divvies up the entire globe into 324 fields, each containing 100 grid squares 1° latitude \times 2° longitude in size. With 32,400 potential grid squares, it's not likely that anyone will run out of challenges, even though some grid squares are surrounded entirely by water or are in areas that are uninhabited or difficult to access.

If you don't know your grid square, David Levine, K2DSL, has an online calculator (www.levinecentral.com/ham/grid_square.php). Just enter a postal address, ZIP code, or even a call sign, and his site will tell you the grid square for that location. For example, enter "W1AW" and the site will return "FN31pr." For the purposes of the ARRL International Grid Chase, though, just the two initial letters and the two numbers that follow (e.g., FN31) are all you'll need to know.

Once you get active in the chase and start uploading your log data, each new grid square contact confirmed through LoTW will count toward your monthly total (<http://www.arrl.org/aigc2018>). Getting started is simple. Turn on the radio and just call CQ or "CQ Grid Chase" or listen for others doing the same. Make a contact, exchange grid squares, log it, and move on to another. At the end of each month, your totals on the Grid Chase leader board will reset to zero, although the system retains these to determine top finishers in various categories at the end of the year.

Any contact you make in 2018 can count toward your Chase score; it doesn't have to involve an exchange of grid squares. As long as the other operators also participate in LoTW, you'll get credit automatically when they upload their logs. This means that contest contacts also count, as will contacts with special event stations or other on-air activity that uses LoTW to confirm contacts.

Some radio amateurs live in sparsely populated grid squares, and if you're one of those, you could find yourself handling a pileup! Expeditions to hard-to-reach or rare grid squares undoubtedly will evolve. You also can travel to one of those grid squares yourself. Some vehicle or handheld GPS units can be set to display when you are in a particular grid square. Apps are available for smartphones or tablets, such as Ham Square for iOS devices or HamGPS for Android devices.

There are no restrictions on modes or bands, as long as they are legal. Satellite contacts are valid for the Chase. The event is open to all radio amateurs.

Full details of the ARRL International Grid Chase will appear in the December 2017 issue of QST. The digital edition is available on Friday, November 10.

For more information, contact the ARRL Contest Branch at contests@arrl.org.

From *The ARRL Letter*, November 16, 2017

Microwavers Report Successful US-Canada Contacts on 78 GHz

Microwave enthusiast Mike Seguin, N1JEZ, has reported several successful 78 GHz contacts between the US and Canada on November 9. "We believe these contacts may be the first W/VE on 78 GHz," Seguin said in a post to several VHF/UHF/microwave-oriented reflectors.



N1JEZ's 78 GHz setup, aimed at Canada.

[Mike Seguin, N1JEZ, photo]

"We hope to extend distances before winter sets in here in the northeast and mountaintop access is limited." On the Canadian side were Rene Barbeau, VE2UG, and Ray Perrin, VE3FN. On the US side were Henry Ingwersen, KT1J, and Seguin. The first contacts were between FN35ja and FN34jx -- a distance of 5 kilometers (3.1 miles), "primarily to test systems," Seguin said.

"Contacts were easily made in SSB with huge signals on both ends," he reported. Next, N1JEZ and KT1J moved to FN34lt -- extending the distance to 27 kilometers (16.7 miles), and again easily made contact with the Canadian crew.

The Amateur Radio allocation in that part of the spectrum is 76-81 GHz. Amateur operation at 76-77 GHz has been suspended, however, until the FCC can determine that Amateur Radio operation will not interfere with vehicular radar systems deployed in that frequency range.

-- Thanks to Mike Seguin, N1JEZ

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Nov. 13, 2017



Santa Clara Kaiser Hospital Building, 700 Homestead Rd., Room B-06

The meeting was called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 19:45.

Introductions were made.

Announcements:

- 1) The Holiday Dinner Meeting will be at Harry's Hoffbrau on Monday, December 11, 2017 at 6:30 P.M.
- 2) ARRL Sweepstakes: CW on Nov. 4, SSB on Nov. 18, 2017. Club station will be open.

Gregg introduced the evening's speaker, Don Anastasia AA6W who presented "A Revisit of ARRL 100 Year Celebration from Newington, Connecticut." Don took us through a tour of the ARRL Headquarters which included the ARRL Museum and the ARRL employee radio station. Then he shared his experiences operating the W1AW Super Station. Thanks for sharing this experience with those of us that didn't make it to the event, Don!

Election of 2018 Officers and Directors:
President Gregg Lane KF6FNA
Vice President ---
Treasurer Goetz Brandt K6GKB
Secretary Janet Motha KF6PUQ
Director Lou Steirer WA6QYS
Director Wally Britten KA6YMD
Director ---

Wally KA6YMD Moved Acclamation of a White Ballot. Lou WA6QYS seconded. Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:55 and refreshments were enjoyed by all.

Gregg Lane KF6FNA, Recording

Board Meeting, Nov. 20, 2017



Red Cross Building 2731 N. 1st. St., San Jose, CA.

Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane at 20:00.

Attendance:

President Gregg Lane KF6FNA;
Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Clark Murphy KE6KXO,
Wally Britten KA6YMD, Don Village K6PBQ
Guest: Paul Gorny KK6HWN.
Absent:
Treasurer Goetz Brandt K6GKB (excused);
Secretary Praveen Akunuru KK6VGB;
Director James Rustermier KI6ZSK (excused).

Announcements:

1) Holiday Dinner Meeting at Harry's Hoffbrau on Monday, Dec. 11, 2017 at 6:30 P.M.
2) Club Station to be open after the SVECS breakfast on Jan. 27, 2018.

Secretary's Report: Don moved to accept the Oct. 16, 2017 BOD minutes as published in the SCCARA-GRAM. Seconded by Lou. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: none given.

Trustee's Report:

1) The Club Station was opened for the ARRL Sweepstakes for CW and SSB.
2) The Club Station will not be open in Dec. unless special request is made. It is scheduled to be open on Jan. 27, 2018 after the SVECS breakfast.
3) Don will ask for RSVP for holiday dinner in the Monday SCCARA net.

Web Report: Nothing new to report.

Repeater Report:

Echo Link went down. Re-booting computer fixed problem. Paul

is looking into an Echo Link / All Star upgrade.

New Business:

1) The ARRL Pacific District Leadership Meeting will be at 9 A.M. on Saturday, December 2, 2017 at the Livermore City Council Chambers. SCCARA can send 2 people. Wally said that he would go if there are no conflicts in his schedule.
2) Goetz has asked that we look into altering the number of mandatory Board Meetings. Wally said that there is a copy of the SCCARA Charter on the Web Site.

The meeting was closed at 20:38.

Gregg Lane KF6FNA, recording

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====
Date: 10 Oct 2015 02:25
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: Jokes 10/10

For those who love the philosophy of ambiguity, or the Idiosyncrasies of English:

The main reason that Santa is so jolly is because he knows where all the bad girls live.

If a deaf person signs swear words, does his mother wash his hands with soap?

One tequila, two tequila, three tequila, floor.

Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman, 'where's the self-help section?' she said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose.

What if there were no hypothetical questions?

If someone with multiple personalities threatens to kill himself, is it considered a hostage situation?

Is there another word for synonym?

Where do forest rangers go to 'get away from it all?'

What do you do when you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?

If a parsley farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages?

Would a fly without wings be called a walk?

Why do they lock gas station bathrooms? Are they afraid someone will clean them?

If a turtle doesn't have a shell, is he homeless or naked?

Can vegetarians eat animal crackers?

If the police arrest a mime, do they tell him he has the right to remain silent?

Why do they put braille on the drive-through bank machines?

How do they get deer to cross the road only at those yellow road signs?

What was the best thing before sliced bread?

Do egotists talk about other people?

Does the little mermaid wear an algebra?

Do infants enjoy infancy as much as adults enjoy adultery?

How is it possible to have a civil war?

If one synchronized swimmer drowns, do the rest drown too?

If you ate both pasta and antipasto, would you still be hungry?

If you try to fail, and succeed, which have you done?

Whose cruel idea was it for the word 'lisp' to have 'S' in it?

Why are hemorrhoids called 'hemorrhoids' instead of 'arseteroids'?

Why is it called tourist season if we can't shoot at them?

Why is there an expiration date on sour cream?

If you spin an oriental person in a circle three times, do they become disoriented?

Can an atheist get insurance against acts of god?

Things that are difficult to say when drunk:

1. Innovative
2. Preliminary
3. Proliferation
4. Cinnamon

Things that are very difficult to say when drunk:

1. Specificity
2. Anti-constitutionally
3. Passive-aggressive disorder
4. Transubstantiate

Things that are nearly impossible to say when drunk:

1. No thanks, I'm married.
2. Nope, no more booze for me!
3. Sorry, but you're not really my type.
4. Taco Bell ? No thanks, I'm not hungry.
5. Good evening, officer. Isn't it lovely out tonight?
6. Oh, I couldn't! No one wants to hear me sing karaoke.
7. I'm not interested in fighting you.
8. Thank you, but I won't make any attempt to dance, I have no coordination. I'd hate to look like a fool!
9. Where is the nearest bathroom? I refuse to pee in this parking lot or on the side of the road.
10. I must be going home now, as I have to work in the morning.

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

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

In the ARRL Letter article on the new digital modes, I found some of the negative comments very curious. Some said no skill is involved. Well, isn't the same true of voice? Others felt the new digital modes removed the sense that a person was at the other end. But digital has been around for a long time, packet since the 1980's, RTTY even longer. And today many people live and breath texting with their smart phones, there doesn't seem to be a sense that no one is at the other end with that, does there?

What about you, how do you feel about digital modes? Some can get through even better than CW, what do you think about that? Let's hear some comments from SCCARA members.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor



SCCARA
 Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association
 PO Box 106
 SAN JOSE CA 95103-0106



FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SCCARA Membership Form for 2018

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 newsletter (pdf)

Membership type and dues: Individual, \$20 Family, \$25 Student, \$10 (under 18)

Memberships start January 1 and expire December 31.

Family memberships (more than one member per household): please include the above info for each member, use separate forms.

New members:

Dues are prorated: dues x (11 - month) x 10% (Example: July would be \$20 x (11-7) x 0.1, which is \$8)

If joining in November or December: normal dues for next year, the rest of this year is included free.

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

(Prorated, \$2.50 per month. That's \$27.50 if starting in February, \$25 if starting in March, etc.)

\$ _____ **Total** enclosed

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