

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 46, Number 6

June 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 after the Monday Night Net. The club station is open now on a limited basis, usually the last Saturday of the month from 10 am to 4 pm. Masks and social distancing are required. We will not be operating the club station for Field Day. Operate from home, like last year.

Some good news, progress is being made: Statewide 51% are now fully vaccinated; in Santa Clara County it's even better, 67.9%. And it's working--the rate of new Covid-19 cases in Santa Clara County is down to 1.3 per 100,000. That's great, but we can do better. The sooner we're all vaccinated, the sooner we can get back to normal.



Secretary Says

Hello to all the club members, and to any visitors that might read this! For this month's column, I want to thank Gary WB6YRU for the concise, well done minutes. I've combined my minutes with his, and I'm very thankful for that.

Aside from that, things are looking to improve with the COVID-19 situation. As of writing this, the mask mandate is set to lift on June 15th. If that doesn't turn out to be the case, well, let's see what happens.

I'm anticipating meeting with the club again, as it's been about a year now! For now though, I wish everyone reading this and beyond, the best of luck.

For now, I'll say 73!
Truman N6TRU, Club Secretary

Something for Our 100th Anniversary

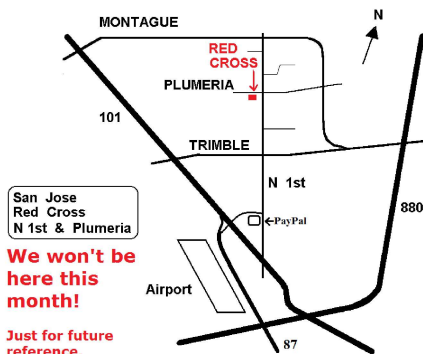
You may recall that originally one thing we planned for our 100th anniversary was to have a special event station during the month of February and send out a special QSL to those we

Calendar

- 6/14 **SCCARA General Meeting** -- **canceled**
- 6/21 **SCCARA Board Meeting:** On our 2 m repeater after the net at 7:30 PM)
- 6/25-26 **Field Day** -- Operate from home like last year

General Meeting

Day: Monday, June 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

contacted. It would be a certificate instead of the usual postcard. I've got the certificate pretty much finished, the remaining question is how many should we have printed up.

Our station trustee tells me it didn't work out so well, we only made around 80 contacts, not that many people collect QSL's anymore, and the vast majority of the contacts we did make weren't interested in a QSL certificate anyway. So the number of certificates needed is zero. He then added that our 100th anniversary is important to us, but not to most everyone else.

Well, that last part got me to thinking... Many years ago we used to have membership cards. So how about this: Change the QSL certificate to a membership certificate and everyone who is a member during our 100th anniversary year gets one.

The powers that be are divided on what to do and our anniversary year is half over now. Some have given up on the special event and the QSL certificate idea, others want to give it more of a chance.

So here is another option. What do you all think, would you like to have a 100th anniversary membership certificate instead? Drop me a note and let me know, my email is wb6yru@ix.netcom.com. I'll pass on the results.

73, Gary WB6YRU, Editor

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 29, 2021

USB and Serial Ports

Bob Wilson, N6TV, has updated his presentation, [Everything You Need To Know About USB and Serial Interfaces \(pdf file\)](#). His presentation includes the history and evolution of serial ports, chipsets, software tools for troubleshooting, and how to best utilize the built-in USB to the serial functionality built into some modern rigs to support CAT, CW keying, and RTTY keying.

From *The ARRL Letter*, May 13, 2021

First-Time Exam Applicants Must Obtain FCC Registration Number Before Taking Exam

Beginning May 20, 2021, all amateur examination applicants will be required to provide an FCC Registration Number ([FRN](#)) to the Volunteer Examiners (VEs) before taking an amateur exam. This is necessary due to changes the FCC has made to its licensing system.

Amateur candidates who already have an FCC license, whether for amateur radio or another service, and already have an FRN may use the same number. All prospective new FCC licensees, however, will be required to obtain an FRN before the examination and provide that number to the volunteer examiners on the Form 605 license application. [An FCC instructional video](#) provides step-by-step instructions on how to obtain an FRN through the FCC's Commission Registration System (CORES).

The FRN is required for all new applicants to take an amateur exam and is used afterward by the applicant to download the license document from the FCC Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)), upgrade the license, apply for a vanity call sign, and to submit administrative updates (such as address and email changes) and renewal applications.

In addition, after June 29, all applications will be required to

contain an email address for FCC correspondence. Applicants will receive an email directly from the FCC with a link to the official electronic copy of their license whenever a license is issued or changed. ARRL VEC suggests that those without access to email should use the email address of a family member or friend. Licensees will be able to log in to the ULS using their FRN and password to download the latest version of their license at any time. The FCC no longer provides paper license documents.

Wooden Satellite to Launch by Year's End

The WISA Woodsat project, being sponsored by plywood supplier WISA in an unconventional PR initiative, is poised to place a wooden satellite into orbit by the end of the year. The idea is to test the suitability of treated wood as a low-cost and widely available material for space applications. The [IARU posting](#) for Woodsat indicates that several amateur radio experiments will be on board as well as photo downlinking, including selfies.



The wooden satellite is based on a basic, versatile CubeSat format, Kitsat, which is designed with educational use in mind. It retails for just \$1,500. Based in Finland, the Woodsat project began with students across the country contributing parts to a CubeSat launched by balloon. The satellite will

be a 10-centimeter cube weighing 1 kilogram, covered on all sides by coated birch plywood from WISA Plywood. Nine small solar cells will power the satellite, which will orbit at an altitude of 500 - 550 kilometers.

As the sponsor explained, “WISA Woodsat will go where no wood has gone before. With a mission to gather data on the behavior and durability of plywood over an extended period in the harsh temperatures, vacuum, and radiation of space in order to assess the use of wood materials in space structures.”

Once in orbit, Woodsat will be able to extend a selfie stick to capture photographs of the wooden box as it hurtles through space at 40,000 kilometers (24,800 miles) per hour. This will allow the mission leaders to monitor the impact of the environment on the plywood.

The satellite would downlink its telemetry and images from two cameras using amateur radio frequencies.

“The wooden satellite with a selfie stick will surely bring laughter and goodwill,” added mission manager Jari Mäkinen of Arctic Astronautics. “Essentially, this is a serious science and technology endeavor. In addition to testing plywood, the satellite will demonstrate accessible radio amateur satellite communication; host several secondary technology experiments; validate the Kitsat platform in orbit, and popularize space technology.”

An April 23 Engineering and Technology [article](#) has more information.

-- Thanks to AMSAT News Service via JoAnne Maenpaa, K9JKM; E&T, and the IARU

From *The ARRL Letter*, May 20, 2021

Amateurs' Email Addresses Will Continue to Be

Kept Private, FCC Says

Starting on June 29, all applications filed with the FCC must include an email address for FCC correspondence. After receipt of the initial announcement that all future applications would require an email address, ARRL was concerned for the privacy of its members and requested that amateurs' email addresses not be made public. This week, the FCC agreed, stating in an email to ARRL counsel that it will continue to “mask” amateurs' email addresses from public view in the Universal Licensing System (ULS). The FCC will use the email address supplied by amateurs to correspond with applicants, including to send a link to the official electronic copy of the license when an application is granted.

The FCC is transitioning to fully electronic correspondence and no longer mails hard-copy licenses. Amateurs are able to view, download, and print their official license grant using the ULS. When a license is first granted, each applicant will receive an email with a direct link to the license. Although the link expires in 30 days, the license itself will remain available in the ULS and may be downloaded at any time by signing into the licensee's account using their FCC Registration Number (FRN) and password.

On or after June 29, a valid email address must be provided with each application, and must be kept current by filing a modification application, as necessary. Under the amended Section 97.23, “The email address must be an address where the grantee can receive electronic correspondence. Revocation of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the grantee failed to provide the correct email address.”

Applicants lacking an email address should consider using the email address of a friend or family member on their FCC applications

Red Cross Emergency Communications Spring 2021 Drill was a Success

The Red Cross Emergency Communications Training Group held its third nationwide drill on Saturday, May 8. While results are still being compiled and checked, it appears that some 800 participating radio amateurs took part in sending traffic via Winlink to one of eight Red Cross Divisional clearinghouses around the nation.

The Training Group has two overarching goals: to attract and train a large number of radio amateurs in the basic use of Winlink and to incrementally raise the bar to higher levels of proficiency. To accomplish this, Winlink Thursday training ops were held all winter.

For the May 8 nationwide drill, participants were asked to send two Winlink messages -- a Winlink check-in form providing GPS coordinates of the station, and a message containing a Red Cross Shelter Requisition Form 6409. The valid GPS coordinates were mapped and displayed in real time during the drill.

One challenge for the second message was that the sample Form 6409 had been filled in by hand, to provide a more realistic scenario than a neatly typed one. Operators had to transcribe the requisition items.

The use of radio to send Winlink messages was encouraged, and more than 80% of participants did so, either on HF or VHF/UHF frequencies. The percentage number and message accuracy rate have continually risen during the Winlink Thursday drills.

Because the May 8 date fell on World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, hams from around the world were invited to participate, and more than 50 checked in from Central and South America, Canada, Germany, and South Africa.

For more information about the Red Cross Emergency Communications Training Group, [visit the group's website](#) and sign up for its group email service to receive announcements of future activities.

-- Thanks to The ARES Letter via the Red Cross Emergency Communications Training Group

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, May 10, 2021



{meeting was canceled}

Board Meeting, May 17, 2021



Held verbally on our 2m Repeater, W6UW/R.

Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:41 PM.

Attendance: President Gregg Lane KF6FNA; Vice President Ned Tufekic 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: Christine KN6ELY, Editor Gary Mitchell WB6YRU.

Announcements:

John W6JPP: Pacificon as of now will happen normally, subject to any restrictions from the County (regarding the pandemic which is waning).

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

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

Secretary's Report, Truman N6TRU: The previous board meeting minutes were published in the SCCARA-GRAM. No corrections. Approved as published by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report, Goetz K6GKB: Checking \$11,328.87, Cash \$216.04, Total \$11,544.91

Trustee's Report, Don K6PBQ: The club station will be open Saturday May 29 from 10 am to 4 pm. Need masks and social distancing. We will not work Field Day at the club station (Red Cross).

Standing Committees:

Newsletter/Editor's Report, Gary WB6YRU: Nothing new to report. Thanks to our secretary for his article for the Secretary's Column. It would be nice to get articles from the other officers.

BBS Report, Gary WB6YRU: It's running normally; nothing new

to report.

Repeater's Report, Wally KA6YMD: Repeater seems to be operating normally; nothing new to report.

Goetz K6GKB: Echolink was having an error with only accepting one user; has been fixed to accept multiple attendees.

Web Report, Wally KA6YMD: Nothing new to report. Website is being updated as info comes in.

Old Business:

Gregg KF6FNA: Regarding the antennas on the roof of the Red Cross, some are working some need work. Regarding our special event station: We are looking into operating 2m to give local folks a chance to make contact.

Membership renewal:

Gary WB6YRU: It would be nice if people could renew on-line on our web page and check there to see if we have them registered as renewed.

John W6JPP: There will be a transaction fee, we'll have to account for that.

New Business:

Field Day 2021 (June 26, 27)

Don K6PBQ: We will operate again individually at home like we did last year.

John W6JPP: The American Legion post (where our antenna trailer is stored) will be open for activities. We should make sure the antenna is in good shape. There is some talk about having a camp-out for club members, possibly at a County park in South Monterey County. If anyone is interested in that, let me know.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Truman Lindsey N6TRU, Secretary

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====
Date: 19 Nov 2012 01:53
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: Jokes 19/11
=====

An old prospector shuffled into town leading an old tired mule and headed straight for the saloon. He walked up and tied his mule to the hitch rail. As he stood there, brushing some of the dust from his clothes, a young gunslinger stepped out of the saloon with a gun in one hand and a bottle of whisky in the other.

The young gunslinger looked at the old man and laughed, saying, "Hey old man, have you ever danced?"

The old man looked up at the gunslinger and said, "No, I never did dance... never really wanted to."

A crowd had gathered as the gunslinger grinned and said,

"Well, you old fool, you're gonna dance now," and started shooting at the old man's feet.

The old prospector--not wanting to get a toe blown off--started hopping around like a flea on a hot skillet. Everybody was laughing. When his last bullet had been fired, the young gunslinger, still laughing, holstered his gun and turned around to go back into the saloon. The old man turned to his pack mule, pulled out a double-barreled shotgun, and cocked both hammers. The loud clicks carried clearly through the desert air. The crowd stopped laughing immediately. The young gunslinger heard the sounds too and turned around very slowly. The silence was almost deafening.

The crowd watched as the young gunman stared at the old timer and the large gaping holes of those twin barrels. The barrels of the shotgun never wavered in the old man's hands as he quietly said, "Son, have you ever licked a mule's ass?"

The gunslinger swallowed hard and said, "No sir... but... I've always wanted to."

There are a few lessons for us all here:
Don't be arrogant.
Don't waste ammunition.
Whisky makes you think you're smarter than you are.
Don't mess with old men, they didn't get old by being stupid.

THE RABBIT
(brace yourself for this one, it's a story for blondes)

A man is driving along a highway and sees a rabbit jump out across the middle of the road.

He swerves to avoid hitting it, but unfortunately the rabbit jumps right in front of the car. The driver, a sensitive man as well as an animal lover, pulls over and gets out to see what has become of the rabbit.

Much to his dismay, the rabbit is dead. The driver feels so awful that he begins to cry.

A beautiful blonde woman driving down the highway sees a man crying on the side of the road and pulls over. She steps out of the car and asks the man what's wrong.

"I feel terrible," he explains, "I accidentally hit this rabbit and killed it."

The blonde says, "Don't worry."

She runs to her car and pulls out a spray can. She walks over to the limp, dead rabbit, bends down, and sprays the contents onto the rabbit.

The rabbit jumps up, waves its paw at the two of them and hops off down the road. Ten feet away the rabbit stops, turns around and waves again, he hops down the road another 10 feet, turns and waves, hops another ten feet, turns and waves, and repeats this again and again and again, until he hops out of sight.

The man is astonished. He runs over to the woman and demands, "What's in that can? What did you spray on that rabbit?"

The woman turns the can around so that the man can read the label. It says, "Hair Spray - Restores life to dead hair, adds permanent wave."

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

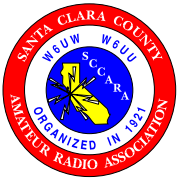
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WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, 408-269-2924
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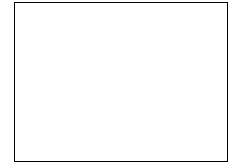
Newsletter Notes

Thanks to Truman for another Secretary's column. Hopefully it encourages the other officers to contribute something. As you can see, it doesn't have to be anything huge. There must be something you can think of to say to the club. Articles from members are welcome too. Maybe comments about Field Day?

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor



SCCARA
 Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association
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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: _____

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.