

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

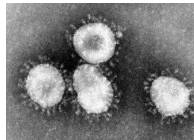
Volume 36, Number 9

September 2020



Meetings & Gatherings

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the in-person general meetings are canceled. Our club station at the San Jose Red Cross is closed. The rest of the Electronic Flea Markets for this year have been canceled. Pacificon 2020 has been canceled.



The Board meetings will be “virtual,” held on our 2 m repeater. Our on-the-air nets are still being held normally.

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, August 6, 2020

ARRL 2020 Simulated Emergency Test (SET) Scheduled for October 3 - 4 Weekend

The 2020 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) will take place October 3 - 4. The annual, nationwide exercise provides Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers the chance to test personal emergency-operating skills and communication readiness in a simulated emergency deployment. ARRL is asking participants to adhere to Center for Disease Control (CDC) and local health department COVID-19 guidelines by staying home, maintaining safe distances when around people, and following recommended cleaning and disinfecting practices.

Ed Compos, K5CRQ (left), and Bart Pickens, N5TWB, serve as net control operators from the Tulsa County Emergency Operations Center during the 2019 SET in Tulsa County, Oklahoma. [Paul Teel, WB5ANX, photo]

ARRL Field Organization leadership at the Section and local levels -- as well as many other volunteers who are active in public service and emergency communication -- are developing emergency scenarios with a variety of agencies and organizations they've partnered with in the past during real emergencies and disasters.

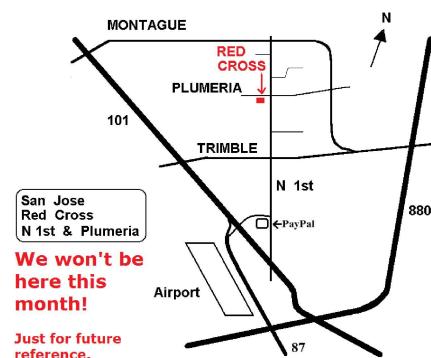
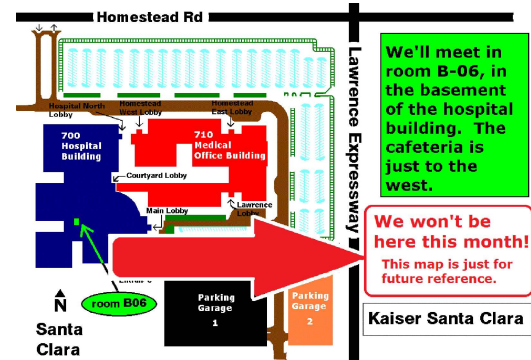
Given the ongoing pandemic, an in-person emergency exercise may not be possible this year, but volunteers are encouraged to adapt to the circumstances. Station and skills readiness are tenets of the Amateur Radio Service. Any time we spend on the air will contribute to developing and practicing our personal radio communication capability.

Calendar

- 9/14 SCCARA General Meeting -- **canceled**
- 9/21 SCCARA Board Meeting: On our 2 m repeater following the net at 7:30 PM)

General Meeting

Day: Monday, Sept. 14 -- **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

Volunteers with ARES, the National Traffic System (NTS), the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), SKYWARNá ç, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN), and other allied groups and public service-oriented amateur radio groups are among those eligible to participate in the SET to practice emergency operation plans, nets, and procedures.

ARRL has long-standing relationships with several national organizations including the American Red Cross, the National Weather Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Salvation Army, among others.

This year's SET can be a chance to reach out to these partners -- at a safe distance and/or via online meetings and teleconferences -- to establish or review plans and develop working relationships.

ARRL Field Organization leaders have the option of conducting local or Section-wide SETs on dates other than the October 3 - 4 focal-point weekend, but no later than the end of the calendar year. Contact your local ARRL Emergency Coordinator or Net Manager or ask your Section Manager.

Information about SET and the reporting forms are available at <http://www.arrl.org/public-service-field-services-forms>.

SAQ Alexanderson Day in the Age of COVID-19

Despite mid-summer conditions, at least seven US listeners, most of them radio amateurs, were able to copy the 17.2 kHz signal from the SAQ Alexanderson alternator at the World Heritage Grimeton Radio Station in Sweden. The July 5 transmission from the vintage electro-mechanical transmitter commemorated the annual Alexanderson Day. All told, more than 600 reception reports were received -- a new record.

<https://alexander.n.se/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Alexanderso-n-Day-2020-Summary-Report-rev-0804.pdf>

"The odds were not optimal this year, with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, and early Sunday morning, the rain was pouring down, and heavy wind gusts made it hard to even take a peek at the antennas outdoors," the report from SAQ said. "The transmitter hall was empty except for five members of the Alexander Association."



Kai Sundberg, SA6KSU, at the helm of SAQ in a radio uniform dating back to the 1960s.

Dating from the 1920s, the Alexanderson alternator -- essentially an ac alternator run at extremely high speed -- can put out 200 kW, but is typically operated at less than half that power level. Once providing reliable transatlantic communication, it is now a museum piece and only put on the air on special occasions.

The transmitter was developed by Swedish engineer and radio

pioneer Ernst Alexanderson, who was employed at General Electric in Schenectady, New York, and was chief engineer at the Radio Corporation of America.

Two Alexanderson Day transmissions were made. “On the first transmission, the rainy weather was making it hard at first to reach good output to the antenna, but after a few minutes with the 'VVV VVV VVV de SAQ' loop, the system started to dry, and the amps [antenna current] increased. Skies cleared for the second transmission later in the day, and, according to the report, the antenna current rose to 60 A, which 'is optimal,’” the report said.

The occasion marked the inaugural transmission by Kai Sundberg, SA6KSU, at the helm of SAQ in a radio uniform dating back to the 1960s.

An article about Alexanderson Day, “The Legacy of Radio at Grimeton Station, SAQ,” appears on page 66 of the July 2019 issue of QST.

From *The ARRL Letter*, August 13, 2020

Arecibo Observatory Reflector Dish Damaged When Cable Snaps

An auxiliary cable that helps to support a metal platform above the Arecibo Observatory radio telescope's reflector dish in Puerto Rico snapped in the early morning hours of August 10, causing a 100-foot gash in the reflector dish. Operations at the world-famous observatory, which is managed by the University of Central Florida (UCF), have been halted until repairs can be made. When the 3-inch cable fell, it also damaged about a half-dozen panels in the Gregorian dome above the dish and twisted the platform used to access the dome. The cause of the cable break is not yet clear.



The main collecting dish at Arecibo is among the world's largest single-dish radio telescopes. The reflective dish is 1,000 feet in diameter, 167 feet deep, and covers an area of about 20 acres.

“We have a team of experts assessing the situation,” Observatory Director Francisco Cordova said. “Our focus is assuring the safety of our staff, protecting the facilities and equipment, and restoring the facility to full operations as soon as possible, so it can continue to assist scientists around the world.”

UCF manages the National Science Foundation (NSF) facility under a cooperative agreement with Universidad Ana G. Méndez and Yang Enterprises Inc. Home to one of the most powerful telescopes on the planet, the facility is used by scientists around the world to conduct research in the areas of atmospheric sciences,

planetary sciences, radio astronomy, and radar astronomy. Arecibo is also home to a team that runs the Planetary Radar Project supported by NASA's Near-Earth Object Observations Program in NASA's Planetary Defense Coordination Office, through a grant awarded to UCF.

The facility has endured many hurricanes, tropical storms, and earthquakes since it was built 50 years ago. Repairs from Hurricane Maria in 2017 are ongoing. Through it all, the facility has continued to contribute to significant breakthroughs in space research in the area of gravitational waves, asteroid characterization, planetary exploration, and more.

The largest single-dish radio telescope in the world for decades, Arecibo was bumped into second place in 2016 by the Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Telescope (FAST) in China.

The Arecibo Observatory Radio Club operates KP4AO at the site, mostly on special occasions.

-- Thanks to UCF and other sources

US Department of Defense to Share 3450 - 3550 MHz with 5G Commercial Operations

The FCC will auction sharing rights to the upper 50 MHz of the 3300 - 3500 MHz secondary amateur radio allocation to commercial 5G interests in the wake of the Department of Defense (DoD) agreement to share spectrum at 3450 - 3550 MHz. The entire band currently supports a variety of military operations, and amateur radio has a long history of peaceful coexistence with the Department of Defense as a secondary user of this spectrum.

Late last year, the FCC proposed to delete the amateur 3300 - 3500 MHz secondary allocation as well as the amateur-satellite allocation at 3400 - 3410 MHz. The FCC could auction the 100 MHz of spectrum in early 2022. This latest move makes a contiguous band of spectrum from 3450 - 3980 MHz available for commercial 5G networks.

“For a number of years, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and FCC have focused on the 3450 - 3550 MHz band as the spectrum most conducive to sharing with commercial users,” said ARRL Washington Counsel David Siddall, K3ZJ. “Monday's statements announced that a framework for sharing has been worked out.”

In December 2019, the FCC adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in WT Docket 19-348 proposing to delete the 3300 - 3500 MHz secondary amateur band. ARRL strongly opposed the move in its comments on the NPRM, which put forward the FCC's plans to remove “existing non-federal secondary radiolocation and amateur allocations” in the 3300 - 3500 MHz band and to consider options for relocating incumbent non-federal operations.

Siddall said the spectrum below 3450 MHz presents a more difficult government/commercial sharing scenario, and that future sharing there remains uncertain. “We continue to argue that the amateur secondary allocation should not be deleted in this band,” he said. “We recognize that our access is secondary, and ask only to be given a chance to use our considerable technical skills to work around whatever future uses may be implemented in this spectrum.”

“Together with the spectrum being made available for 5G in the C-band as well as the 3.5 GHz band, we are now on track to have a 530-megahertz swath of mid-band spectrum available for 5G

from 3.45 to 3.98 GHz,” FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said in a statement. “The FCC looks forward to moving quickly to adopt service rules for the 3.45 GHz band and then hold an auction to bring this prime mid-band spectrum to market.”

From *The ARRL Letter*, August 20, 2020

IARU Announces HF Digital Mode Band Plan Review

An International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) working group has been formed to develop solutions to reduce congestion within very popular mode segments while preventing mutual interference between “incompatible modes” as much as possible. The working group includes representatives of the three regional band-planning committees, marking the first time the three IARU regions have joined together to directly coordinate band-planning efforts.

“Because frequency allocations and amateur radio operating interests vary in different parts of the world, the development of band plans -- voluntary guidelines on the use of the spectrum that is available to radio amateurs -- is a responsibility of the three IARU regional organizations,” the IARU explained in announcing the working group. “Each of the three regions has a band-planning committee to focus on this work.”

The IARU says this approach to band planning has generally kept pace with the evolution of amateur radio operating, but the explosive growth in HF digital modes, particularly FT8, has led to perceived overcrowding of HF digital-mode band segments.

The new working group has already had fruitful discussions with the WSJT Development Group headed by Joe Taylor, K1JT. Additional discussions including other HF stakeholders will be held as part of a fundamental review of the different HF digital modes, and how they can best be categorized and arranged to share the limited spectrum available.

In recent years, moves have been made to bring the regional band plans into alignment wherever possible. Final approval of any band plan revisions typically occurs during regional conferences of IARU member-societies, held every 3 years on a rotating basis.

Due to recent administrative changes, however, revisions can be implemented without having to wait for the regional conferences.

New Smartphone App Can Identify Unknown Data Modes

An incredible number of digital-mode radio signals occupy the spectrum, and it's not always possible to identify the particular mode of operation. CW, PSK31, and FT8 are pretty easy, but how about CIS405, STANAG, or CHIP64? A new smartphone app can simplify things. SignallID can recognize about 20 signal modes (more may be on the way), in just 5 seconds of recording time. The app is open source and free.

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.tortillum.signalid>

Using it is simple. Once the frequency and bandwidth have been set, the user places the cell phone's microphone near the receiver's speaker, presses the large button, and waits for 5 seconds. The quieter the external environment is, the fewer errors.

“The algorithm is based on frequency, [so incorrect tuning] will result in an erroneous detection. The recording is limited to 5 seconds, for practical reasons. Mode recognition may require

several attempts, the developer, Tortillum, said, and upgrades are already in the works. “The easiest way to try [it] is RTTY or STANAG,” the developer added.

The very few comments so far from users suggest some further work may be needed, but they praised the concept. The developer invites additional comments.

The application, which includes a complete list, could prove a valuable tool in determining the types of emissions that may stray into amateur radio bands. A demonstration video is available.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-y1Ts1q2RU&feature=youtu.be>

-- Thanks to Southgate Amateur Radio News via Stephen Walters, G7VFX

James Armstrong, NV6W, Named Santa Clara Valley SM

James Armstrong, NV6W, of San Jose, California, was appointed as Santa Clara Valley (SCV) Section Manager following the untimely death on July 28 of incumbent Bill Ashby, AA6FC, just 4 weeks after he took office. An ARRL Life Member, Ashby, also of San Jose, was 66 and the only nominee for the position when nominations closed in March. Ashby had earlier served as the Affiliated Club Coordinator from 2007 to 2010. Armstrong will fulfill the remainder of the term, which expires on June 30, 2022.

His appointment by ARRL Radiosport and Field Services Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, followed consultation with ARRL Pacific Division Director Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT. Armstrong served as an Assistant SM in the SCV Section since 2013. A ham for more than 40 years, Armstrong also holds a Second Class Radiotelegraph Operator certificate, a General Radiotelephone Operator license, and a GMDSS Radio Operator/Maintainer license, all with ship radar endorsements.

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Aug. 10 2020



{Meeting was canceled}

Board Meeting, Aug. 17, 2020



Held on our 2 m repeater, W6UU/R

Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:40 PM

Attendance:

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

Visitors: Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, Editor (had a transmit problem, but could still receive)

The previous board meeting minutes were published in the SCCARA-GRAM, accepted by acclimation.

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, just thanks to Gary for taking the minutes.

Treasurer's Report, Goetz K6GKB:
Checking = \$11024.81, Cash = \$196.04, Total = \$11220.85

Trustee's Report, Don K6PBQ: The coronavirus is still going around so the club station at the San Jose Red Cross is still closed. However, we're looking into the possibility of participating in the CA QSO party outside on the patio at the Red Cross. I got some info from Kenwood about disinfecting microphones. We'll need that if we do the CA QSO party.

Standing Committees
Repeater chairman's report, Wally KA6YMD: Haven't noticed any noise lately, apparently that "grunge" issue is gone.
K6GKB: The wind turbine is not being used for charging now. The repeater and echo link are working well.

Webmaster's report, Wally KA6YMD: Nothing new, I'm updating it as info comes in.

100th anniversary QSL committee:
K6PBQ: I have the info for listing a special event station from the ARRL. I'd like to find some older pictures of the club station.
N6TRU: Not too much progress made lately.

Old Business:
KN6FNA: Not much done recently on the club station antenna because of the hot weather. The antennas need to be re-installed now that the roof work is done.

No new business.

Meeting adjourned 8:03 PM

Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, recording for the Secretary

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====
Date: 27 Mar 2011 18:23
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Case Closed
=====

Several women appeared in court, each accusing the others of causing the trouble in the apartment building where they lived. The women were arguing noisily at the same time.

The judge banged the gavel and said "Settle down! Now, we're going to do this in an orderly manner. I can't listen to all of you at once. I'll hear the oldest first."

The case was dismissed for lack of testimony.

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

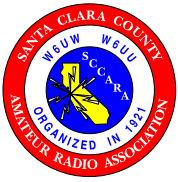
Newsletter Notes

It sure has been quite here at the editor's desk, no articles submitted. I thought the new column "What's Good About Amateur Radio" would garner lots of submissions. After all, everyone here can name *something* about it they like, right? It started out well, but has fizzled.

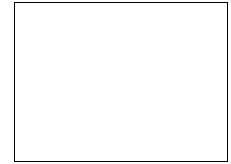
If you'd like something else, please let me know. As long as it's vaguely on the topic of amateur radio, that's fine.

This might be a good time to acknowledge and thank the ARRL for making *The ARRL Letter* available. The *SCCARA-GRAM* would be pretty thin without 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.