

# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 35, Number 5

May 2019



## President's Prose

On Saturday, May 11, 2019 SCCARA will sponsor the Electronics Flea Market held at Fry's Sunnyvale (1077 East Arques, East of Lawrence, 5 A.M. until Noon.). This is our main fund raising activity that allows us to sponsor our repeaters and provide funding for Field Day. If you would like to help out, please email me at [kf6fna@comcast.net](mailto:kf6fna@comcast.net) and let me know what part of the day you can help. You can volunteer for 1 or several shifts.

We will need 2 volunteers to help Paul man the gate, sell tickets, and park vendors. Gate personnel need to show up no later than 4 A.M. and help will be needed until 9 A.M. If you can show up at 4 but can not stay until 9, let me know and I will find someone who will finish the shift.

Set up of the refreshment tent is at 5 A.M. and we need 6 volunteers. After set up we need 4 people to man the refreshment tent until 7 A.M. We need 4 people to man the refreshment tent from 7 A.M. until 9 A.M. We need 4 people to man the refreshment tent from 9 A.M. until 11 A.M. We need 4 people to man the refreshment tent from 11 A.M. until 12 noon. And then at least 6 people until 1 P.M. to help take down the tent and load up the trailer again.

SCCARA will also have a sales table for items donated to us to help raise funds. This will be maned by Gary WB6YRU who could use a person to help.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

73, Gregg KF6FNA, [kf6fna@comcast.net](mailto:kf6fna@comcast.net)



## Burning Man

And now for something completely different. A talk about Burning Man. And, yes, there is a Ham Radio component to this presentation.

Be sure to attend the May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 SCCARA meeting for a very interesting program. Our guest speaker, Kerry Veenstra, K3RRY, will share his experiences attending the Burning Man event for many years. He attended his first event in 2004. Kerry has been a licensed Ham since 2008 and used APRS to coordinate his camp at Burning Man in recent years.

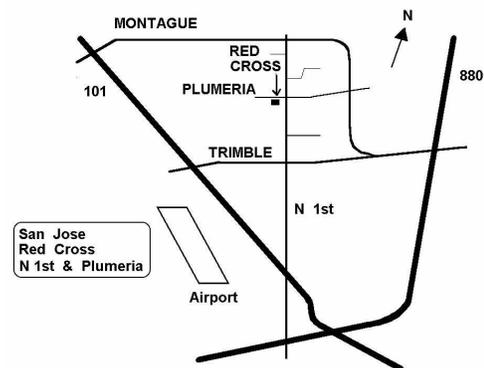
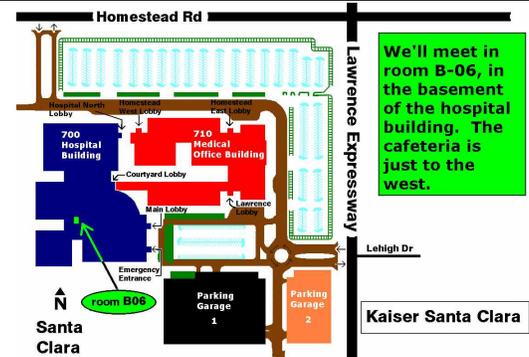
Lou WA6QYS

## Calendar

- 5/11 Electronic Flea Market -- We host!
- 5/13 SCCARA General Meeting
- 5/20 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

## General Meeting

- Day: Monday, May 13, 2019
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Hospital B-06
- Featuring: Kerry K3RRY on Burning Man



# ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 4, 2019

## Department of Defense to Transmit Interoperability Exercise Info via WWV/WWVH

The US Department of Defense (DOD) plans to start making use of a provisional time slot on WWV and WWVH to announce upcoming HF military communication exercises and how the Amateur Radio community can become involved in them. The announcements will occur at 10 minutes past on WWV and at 50 minutes past on WWVH. WWV and WWVH transmit on 2.5, 5, 10, 15, and 20 MHz.

“DOD's use of the broadcast time slot on WWV/WWVH will benefit the MARS program's mission of outreach to the Amateur Radio community,” said US Army Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY. “The actual messages to be broadcast are coordinated by the DOD Headquarters that the MARS program supports.”

The initial announcements are set for the period from April 20 - May 3, which coincides with the “Vital Connection” interoperability exercise to be held in Wisconsin. Future time slots will coincide with the Vital Connection exercise Ohio in June; DOD COMEX 19-3 in August, and the DOD COMEX 19-4 in October. Following the proof of concept this year, DOD anticipates making use of the WWV/WWVH broadcast time slot full-time, year-round.

At the outset, broadcast messages will likely be static. For future exercises, announcements could be updated throughout an exercise. The messages will direct listeners to a specified website to provide reception reports and feedback.

The reception report will also ask the listener to submit a survey that will be shared among DOD, MARS, and WWV/WWVH personnel. English said that the survey will ask listeners questions about how often they listen to WWV/WWVH signals, how they use them, and what types of messages they would like to hear, but he notes that the survey is still under development.

“We want to provide feedback to WWV/WWVH to improve situational awareness of who is using their service and how it's being used, as well as future considerations,” English said.

## Petition for Rule Making Calls for “Amateur Digital Mode Transparency”

The FCC is accepting comments on a Petition for Rule Making (RM-11831) seeking to amend FCC Part 97 rules that require all ham radio digital transmissions to use techniques “whose technical characteristics have been documented publicly.” The Petition, filed by Ron Kolarik, K0IDT, of Lincoln, Nebraska, expresses concerns that some currently used digital modes are not readily and freely able to be decoded, and it asks the FCC to require all digital codes to use protocols that “can be monitored in [their] entirety by third parties with freely available, open-source software,” per §97.113(a)(4).

Kolarik said his petition also aims to reduce levels of amateur-to-amateur interference from Automated Controlled Digital Stations (ACDS) on HF operating under §97.221(c)(2). Kolarik wants the FCC to delete §97.221(c), which permits automatic control of digital emissions provided the station “is responding to interrogation by a station under local or remote

The **SCCARA-GRAM** is published monthly by the SANTA CLARA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, PO Box 106, San Jose CA 95103-0106.

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.

Permission to reprint articles is hereby granted, provided the source is properly credited.

The deadline for articles is the **last Monday of the month.**

**Web page:** [www.qsl.net/sccara](http://www.qsl.net/sccara)

club email: [w6uw@arrl.net](mailto:w6uw@arrl.net) or [w6uw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:w6uw@sbcglobal.net)

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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](http://ncpa.n0ary.org).

### AMATEUR LICENSE TESTING

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

control, and [n]o transmission from the automatically controlled station occupies a bandwidth of more than 500 Hz.” The petition does not call for eliminating ACDS, however. Under current rules, ACDS are allowed in specific sub-bands.

In his Petition, Kolarik maintains that interference from ACDS continues to be “a major problem on the amateur bands.” He suggested that an absence of formal complaints may be due to the fact that such stations are “difficult to identify.”

The Petition also proposes to amend §97.309(a)(4) to ease monitoring of certain digital transmissions. “Without open, over-the-air interception capability for all transmissions in the Amateur Radio spectrum, there is no way to determine if there is commercial or other prohibited, inappropriate content in ongoing communications...” Kolarik’s Petition asserts. He said problems arise when “protocols and devices used in commercial, government, and marine services are used in the Amateur Service with no adequate means to fully decode transmissions,” thwarting any efforts at self-policing of such transmissions. He said simplifying the language “would remove ambiguity about what constitutes ‘publicly documented technical characteristics’ by requiring any protocol to be freely decodable,” and lead to “amateur digital mode transparency, present and future.”

### **Additional Amateur Radio-Related Petitions Open for Comment**

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The FCC has also placed three other Amateur Radio-related Petitions for Rule Making (PRMs) on public notice and has invited comments.

Jerry Oxendine, K4KWH, of Gastonia, North Carolina, wants the FCC to clarify that state and localities should have no authority to regulate Amateur Radio with respect to enacting “distracted driving” statutes. In his Petition for Rule Making, now designated as RM-11833, Oxendine contends that such statutes violate FCC rules on scope and operation of equipment by licensees; violate the intent of the FCC and Congress with respect to Amateur Radio’s role in disasters, and hinder emergency operations using mobile equipment.

“There is no evidence that the operation of two-way radio has but an insignificant impact on ‘distracted driving,’” Oxendine stated.

Such distracted driving statutes usurp the authority of the FCC to regulate Amateur Radio, as well as Citizens Band and Part 90 Land Mobile Service users, Oxendine said in his Petition.

✳

Edward C. Borghi, KB2E, of Farmington, New York, has submitted a Petition, now designated as RM-11834, that would prohibit applicants from requesting a vanity call sign outside their call sign district. Exceptions would be made for call signs applied for under rules governing call signs previously held by family members.

“I see no reason for a licensee to have to compete with out-of-area people for the few 1 Å 2 or 2 Å 1 or catchy 2 Å 3 call signs available in their area of residence,” Borghi told the FCC.

Jeffrey Bail, NT1K, of West Springfield, Massachusetts, has submitted a very similar Petition, now designated as RM-11835, asking that the FCC give residential preference in competing

applications to applicants whose listed FCC address is within the same district/region as the applied call sign. He cites limited availability and increased demand for 1 Å 2 and 2 Å 1 call signs.

### **Frequency Measuring Test Success Does Not Require Sophisticated Equipment**

On April 12, ARRL will conduct its next Frequency Measuring Test (FMT, [www.arrl.org/files/file/W1AW/Other\\_FMT\\_files/19AprilFMT.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/W1AW/Other_FMT_files/19AprilFMT.pdf)), a tradition that dates back to 1931. In that era, prospective participants were promised “a pleasant and profitable experience” and advised that taking part in the FMT would be a form of insurance against out-of-band operation “and the unpleasant consequences that follow.” Official Observers and Official Relay Stations were required to participate in the FMT or offer a very good excuse. W1MK -- the predecessor to W1AW -- was one of a dozen or so transmitting stations. The 80- and 40-meter frequencies were confirmed through an arrangement with the US Department of Commerce Radio Division.

Accurate frequency measurement -- at least to the degree that radio amateurs rarely worry about operating outside of an amateur allocation -- is now almost a given. But today’s FMT leaders are able to accurately measure beyond the number of decimal places (out to five) a typical transceiver will display. FMT announcements may conjure visions of a vast array of sophisticated laboratory equipment. While some of the most successful stations did have laboratory-grade gear, others got quite close with far less.

FMTs take place in April and November. The November 2018 FMT results are available on the ARRL website.

Tom Wilheit, WX4TW, one of those measuring the 80- and 40-meter frequencies of transmitting station K5CM on November 8 to within 1 Hz or less, reported using an Elecraft KX3 transceiver and Spectrum Lab audio spectrum analysis software. Others applied a similar approach. James Keeth, AF9A, reported using an “openHPSDR Mercury receiver, a 10 MHz OCXO reference calibrated against CHU and WWV, and WSJT-X frequency mode for measurements.”

Jim Michener, K9JM, depended on his Elecraft K3 and tuning forks to get within 1 Hz of the mark on both bands. Grady Harper, AJ4YA, got extremely close by zero-beating the signal on his K3 and adjusting the measured frequency “to correct for errors in [his] tuner.”

“This is my first try with this type of adjustment,” Harper said. “The fractional part of the Hz is based on length of time between beats. I guessed at this part.”

Connie Marshall, K5CM, (<http://www.k5cm.com/>) offers information on his website on how to measure the frequency of a carrier. Articles in QST have also covered this topic.

The April 2019 FMT will get under way at 0200 - 0225 UTC on April 12. The 40-meter frequency will be in the vicinity of 7065 kHz, and the 80-meter frequency will be in the vicinity of 3599 kHz. Details are on page 94 of the April 2019 issue of QST.

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From *The ARRL Letter*, April 11, 2019

### **AMSAT, ARRL Comment in FCC Orbital Debris Mitigation Proceeding**

AMSAT has told the FCC that several proposed rule changes related to the mitigation of orbital debris would have an extremely detrimental effect on both the Amateur Satellite Service and AMSAT's ability to launch and operate new satellites, including AMSAT's upcoming GOLF satellites. AMSAT filed comments on April 5 on an FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making in IB Docket 18-313. AMSAT argues that amateur satellites often have longer mission lifespans than other small satellites and that the FCC should take a mission duration of 5 to 10 years into account when determining whether or not an amateur satellite will meet the orbital debris regulations, either by transferring to a parking orbit or re-entering the atmosphere within 25 years of mission completion. Current practice is to assume a "zero-year" mission and to require that amateur satellites meet the debris regulations.



AMSAT also urged the Commission to consider alternatives to a proposed rule that would restrict to altitudes of 650 kilometers or less satellites in low-Earth orbit that plan to meet the orbital debris mitigation guidelines through atmospheric re-entry. AMSAT noted that, had this rule been in place, it would not have been permissible to deploy AO-85 and AO-91 in their current elliptical orbits with apogees of approximately 800 kilometers, even though both will re-enter within 25 years due to their low perigees.

Additionally, AMSAT noted that current plans for the GOLF-1 satellite are to meet orbital debris mitigation guidelines through atmospheric re-entry by deploying a drag device that will ensure re-entry within 25 years, despite deployment at an altitude higher than 1,000 kilometers. This proposed rule would prohibit GOLF-1's deployment at that altitude.

The Commission's proposed rules would further require that Amateur Satellite licensees indemnify the government against any claims made against the US due to the operation of a satellite. AMSAT believes this proposal would end the ability of AMSAT, or any other entity in the US, to launch and operate amateur satellites and urged the FCC to consider alternatives.



In separate comments, ARRL said it supports "reasonable efforts to mitigate orbital debris" but that the FCC "must tailor its regulations for the Amateur Satellite service" and "not inadvertently impair the service's continuing vitality by applying rules crafted for commercial satellite services."

In this regard, ARRL supports AMSAT's positions, which suggest that "the nature of the modifications needed [should] achieve the Commission's expressed regulatory objectives without needlessly impairing the Amateur Satellite service."

ARRL said the FCC should exempt amateur satellites or otherwise ameliorate its proposed indemnification requirement and said that only telemetry "used to command onboard propulsion systems" should be subject to encryption.

ARRL also said amateur satellites proposed for disposal by atmospheric re-entry should not be restricted to orbital altitudes of 650 kilometers or lower, and that the longer duration of amateur satellite missions should be factored into the time required for a satellite to naturally de-orbit or be transferred to "a parking orbit."

Interested parties may file reply comments by May 5 via the FCC Electronic Comment Filing Service (ECFS).

-- Thanks to AMSAT News Service

## AMSAT-India has successfully launched an APRS satellite.

The Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) payload on AMSAT-India's AISAT-1 satellite is operational on 145.825 MHz following a successful April 1 launch on the PSLV-C45 mission. The payload was powered up on schedule over Europe, and AMSAT-India announced that DK3WN was able to digipeat through the satellite. AMSAT-India requests that radio amateurs use the payload and SatGates to feed the traffic. The fourth stage of the PSLV rocket (PS4) will become an orbital platform in a 485-kilometer orbit hosting an APRS digipeater, an Automatic Identification System (AIS) from India's space agency, ISRO, and an ionospheric analyzer from the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST).

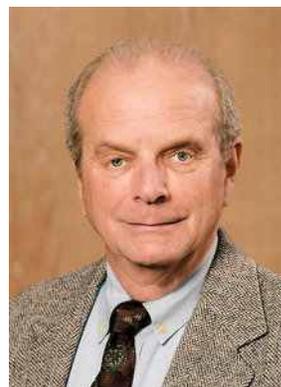


-- Thanks to AMSAT News Service

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 18, 2019

## ARRL and FCC Sign Memorandum to Implement New Volunteer Monitor Program

ARRL and the FCC have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that paves the way to implement the new and enhanced Volunteer Monitor program. The memorandum establishes the Volunteer Monitors as a replacement for the Official Observers (OO) program. Current OOs have been encouraged to participate in the new program.



Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH.

"We are excited by the opportunity to codify our partnership with the FCC and to work together to achieve our mutual interests of protecting the integrity of our Amateur Radio bands," said ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR. "This Memorandum of Understanding will serve as the foundation for a new level of partnership on this very important issue."

ARRL has contracted with retired FCC special counsel and former Atlantic Division Vice Director Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, to oversee the ARRL's role in the development and implementation of the Volunteer Monitor program.

Approved by the ARRL Board of Directors at its July 2018 meeting, the new Volunteer Monitor program is a formal agreement between the FCC and ARRL in which volunteers trained and vetted by the ARRL will monitor the airwaves and collect evidence that can be used both to correct misconduct or recognize exemplary on-air operation. Cases of flagrant violations will be referred to the FCC by the ARRL for action in accordance with FCC guidelines.

The intent of this program is to re-energize enforcement efforts in the Amateur Radio bands. It was proposed by the FCC in the wake

of several FCC regional office closures and a reduction in field staff.

“Under this program, the FCC will give enforcement priority to cases developed by the Volunteer Monitor program, without the delay of ARRL having to refer cases through the FCC online complaint process,” Hollingsworth said.

Hollingsworth has committed to FCC and ARRL officials to ensure the adequacy of training for the new positions, to review the quality and utility of Volunteer Monitor submissions to the FCC for enforcement actions, and to advocate for rapid disposition of cases appropriately submitted to the FCC.

ARRL officials estimate that the first Volunteer Monitors will be in place and ready to begin their duties within 6 to 9 months.

## FCC Invites Comments on Waiver Request for 24 GHz Wireless Power Transfer Device

The FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) is seeking comments in ET Docket 19-83 on a request by Auspion USA, Inc. to waive the Industrial, Scientific, and Medical (ISM) rules' "local use" requirement (FCC Part 2 and Part 18 rules) for a 24 GHz wireless power transfer device over distance. On January 3, Auspion requested a waiver of FCC rules to allow it to obtain a grant of equipment authorization for the marketing and operation of a non-consumer system using transmission of wireless power over distance. Auspion's "WiPod" system would provide power to, and/or charge, receivers located at various distances from the transmitter.

§18.107(c) of the rules defines ISM devices as “[e]quipment or appliances designed to generate and use [local] RF energy for industrial, scientific, medical, domestic or similar purposes, excluding applications in the field of telecommunication.” Auspion requests that the Commission waive the “local use” condition, as specified in ISM Part 18 rules to allow its system to operate at distances greater than 1 meter between the transmitter and receivers, as long as the transmitted power is directed to very precise locations (called “power spots”) where the receivers are sited. Auspion plans to market its system exclusively for industrial, retail, and enterprise applications, such as charging industrial robots, warehouse-based drones, and smartphones in conference rooms.

Parties should file all comments and reply comments in ET Docket 19-83 using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). Comments are due by April 25, and reply comments are due by May 10.

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From *The ARRL Letter*, April 25, 2019

## FCC Asked to Allow All Digital Transmissions on AM Band

According to Radio World, a prominent advocate for the Standard Broadcast Band (AM band) has petitioned the FCC to allow stations to use all-digital transmissions in the US. In March, Bryan Broadcasting Corporation asked the Commission to initiate a proceeding to authorize the MA3 primary all-digital service mode for any AM station that chooses to do so. Bryan is the licensee of four AM and five FM stations (and six FM translators) in central Texas.

All HD Radio receivers in the market that have AM functionality would be able to receive such all-digital signals, the article

explains, but legacy AM receivers would not.

Since last summer, WWFD in Frederick, Maryland, has had special temporary authority to broadcast in all-digital. The Bryan petition appears to be the first to seek all-digital authority. The petition said the broadcast industry's experimentation with an all-digital approach “could be accelerated by actually allowing stations to fully switch to MA3; actual experiential knowledge by stations that elect to switch will provide economic proof-of-concept for stations that delay in order to see how others fare.”

The petition also noted discussions that the AM band has “become so overwhelmed by interference and impulse noise that the resultant audio product is rendered unacceptable to modern listeners.” The petition said the noise floor generated by unlicensed devices and affecting the AM band “has been noticeable -- and increasing -- for years.” According to the petition, Bryan has tried to quantify the noise floor increase, but that studies have not been undertaken in the US. The petition said experience in other countries suggests a rise from anywhere between 10 dB and 40 dB between the 1970s and the early 2000s.”

## The Upside of Remote Control

If you've ever worked Hal Offutt, W1NN, in a contest and thought he was in Ohio, the more likely possibility is that he was in Japan (he is also 7J1AAI), operating his station in Ohio remotely via the internet. A philosophical debate continues as to whether operating a station from one place (e.g., Japan) that is physically in another (e.g., Ohio) is really Amateur Radio. We'll leave that for the reflector pundits to resolve among themselves. Fact is, the ability to remotely control a distant station is not all that new, and it's gaining in popularity, with remotely controlled, specially sited contest stations now available on a rental basis.

Some hams have done it over the POTS (plain old telephone service) or a cell phone in years past, but the typical arrangement these days is via the internet, and some very sophisticated hardware and software (it takes a combination of both) has been cobbled together to make it work.



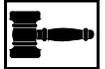
Hal Offutt, W1NN, at his remote station control point in Tokyo. [Hal Offutt, W1NN, photo]

In his “Remote Contesting” column in the November/December 2018 issue of NCJ, Mark Aaker, K6UFO, notes: “Remotely operated contest stations are appearing in greater numbers with each passing contest.” Aaker said he's noticed four effects of remote stations on contesting: 1. Remote stations are being used to win, and place highly, in major contests; 2. Remote stations provide valuable contacts and multipliers for other contest participants; 3. Remote stations are allowing operators to get on the air who might otherwise not be able to participate, and 4. Remote stations are developing technology that's useful for all station builders. W1NN explained how it works for him.

“Like most Tokyo residents, I live in an apartment where it is not

practical to put up a ham antenna," he told NCJ. "For much of the contest season I was off the air, missing contests that I had come to like. Dan, WA6URY, helped me through the process of setting up a remote station. I made my first contacts from Japan via my Ohio station in the winter of 2011, so I have been at this now for 7 years. My station in Ohio is quite modest, but it is a lot better than having no station, and [operating remotely] allows me to contest as much as I want while in Japan."

## Board Meeting, April 15, 2019



American Red Cross, N 1st & Plumeria, San Jose, CA

Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:49 PM

### Attendance:

President Gregg Lane KF6FNA; VP Ned Tufekcic AC6YY; Treasurer Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Station Trustee Don Village K6PBQ; Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Wally Britten KA6YMD, James Rustermier KI6ZSK, Janet Motha KF6PUQ. Absent: Secretary Barbara Britten KD6QEI, Truman Lindsey N6TRU.

Visitors: Editor Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, Paul Gorny KK6HNN, John Parks W6JPP.

### Announcements:

May 11, SCCARA sponsors the flea market.  
June 22, 23 we'll have Field Day at the Red Cross, San Jose

Vice President's Report, Ned AC6YY : no speaker scheduled yet.

### Secretary's Report, Gary WB6YRU for the secretary:

The previous board meeting minutes were published in the SCCARA-GRAM

Motion by Lou WA6QYS to approve the minutes as published.

Seconded by Rusty KI6ZSK.

Approved unanimously.

### Treasurer's Report, Goetz K6GKB:

Checking = \$7951.96 Savings = \$500.07 Cash = \$1513.64  
Total = \$9965.67

We paid ASVARO the \$550 fee for when we host next month.

Gary WB6YRU: Regarding April's flea market, Lou brought a lot of stuff, I sold all but 2 items. Net: \$337.30. (Gross \$367.30 less seller's fee of \$30).

### Trustee's Report, Don K6PBQ:

The club station will be open Saturday April 27, at Noon. And on May 25, 10 AM.

### Standing Committees

Repeater chairman's report, Wally KA6YMD:

NARCC meeting coming up April 27, 2019. I will attend.

Goetz: We have a new controller, Don AE6PM will help put it in.

Webmaster's report, Wally KA6YMD: Nothing new to report.

Editor's report: Gary WB6YRU: The color laser printer that Rusty donate is now being used to print the newsletter. The quality appears to be similar, but it has to be printed one sided and assembled by hand. One page (impression) cost about \$0.14, similar to a B&W page at Office Max. One color page at Office Max is \$0.59. So we'll save on flyers and the newsletter.

Gregg KF6FNA: we should print up some flyers for our time at the flea market announcing our Field Day at Red Cross. One person is on the mailing list, we need to revise the fee for that.

Rusty KI6ZSK moved to change the mailing fee to \$20 (as of now). Seconded Lou WA6QYS.

5 in favor, 1 against, 1 abstain.

Wally KA6YMD: motion to give Betty Harbold (who paid for the mailed newsletter) a refund for the balance.

Seconded by Ned AC6YY.

Passed unanimously.

### Old Business:

Antenna Trailer: John W6JPP arranged to store the trailer at the

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# Meeting Minutes

## General Meeting, April 8, 2019



Conference room B-06, Kaiser Hospital building Lawrence Expressway and Homestead Rd, Santa Clara, CA.

The meeting was called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:34 PM

Customary self introductions.

### Announcements:

SVECS breakfast April 27, 2019. Contact Lou WA6QYS if interested.

On April 27: SCCARA's radio room at the San Jose Red Cross will be open around noon. Talk-in on the SCCARA 2 m repeater.

Flea Market April 13, 2019, 5 AM to noon. We'll have a table there, weather permitting. The following month SCCARA hosts the flea market, May 11. We need to be there to set up starting at 4:30 AM. We'll also have a sales table.

At the last meeting we discussed the antenna trailer. John Parks arranged for us to park it at the American Legion for up to 6 months. More details to be worked out.

Our guest speaker Nick Arnett KJ6FOY gave an interesting presentation on CAL Fire SCU (Santa Clara Unit) Comm 1629.

State responsibility area covers 1.3 million acres, 12 state-funded fire stations, 1 Helibase at Alma HWY 17 (next to Lexiton res.), 15 Type 3 engines (wild-land vehicle), 3 dozers, 1 helicopter. We cooperate with city and county fire departments. Our goal is to hold fires to 10 acres or less, contain the fire within 2 hours. Retardant doesn't put out a fire, it slows it down, and it doesn't last too long.

We man the Copernicus fire tower (observation post on Mt. Hamilton near Lick Observatory).

Com 1629: the com-van has State HF, VHF, UHF, satellite phone, cell voice and data, weather monitoring, and a mobile office. And it has HAM bands: HF, 2 m, 1.25 m, 70 cm (voice and packet).

During Loma Prieta fire, 9/28/2016, many resources were elsewhere at the start and had to be called in, the radio got busy fast. We got lucky in that there was no wind (except generated by the fire), but it was dry and hot. 4475 acres burned, 12 homes and 16 buildings lost.

The big timber fires tend to go slower, the low-down grass and brush fires go faster.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 PM

Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, Recording for the Secretary

American Legion for up to six months, after that to be determined (possible rent/fee). John: The tail lights have to be replaced (probably \$30 for parts). It was suggested we send a thank you letter to the American Legion and to the Maxicrete Construction, Francisco Gonzalez (company where it was previously stored). Gregg will take care of the thank you letters, Gary will print it up on SCCARA letterhead.

John: We could operate at the American Legion's station in an emergency.

Wally KA6YMD: motion that we keep the antenna trailer if we can do it at a reasonable cost.

Seconded by Ned AC6YY.

6 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion passed.

Field Day:

It has been confirmed we'll have Field Day June 22, 23 at the San Jose Red Cross. Details to be worked out.

Goetz K6GKB: I'll donate a complete station for our use during Field Day.

Don K6PBQ: I'll take care of the BBQ.

John W6JPP: It's possible we might be able to do Field Day at the American Legion site next year. We probably could include the antenna trailer.

SCCARA stuff being stored by members:

We'll sponsor the Flea Market next month and will also have a table (booth) for selling. If we have some expensive items, Ned AC6YY will handle those items on Craig's List or ebay.

New Business:

Flea Market: Gregg will be the chairman. We'll need volunteers to host. Goetz will bring a generator. Lou: we have someone to tow a trailer to move the flea market supplies. Gary will man the sales table.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM

Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, recording for the Secretary

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## Packet Pieces

**Downloaded from the BBS packet network:**

=====  
Date: 21 Jul 2010 01:33  
From: W1GMF@W1GMF  
To: HUMOR@USA  
Subject: A Dog's Duty  
=====

A nursery school teacher was taking several kids home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog. The children speculated as to the dog's duties.

"They use him to keep crowds back," said one youngster.

"No," said another, "he's just for good luck."

A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dog," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrant."

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## 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 (available from the club secretary or on our web site).

### Topics:

Antennas, feed-lines, tuners: **NV6W, W6JPP, K6PBQ**

CW (Morse code): **NV6W, K6PBQ**

DX (long distance, propagation): **NV6W**

EchoLink: **K6GKB**

Emergency operating, preparedness: **WA6QYS**

HF operating techniques: **NV6W, K6PBQ**

Homebrew projects, construction: **WB6YRU**

Legal, FCC rules: **WB6YRU**

License testing, new amateurs: **W6JPP**

Lightning protection, grounding: **WB6YRU**

Packet Network (BBS, forwarding): **WB6YRU**

SCCARA (club inner workings): **K6PBQ, WB6YRU, WA6QYS**

Station set-up, equipment: **K6PBQ, W6JPP**

TVI, RFI: **WB6YRU**

### Contacts:

K6GKB, Goetz Brandt, 408-259-7287

e-mail: [goetz@ix.netcom.com](mailto:goetz@ix.netcom.com)

NV6W, James D. Armstrong, Jr.,

evening & msg: 408-670-1680

W6JPP, John Parks, 408-309-8709

e-mail: [w6jpp@arrl.net](mailto:w6jpp@arrl.net)

K6PBQ, Don Village, 408-263-2789

e-mail: [donvillage7@yahoo.com](mailto:donvillage7@yahoo.com)

WA6QYS, Lou Steirer, 408-241-7999

e-mail: [wa6qys@arrl.net](mailto:wa6qys@arrl.net)

WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, 408-269-2924

packet: home BBS N0ARY

e-mail: [wb6yru@ix.netcom.com](mailto:wb6yru@ix.netcom.com)

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## Newsletter Notes

Rusty KI6ZSK has donated a color laserjet printer, HP CP1215. Toner ink is expensive, but we'll save money printing the newsletter ourselves. If the advertised capacity of the toner cartridges are correct, it will cost \$0.15 per page (regardless of color). Office Max charges \$0.12 per black & white page, \$0.59 per color page.

At the last board meeting, the board lowered the fee for the mailed *SCCARA-GRAM* from \$30 to \$20, effective immediately.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

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



**FIRST CLASS**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**SCCARA Membership Form for 2019**

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

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4: \_\_\_\_\_

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 = \$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 \$20 per year**

(Prorated, \$1.67 per month. That's \$18.33 if starting in February, \$16.67 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.