

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 36, Number 8

August 2020



Meetings & Activities

Our face-to-face meetings and activities are still canceled due to the covid virus pandemic. The Board meeting will again be held on our 2 m repeater immediately following the Monday Night Net at 7:30 PM on Aug. 17. The Electronic Flea Market in August has been canceled. Pacificon 2020 has been canceled too.

SCCARA's 100th anniversary is coming up! We don't know exactly when the first meeting was held, just "winter of 1921." Our best estimate is February, that's just six months away now! Normally we would at least have a dinner meeting planned. *HOWEVER...*

The timing is pretty bad for in-person celebrations these days. Exactly what's going to happen is still up in the air. The covid virus pandemic isn't getting any better, it's anyone's guess how it will be six months from now.

A BBQ has been suggested. Perhaps with a special event station using our antenna trailer, like a mini field day. Presumably that would be roughly a year from now, not in the winter. The antenna trailer is being stored at the American Legion, John W6JPP tells us we could have it there. (That's assuming we'll be done with this pandemic by then.)

The board meetings are on our 2 m repeater, visitors are welcome. If you have any ideas, feel free to join in and let us know.

73 and stay safe, Gary WB6YRU, Editor

What's Good About Amateur Radio?

What Members Like About the Hobby

Nothing heard this month but the crickets. Let us know what *YOU* find interesting, fun, attractive, etc. in this hobby. Don't be bashful, there is no wrong answer.



It's a BUG! 😊

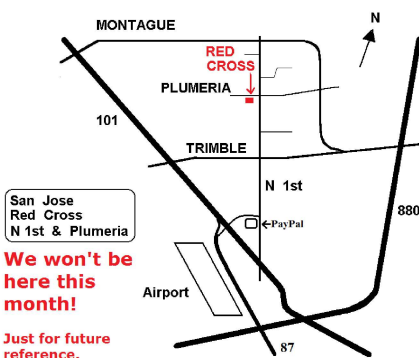
Don't get it? Read on...

Calendar

- 8/10 SCCARA General Meeting -- **Canceled**
8/17 SCCARA Board Meeting: On our 2 m repeater after the net at 7:30 PM)

General Meeting

Day: Monday, Aug. 10 -- **Canceled**
Time:
Place:
Featuring:



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

club email: w6uw@arrl.net or 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

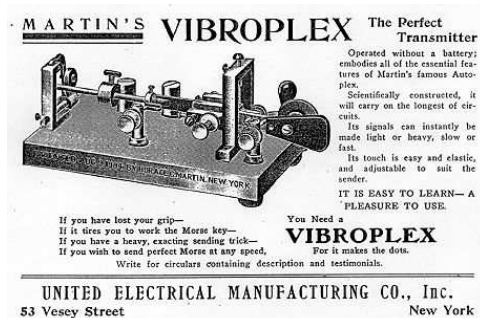
SCCARA hosts the packet BBS N0ARY (connect to n0ary-1). User ports: 145.09 MHz at 1200 baud, 433.37 MHz at 9600 baud, and telnet sun.n0ary.org (login "bbs"). Sysop: Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU For general packet info, see the NCPA web site ncpa.n0ary.org.

AMATEUR LICENSE TESTING

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

The "BUG"

The double-paddle, semi-automatic Morse key was first made and sold in 1905 by the Vibroplex Company. It's still a well known brand today. The original device was nicknamed the "bug" presumably because the logo showed an electrified bug.



An ad for the original "bug"



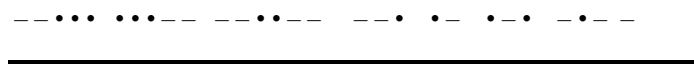
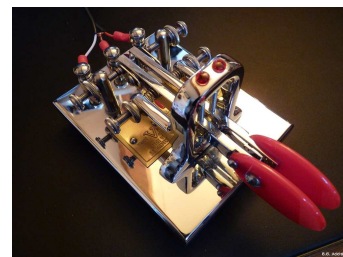
This modern version still has the same basic design. See the red bug logo?

When the knob is pressed from the right, it makes a normal contact, for sending a "dah." When the paddle is pressed from the left, a horizontal pendulum at the opposite end wiggles back and forth creating a series of "dits" at a speed set by the position of the pendulum weight. This allows the sending of several dits in a row with one single motion instead of having to tap out each individually, as one must do with a straight key.

A straight key, like this one from WW2, is still used to day.



Dual-paddle models are used today with electronic keyers, but the old mechanical bugs are still popular. And if you look close, they still use the red bug logo, there in the center.



ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, July 16, 2020

Field Day 2020 is Shaping Up to be One for the Record Books

ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, reported this week that ARRL has received more than 8,700 online Field Day entries, and paper-only entries have started arriving too.



"As many participants chose to operate from home this year, and given the 2020 rules waivers, we have seen a tremendous increase in entries over last year's event," Bourque said. "Most of the entries received have been through the online web app, <http://field-day.arrl.org/fdentry.php>, and Headquarters staffers have begun processing the paper entries this week." The 2020 waivers allowed individual club members to attribute their scores to their clubs.

Participants who submitted entries online are encouraged to check the Field Day entries received page to verify that their entries are marked as complete, and that the club name entered is correct, <http://field-day.arrl.org/fdentriescrvd.php>. Entries with a status of "pending" are incomplete entries that are missing one or more items, and these need to be completed for an official entry.

Russian-Ukrainian Radio War May be Escalating

The June newsletter of the International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 Monitoring System (IARUMS) reports that what's being called "the Russian-Ukrainian radio war" continues apace.

"The Russian-Ukrainian radio war remained on a high escalation level also in June," IARUMS Region 1 Coordinator Peter Jost, HB9CET, said. "Almost every day, we heard the massive spiteful and provocative broadcasts. In June, they used more frequencies than before, affecting our bands very hard. It is a great annoyance and a big shame!"

Jost points out that the IARU Monitoring System has little opportunity to stop the on-the-air conflict. "Only national authorities can hopefully do something against international complaints," he said. "It is very important and very helpful that many other [IARU] member-societies also observe these frequencies and make complaints to their regulators. We have to coordinate this well within IARU and act together. This is the only way we have a certain power."

In May, Jost reported that the radio war has raged "for years" at 7055 kHz LSB (as well as on 7050 or 7060 kHz). Jost also reported continued daily transmissions from the Russian over-the-horizon radar known as "Contayner" in the 40- and 20-meter amateur bands and elsewhere. The Chinese "V" has been reported on 20 meters, from 14,246 to 14,256 kHz.

From *The ARRL Letter*, July 23, 2020

High School Marine Buoy Transmitter Now Active on 20-Meter WSPR

Phil Karn, KA9Q; Randy Standke, KQ6RS, and members of the

Mount Carmel High School Amateur Radio Club (MCHSARC) in San Diego have constructed and deployed an amateur radio marine buoy in the Pacific. The buoy, which transmits WSPR on 14.0956 MHz USB, has already been heard around the continental US, Brazil, Hawaii, Japan, Costa Rica, Australia, and South Africa.



"Over the past year, Randy and I have mentored the MCHSARC in designing and constructing a simple marine buoy that was deployed from the RV Sally Ride [on July 16], about 700 kilometers off the coast of southern California," Karn said in a post on the AMSAT Bulletin Board. "It is up and transmitting WSPR on

20 meters using the call sign KQ6RS, and is being received all over the US and into Canada and Brazil." Karn is blogging about the project with updates. <http://ka9q.net/wp/buoy-deployed/>

The electronics are the 20-meter WSPR version of the WB8ELK "pico tracker" that has been flown on long-duration balloons. "We removed the solar panels and substituted 21 ordinary alkaline D cells, wired to supply 4.5 V," Karn explained. "We estimate battery lifetime will be 6 months."

Karn said that the project made use of everyday hardware. The buoy -- essentially a spar buoy -- was constructed using a 5-foot section of 4-inch PVC pipe, with sufficient ballast in one end of the pipe to permit it to float vertically in the water. The top is closed using a sewer pressure test plug, which has a bolt in the center that acts as a convenient feed-through and antenna mounting point. The antenna is a stainless-steel CB whip with a matching network.

"We use the sea as a counterpoise, but to avoid direct metal/sea water contact, we lined the inside of the pipe with copper tape to form a capacitive connection," Karn said.



During initial flotation testing, the project team found that the ballasted pipe alone was remarkably stable in pitch, roll, sway, and surge, but oscillated a lot in heave -- i.e., up and down movement. Cross arms were at the water line to add drag in the vertical direction, to counter the issue. Because sea water was required to tune the antenna, Standke floated the buoy off a dock

in Mission Bay.

"We tried to make this thing as rugged as we could," Karn recounted, offering his favorite saying to the students: "The sea always wins in the end, but we can delay that long enough to be useful."

Deployment was to be from a NOAA vessel in April, but the trip was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Standke secured a trip on the RV Sally Ride, a research vessel operated by Scripps Institute of Oceanography.

The first reception report was on July 16 at 12:52:30 UTC from

grid square CL89eu, although the current carried the buoy east into CL89fu at 20:32:30 UTC. The buoy (KQ6RS-1) can be tracked on the APRS and WSPRnet sites.

<https://aprs.fi/#!call=a%2FKQ6RS-1&others=1&timerange=604800&tail=3600>

<http://wsprnet.org/drupal/wsprnet/map>

Karn said the project team is already planning its second buoy, which may include two-way links, satellite tracking, and sensors.

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, July 13 2020



{there was no general meeting}

Board Meeting, July 20, 2020



Held on-the-air using our 2 m repeater.

Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:36 PM

Attendance:

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

Excused absence: Truman Lindsey N6TRU, Treasurer Goetz Brandt K6GKB

Visitors: Editor Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, Paul KK6HWN, Ben KK6CCU, John AE6JQ

President's Report, Gregg KF6FNA: Nothing to report

Vice President's Report, Ned AC6YY: Nothing to report

Secretary's Report, Barbara KD6QEI: Nothing to report
Gary WB6YRU: We now have 43 members, one new member just joined: Luke Perkins AC0BF

Treasurer's Report, Gregg KF6FNA: Goetz sent the following by email: Checking = \$11070.85, Cash = \$196.04, Total = \$ 11266.89

Trustee's Report, Don K6PBQ: Nothing to report, the Red Cross is closed due to the pandemic (where our station is located).

Standing Committees

Repeater chairman's report, Wally KA6YMD: There's been some brief noise occasionally on the repeater, not sure what it is, we're looking into it.

Webmaster's report, Wally KA6YMD: Have gone through some of it looking for errors, continuing to do so, and updating it as info comes in.

Editor's report: Gary WB6YRU: Not much new to report. I was hoping to get more articles from the membership, especially from the officers and directors since we aren't having meetings. But so far it's been pretty thin. Since there's no opportunity to hand out paper copies, not even at the club station, I'll drop the quantity printed to four. That's just for the paper archives and mailings.

BBS Sysop's report: Gary WB6YRU: Nothing new, the BBS is

operating normally.

Old Business:

Gregg KF6FNA: Regarding the Red Cross roof work, I'm currently coordinating a work party to do a walk-through to check on our antennas. There are restrictions because of the covid-19 pandemic. It will probably happen around the end of next month.

100th anniversary QSL card committee: Gary WB6YRU: We've decided to go with a certificate instead of a card. We're leaning toward a "then vs now" theme, emphasizing how things have changed over the past 100 years.

Meeting adjourned 7:54 PM

Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, recording for the Secretary

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====
Date: 23 Nov 2012 01:53
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: Jokes 23/11

Cell phone

When a customer left his cell phone in my store, I scrolled through his saved numbers, stopped at "Mom" and pushed send. His mother answered, and I told her what happened.

"Don't worry," she said, "I'll take care of it."

A minute later, the cell phone rang. It was "Mom."

"Martin," she said, "you left your cell phone at the convenience store."

Whistle

Old man Murphy and his wife went for a stroll in the park. They sat down on a bench to rest for awhile, and soon began to overhear voices coming from a secluded spot nearby.

Suddenly, Mrs. Murphy realized that the young man they were hearing was about to propose! Not wanting to be eavesdropping during such an intimate moment, she gently nudged her husband and whispered, "Whistle to let that young couple know that someone can hear them."

"Whistle?" Murphy replied. "Why should I whistle? Nobody whistled to warn me?"

Military Cowards

A soldier was running from the Military Police and came across a nun. Out of breath he asked, "Please Sister, may I hide under your skirts for a few minutes. I'll explain WHY later."

The nun agreed. Just a moment later two MP's came running along and asked, "Sister, have you seen a soldier running by here?"

The nun replied, "He went that way."

After the MP's disappeared, the soldier crawled out from under her skirt and said, "I can't thank you enough, Sister. You see -- I don't want to go to Iraq."

The nun said, "I can fully understand your fear."

The soldier added, "I hope you don't think me rude or impertinent, but you have a nice pair of legs!"

The nun replied, "Well, if you had looked a little higher, you would have seen I'm not a "sister." I don't want to go to Iraq either.

The soldier fainted!

The Betting Man

The Inland Revenue decides to audit Paddy, and summons him to an appointment with the most thorough auditor in the office. The auditor is not surprised when Paddy shows up with his solicitor.

The auditor says, "Well, sir, you have an extravagant lifestyle and no full-time employment, which you explain by saying that you win money gambling. I'm not sure the Inland Revenue finds that believable."

"I'm a great gambler, and I can prove it," says Paddy.

"How a bout a demonstration?" The auditor said.

Paddy thinks for a moment and says, "Okay. You're on! I'll bet you a thousand pounds that I can bite my own eye."

The auditor thinks a moment and says, "No way! It's a bet."

Paddy removes his glass eye and bites it. The auditor's jaw drops.

Paddy says, "Now, I'll bet you two thousand pounds that I can bite my other eye."

The auditor can tell Paddy isn't blind, so he takes the bet. Paddy removes his dentures and bites his good eye. The stunned auditor now realizes he has bet and lost three thousand quid, with Paddy's solicitor as a witness.

"Would you like to go double or nothing?" Paddy asks. "I'll bet you six thousand pounds that I can stand on one side of your desk and urinate into that rubbish bin on the other side, and never get a drop anywhere in between."

The auditor, twice burned, is very cautious now, but he looks carefully and decides there's no way Paddy can manage that stunt, so he agrees again. Paddy stands beside the desk and unzips his trousers, but although he strains for all his worth, he can't make the stream reach the bin on the other side, so he pretty much urinates all over the auditor's desk. The auditor leaps with joy, realizing that he has just turned a major loss into a big win. But Paddy's solicitor moans and puts his head in his hands.

"Are you okay?" the auditor asks. "Not really," says the

solicitor. "This morning, when Paddy told me he'd been summoned for an audit, he bet me £20,000 that he could come in here, urinate all over your desk, and that you'd be happy about it.

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

NV6W, James D. Armstrong, Jr.,

evening & msg: 408-670-1680

W6JPP, John Parks

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

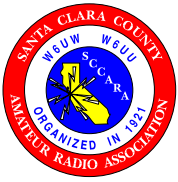
packet: home BBS N0ARY

e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com

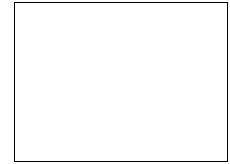
Newsletter Notes

Due to the pandemic stay-at-home orders, I hoped there would be many articles about the projects everyone presumably now has the time to work on. But it's been very quiet. Surely you guys must be up to something interesting. Let's hear about it.

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 2020

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% For 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 \$15 per year

(Prorated, \$1.25 per month. That's \$13.75 if starting in February, \$12.50 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.