

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 46, Number 5

May 2021



2021 – Our 100th Year!

Meetings & Gatherings

Our in-person meetings are still canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The board meeting will be held at the normal day and time, but on our 2 m repeater following the Monday Night Net.

The electronics flea market is still canceled, although they're looking into possibly having some in late Summer or Fall. No word yet on what we'll do for Field Day. Best guess at this point, we'll probably operate at home like last year.

On the bright side: The club station will be open for limited use in late May. As more of us get vaccinated it shouldn't be too long before we can have meetings again, stay tuned for news about that.

Those over 15 are now eligible to get the vaccine. For appointments see the Santa Clara County on-line vaccine scheduler <https://vax.sccgov.org/home>.

{Note: Many people have had trouble getting appointments. I found that web site to be the best for getting appointments. It includes the big vaccine locations like Levi's Stadium--no trouble getting appointments there. --Editor}



Club Station

We are going to open up our club station at the Red Cross on the last Saturday in May for members to operate. We will have to wear masks and keep 6 feet apart. It will be nice to operate our special event actually at the club station. Hours will be 10AM to 4PM on May 29.

73, Don Village K6PBQ

Secretary Says

Dear reader,

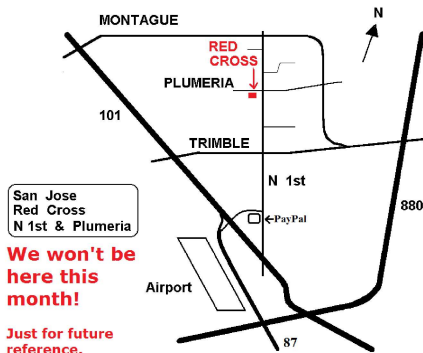
Since this issue of the *SCCARA-GRAM* contains some of the first minutes I've worked on, I thought it'd be good to utilize this column. I will note that writing these minutes took a good

Calendar

- 5/10 **SCCARA General Meeting** -- **canceled**
- 5/17 **SCCARA Board Meeting:** On our 2 m repeater after the net at 7:30 PM)
- 5/29 **SCCARA club station open 10 to 4.**

General Meeting

Day: Monday, May 10 -- **Canceled**
Time:
Place:



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(officers are also directors)

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	e-mail: w6jpp@arrl.net	
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	e-mail: w6qys@aol.com	
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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

amount of effort, but I am certain that I will grow accustomed to it. I will note, for purposes of credit, that the minutes were combined from both Gary WB6YRU's minutes and my own, for the reason that some of his minutes seemed much more concise for the time being. I hope that the minutes are "up to snuff", and I hope to improve those skills as well, if they are not.

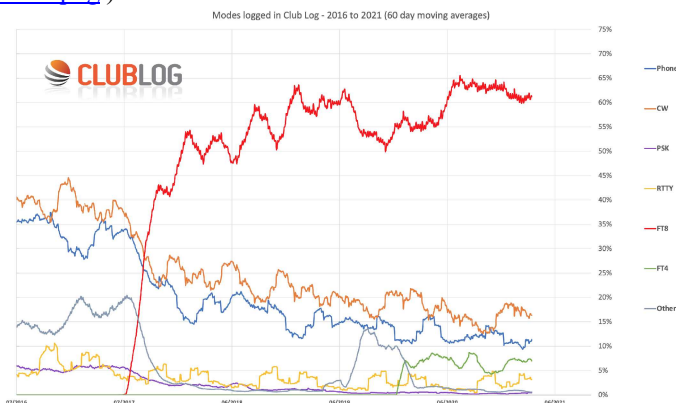
Thanks and 73 for now,
Truman Lindsey N6TRU, Secretary

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 1, 2021

FT8 Accounts for Nearly Two-Thirds of HF Activity

Since zooming to prominence after its debut in mid-2017, the popular FT8 digital protocol has become the mode of choice for some 60% of HF operators, according to [Club Log's latest activity report](#) compiled by Michael Wells, G7VJR. FT8 is one of the protocols in the [WSJT-X](#) suite of free programs. Wells says FT8 activity level sits at nearly 85% on 6 meters. The dramatic FT8 upswing has come at the expense of phone, CW, RTTY, PSK, and other modes. Over the same period, the number of FT8 contacts logged each year per active call sign has continued to climb to about 60% between 2015 and 2021, with the most dramatic increase being nearly 29% in the past year. The use of all other modes has continued to flutter downward since the advent of FT8, which occupies vastly less spectrum than the more traditional ham radio operating modes. (A large version of the chart is available here <https://g7vjr.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/clublog-2016-2021.png>.)



Between 2015 and 2020, the number of contacts logged per day by Club Log users has trended steadily upward, regardless of mode. The report draws on data of more than 84,000 logs uploaded to the Club Log site -- some 730 million contacts in all.

Wells reported that in 2025, the "typical call sign" logged 620 CW contacts, 558 SSB contacts, and 372 data (digital) contacts. Five years later, the statistics were 500, 300, and 1,700, respectively.

ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) does not typically report this level of detail as far as mode usage is concerned, but the statistics available certainly confirm FT8's increasing popularity. The rocketing usage of FT8 over the past few years may be demonstrated most dramatically by a comparison in contacts-by-mode statistics between March 2017 and March 2018, when FT8 contact numbers in the hundreds shot to some 2.6 million contacts by the following year -- an increase of nearly 1 million percent.

From mid-2019 to mid-2020, FT8 usage appears to have slumped slightly to 50% before climbing back to 60%. FT8 usage peaked at just over 65% in late 2020 and has held steady at 60 - 65% since.

The same period saw SSB usage dip by 15%, CW activity by 10%, and RTTY by 29%. Introduced later, FT4, the contest mode of FT8, also showed an initial fast upward trajectory, before steadying at 5 - 8%.

Named after its developers, Steven Franke, K9AN, and Joe Taylor, K1JT, FT8 indicates the mode's eight-frequency shift-keying format. Tones are spaced at 6.25 Hz, and an FT8 signal occupies just 50 Hz.

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 15, 2021

Updated Radio Frequency Exposure Rules Become Effective on May 3

The FCC has announced that rule changes detailed in a lengthy 2019 [Report and Order](#) (R&O) governing RF exposure standards go into effect on May 3, 2021. The new rules do not change existing RF exposure (RFE) limits but do require that stations in all services, including amateur radio, be evaluated against existing limits, unless they are exempted. For stations already in place, that evaluation must be completed by May 3, 2023. After May 3 of this year, any new station, or any existing station modified in a way that's likely to change its RFE profile -- such as different antennas or placement, or greater power -- will need to conduct an evaluation by the date of activation or change.

"In the RF Report and Order, the Commission anticipated that few parties would have to conduct reevaluations under the new rules and that such evaluations will be relatively straightforward," the FCC said in an April 2 Public Notice. "It nevertheless adopted a 2-year period for parties to verify and ensure compliance under the new rules."

The Amateur Service is no longer categorically excluded from certain aspects of the rules, as amended, and licensees can no longer avoid performing an exposure assessment simply because they are transmitting below a given power level.

"For most amateurs, the major difference is the removal of the categorical exclusion for amateur radio, which means that ham station owners must determine if they either qualify for an exemption or must perform a routine environmental evaluation," said Greg Lapin, N9GL, Chair of the ARRL RF Safety Committee and a member of the FCC Technological Advisory Council (TAC).

"Ham stations previously excluded from performing environmental evaluations will have until May 3, 2023, to perform these. After May 3, 2021, any new stations or those modified in a way that affects RF exposure must comply before being put into service," Lapin said.

The December 2019 RF R&O changes the methods that many radio services use to determine and achieve compliance with FCC limits on human exposure to RF electromagnetic fields. The FCC also modified the process for determining whether a particular device or deployment is exempt from a more thorough analysis by replacing a service-specific list of transmitters, facilities, and operations for which evaluation is required with new streamlined formula-based criteria. The R&O also addressed how to perform evaluations where the exemption does not apply, and how to mitigate exposure.

Amateur radio licensees will have to determine whether any existing facilities previously excluded under the old rules now qualify for an exemption under the new rules. Most will, but some may not.

"For amateurs, the major difference is the removal of the categorical exclusion," Lapin said, "which means that every ham will be required to perform some sort of calculation, either to determine if they qualify for an exemption or must perform a full-fledged exposure assessment. For hams who previously performed exposure assessments on their stations, there is nothing more to do."

The ARRL Lab staff is available to help amateurs to make these determinations and, if needed, perform the necessary calculations to ensure their stations comply. ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, who helped prepare ARRL's RF Exposure and You book, explained it this way. "The FCC did not change any of the underlying rules applicable to amateur station evaluations," he said. "The sections of the book on how to perform routine station evaluations are still valid and usable, especially the many charts of common antennas at different heights." Hare said ARRL Lab staff also would be available to help amateurs understand the rules and evaluate their stations.

[RF Exposure and You is available for free download](#) from ARRL. ARRL also has an [RF Safety page](#) on its website.

The ARRL RF Safety Committee is working with the FCC to update the FCC's aids for following human exposure rules -- OET Bulletin 65 and OET Bulletin 65 Supplement B for Radio Amateurs. In addition, ARRL is developing tools that all hams can use to perform exposure assessments.

Over the Horizon (OTH) radars in ham bands may be too numerous to count.

The IARU Region 1 Monitoring System (IARUMS) March newsletter reported that the seemingly ubiquitous Over the Horizon Radars (OTH-Rs) made up about 60% of all interference observations, to the point that "one cannot even count them anymore." The IARUMS presumes that only a few stations are transmitting on often-changing frequencies. In contrast to the past, however, these are more frequently burst systems, which typically transmit for just a few seconds before changing frequency. IARUMS said that only the "Contayner" and "Pluto" systems transmit on a single frequency for longer periods.

Fry's is Toast

One of the last Bay Area retail stores with electronic parts is gone. Many of you have probably noticed the shelves at Fry's were not well stocked in recent years. The employees denied they were going out of business. However, now they have.

It's a shame to lose a store with the character and variety Fry's had. At least there are still a couple of good sources on-line for electronic parts like [Mouser Electronics](#) and [Digi-Key Electronics](#), plus the many specialty stores.

Since the electronics flea market has been held in the Sunnyvale Fry's parking lot, it will need to find a new location.

This is now on Fry's web site:

After nearly 36 years in business as the one-stop-shop and online resource for high-tech professionals across nine states and 31 stores, Fry's

Electronics... has made the difficult decision to shut down its operations and close its business permanently as a result of changes in the retail industry and the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Company ceased regular operations and began the wind-down process on February 24, 2021.

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, April 12, 2021



{meeting was canceled}

Board Meeting, April 19, 2021



Held verbally on our 2m Repeater, W6UU/R

Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:37 PM

Present: President Gregg Lane KF6FNA; Vice President Ned Tufekcic AC6YY; Secretary Truman Lindsey N6TRU; Treasurer Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Station Trustee Don Village K6PBQ; Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Wally Britten KA6YMD, John Parks W6JPP, Ben Shuford KK6CCU, James Rustermier KI6ZSK.

Visitors: Editor Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, Barbara KD6QEI, Christine KN6ELY, Ed KN6KOZ, Fred KI6RJN

Announcements:

John W6JPP: No location set for Electronics Flea Market as of now. Pacificon in October is currently planned to be normal (in-person). Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, things are improving, Santa Clara Health office says businesses are to open 25%, in May it will be 50%.

President's Report, Gregg KF6FNA: Nothing new to report.

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

Secretary's Report, Truman N6TRU: Nothing new to report.
Gregg KF6FNA: The previous board meeting minutes were published in the SCCARA-GRAM.
No corrections mentioned. Approved as published by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report, Goetz K6GKB:
Checking = \$11,237.74, Cash = \$216.04, Total = \$11,453.78

Trustee's Report, Don K6PBQ: The plan is to re-activate the club station starting in May.

SCCARA Standing Committees:

Editor's Report, Gary WB6YRU: It would be helpful to get more member-submitted articles, and input from the higher-ups.

BBS Sysop's Report, Gary WB6YRU: The BBS is running normally. It was running slow, turned out to be a lot of backed up traffic waiting to be forwarded. That's been resolved.

Repeater Report, Wally KA6YMD: Repeater seems to be operating well due to the recently-tuned cavities.
Goetz K6GKB: My windmill (controller) was causing noise, it can't be used.

Web Report, Wally KA6YMD: Continuing to update website as needed, nothing much else except that.

100th Anniversary QSL Certificate, Gary WB6YRU: Unfortunately I've been very busy working lately with very little time left for hobbies, but that's letting up now. So not much new to report at this time.

Don K6PBQ: Regarding our special event: Lou has made many contacts. Some people have sent in \$3 and SASE, as instructed on the web site.

Gary WB6YRU: When did we decide to charge \$3 for the certificate? As far as I know we were to send it just like a regular QSL.

Ned AC6YY: It was originally supposed to just be asking for a donation, but they'd get the certificate regardless.

Discussion followed.

Ben KK6CCU: Let's worry about the certificates after we've announced UHF, VHF, etc. plus frequencies, times, and gathered contacts, then deal with printing certificates. The websites need to be corrected now.

Old Business

Gregg KF6FNA: The antenna work at Red Cross (Club Station) is still pending, no progress to report.

New Business

Field Day 2021, Don K6PBQ: We need to think about Field Day 2021. We didn't have one last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There are multiple rooms at the Red Cross where we can have multiple stations and keep our distance from each other.

Gregg KF6FNA: Have we talked to George N6NKT and the Red Cross about this topic? We'll need to clear it with them if we are to have it there.

Don K6PBQ: I'll contact the Red Cross soon. I think we could likely fit four stations in there reasonably.

John W6JPP: Masks and six foot distancing are likely to continue being in place per Santa Clara County directives.

Gregg KF6FNA: Indeed, let's also see what happens prior to Field Day 2021.

Renewal Notice Ideas

Gregg KF6FNA: Gary mentioned we need to do more regarding renewals.

Gary WB6YRU: We should send post cards or a letter to non-renewing members in late January.

Gregg KF6FNA: A friendly letter via the postal service seems like a good idea.

Ben KK6CCU: In my experience, I didn't get a renewal verification. Maybe that would be worth consideration.

Gary WB6YRU: The Board decided some time back not to publish the roster publicly, although that might have gone too far due to Ben KK6CCU's renewal questions. I think it might be nearing time to revisit that topic too.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Truman Lindsey N6TRU, Secretary

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====
Date: 15 May 2011 07:10
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: blonde-ness

A married couple were asleep when the phone rang at 2 in the morning. The very blonde wife picked up the phone, listened a moment and said 'How should I know, that's 200 miles from here!' and hung up. The husband said, 'Who was that?' The wife answered, 'I don't know, some woman wanting to know if the coast is clear.'

Two blondes are walking down the street. One notices a compact on the sidewalk and leans down to pick it up. She opens it, looks in the mirror and says, "Hmm, this person looks familiar." The second blonde says, "Let me see!" The second blonde looks in the mirror and says, 'You dummy, it's me!'

A blonde suspects her boyfriend of cheating on her, so she goes out and buys a gun. She goes to his apartment unexpectedly and when she opens the door she finds him in the arms of a redhead. Well, the blonde is really Angry. She opens her purse to take out the gun, and as she does so, she is overcome with grief. She takes the gun and puts it to her head. The boyfriend yells, "No, honey, don't do it!" The blonde replies, "Shut up, you're next!"

A blonde was bragging about her knowledge of state capitals. She proudly says, "Go ahead, ask me, I know 'em all." A friend says, "OK, what's the capital of Wisconsin?" The blonde replies, "Oh, that's easy it's W."

Q: What did the blonde ask her doctor when he told her she was pregnant?
A: 'Is it mine?'

Bambi, a blonde in her fourth year as a UCLA Freshman, sat in her US Government class. The professor asked Bambi if she knew what Roe vs. Wade was about. Bambi pondered the question; then, finally, said, "That was the decision George Washington had to make before he crossed the Delaware."

Returning home from work, a blonde was shocked to find her house ransacked and burglarized. She telephoned the police at once and reported the crime. The police dispatcher broadcast the call on the radio, and a K-9 unit, patrolling nearby, was the first to respond. As the K-9 officer approached the house with his dog on a leash, the blonde ran out on the porch, shuddered at the sight of the cop and his dog, then sat down on the steps. Putting her

face in her hands, she moaned, "I come home to find all my possessions stolen. I call the police for help, and what do they do? They send me a BLIND policeman!"

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

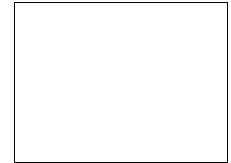
Newsletter Notes

I'm happy to finally have something for the Secretary's column, and from our Trustee too (about the club station). It would sure be nice to have the officers chip in more often. And don't forget about the "What's Good About Amateur Radio" column, that's been waiting for another member's story too.

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 2021

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: _____

on ly 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.