

# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 46, Number 7

July 2021



# 2021 – Our 100<sup>th</sup> 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 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. Still no electronic flea markets yet.

Progress report:  
Statewide 59% are now fully vaccinated; in Santa Clara County nearly 75% are fully vaccinated. Perhaps it's no big surprise we here in Silicon Valley would be leading the way. 😊  
The experts tell us at least 80% is needed to achieve herd immunity. Are you one of the hold-outs? The sooner we all get vaccinated, the sooner we can get back to normal.

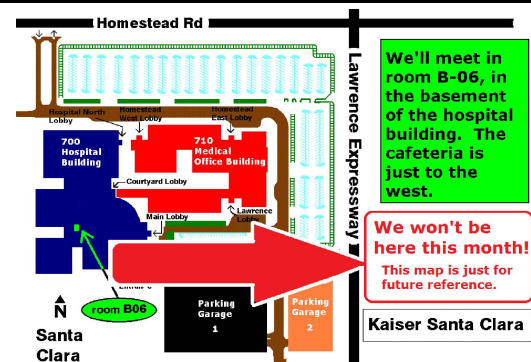


## Calendar

- 7/12 **SCCARA General Meeting** -- **canceled**
- 7/19 **SCCARA Board Meeting:** On our 2 m repeater after the net at 7:30 PM)

## General Meeting

Day: Monday, July 12 -- **Canceled**  
 Time:  
 Place:  
 Featuring:



Happy Independence day!

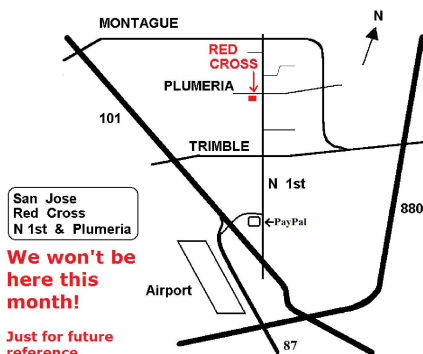


## ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, June 3, 2021

### 40 MHz Beacon

A new 8 m propagation beacon, call sign EI1CAH, is now on the air from the west of Ireland on 40.016 MHz. The beacon will transmit in both CW and PI4 modes with an output power of 25 W into a horizontal dipole. According to the announcement, the new 40 MHz beacon is designed to explore the possibility of VHF paths across the Atlantic, and it may prove a useful propagation for 50 MHz operators in North America looking for openings to Europe. The beacon has the potential to be heard in the Americas and the Caribbean. Visit [EI7GL's blog](#) for more



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.**

**SCCARA web page** <https://www.qsl.net/sccara>  
club email: [w6uw@arrl.net](mailto:w6uw@arrl.net) or [w6uw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:w6uw@sbcglobal.net)

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS (officers are also directors)

President	Gregg Lane KF6FNA	408-393-5607
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	e-mail: <a href="mailto:w6jpp@arrl.net">w6jpp@arrl.net</a>	
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	e-mail: <a href="mailto:w6qys@aol.com">w6qys@aol.com</a>	
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	e-mail: <a href="mailto:bshu288519@aol.com">bshu288519@aol.com</a>	
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	e-mail: <a href="mailto:ka6ymd@arrl.net">ka6ymd@arrl.net</a>	
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	e-mail: <a href="mailto:rustermier@gmail.com">rustermier@gmail.com</a>	

#### COMMITTEES

Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	408-269-2924
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:wb6yru@ix.netcom.com">wb6yru@ix.netcom.com</a>	
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	e-mail: <a href="mailto:ka6ymd@arrl.net">ka6ymd@arrl.net</a>	
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	e-mail: <a href="mailto:wb6yru@ix.netcom.com">wb6yru@ix.netcom.com</a>	
Webmaster	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	408-891-1105
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:ka6ymd@arrl.net">ka6ymd@arrl.net</a>	

#### 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

information. (<https://ei7gl.blogspot.com/2021/05/new-40-mhz-propagation-beacon-in-west.html>)

From *The ARRL Letter*, June 11, 2021

## **WSJT-X Version 2.4.0 Now Generally Available, Version 2.5.0 on the Horizon**

WSJT-X version 2.4.0 is now available in general release. According to co-developer Joe Taylor, K1JT, WSJT-X version 2.4.0 includes the new digital mode Q65. This protocol is designed for two-way contacts over especially difficult propagation paths, including ionospheric scatter, troposcatter, rain scatter, TEP, EME, and other types of fast-fading signals.

"On paths with Doppler spread more than a few Hertz, the weak-signal performance of Q65 is the best among all WSJT-X modes," the [Quick Start Guide](#) asserts. ([https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/Q65\\_Quick\\_Start.pdf](https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/Q65_Quick_Start.pdf))

WSJT-X version 2.5.0-rc1 (beta) has been released. According to the [Release Notes](#), in version 2.5.0, "the Q65 decoder has been enhanced to measure and compensate for linear frequency drift in Q65 signals." ([https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/Release\\_Notes.txt](https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/Release_Notes.txt))

Q65 uses 65-tone frequency-shift keying and builds on the demonstrated weak-signal strengths of QRA64, a mode introduced to WSJT-X in 2016. Q65 offers user message and sequencing identical to that in FST4, FT4, FT8, and MSK144. It includes a unique tone for time and frequency synchronization. As with JT65, this "sync tone" is readily visible on the waterfall spectral display. In addition, Q65 provides a sensitive "sync curve" near the bottom of the waterfall window.

Testing showed that Q65 will enable stations with a modest Yagi and 100 W or more and to work one another on 6 meters at distances up to around 2,000 kilometers on most days of the year, in dead band conditions.

For the complete announcement, see the [WSJT-X website](#). (<https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjsx.html>)

## **Suggested 6 m Transmit Times**

The UK Six Meter Group's (UKSMG) widely accepted [FT8 Code of Practice](#) recommends that European stations transmit during even periods, 00 and 30 seconds past each minute, and that Asian and North American stations transmit during odd periods, 15 and 45 seconds past each minute. (<http://uksmg.org/ft8-code-of-practice.php>)

From *The ARRL Letter*, June 24, 2021

## **FCC Seeks Comments in Proceeding Involving 70 and 5 Centimeters**

The FCC is soliciting a second round of comments on whether to authorize commercial space entities to obtain licenses for frequencies used exclusively during space launch activities. The proposals include parts of the 70-centimeter (420 - 430 MHz) and 5-centimeter (5650 - 5925 MHz) bands. The federal government has allocated this spectrum on a primary basis and routinely uses it during space launches, but commercial space companies must

obtain short-term Special Temporary Authority (STA) authorizations from the FCC to use it for the same purpose.

The last decade has seen a dramatic increase in commercial space launches. In March, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) streamlined its commercial space launch and reentry licensing regulations. In April, the FCC adopted some of its proposals from 2013 and solicited additional comment in a [Further Notice](#) on proposals in ET Docket No. 13-115, "Allocation of Spectrum for Non-Federal Space Launch Operations." (<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-21-44A1.pdf>)

The proposals would allow private commercial space companies to obtain regular FCC licenses instead of launch-specific STAs in a number of bands, including 420 - 430 MHz and 5650 - 5925 MHz. The federal government, including the US Department of Defense, is the primary user of both bands. Amateur operations are allocated on a secondary basis. The FCC again seeks comment on whether it should authorize use by commercial space launch entities limited to space launch uses identical to those employed by the federal government on this spectrum.

Primary federal users heavily employ the 70-centimeter segment for radiolocation applications. Frequencies in the 420 - 430 MHz segment can also be used during space launches to send a flight self-destruct signal if a launch goes off course and poses danger to a populated area. The Commission's 2013 proposal, repeated in 2021, would permit use restricted to flight termination during launches by commercial space launch companies.

Primary federal users also make use of 5650 - 5925 MHz for radiolocation applications, with channels used during launches for radar tracking. The Commission proposes to permit use by commercial entities similarly limited to use for radar tracking of launch vehicles.

The Commission notes in its Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that since 2013, commercial entities have become established in space launch operations that were formerly the province of NASA. "To support these commercial space ventures, entities such as the New Mexico Spaceport Authority, the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority, and the Houston Airport System have established non-Federal spaceports," the FCC said, noting that five bands -- including 420 - 430 MHz and 5650 - 5925 MHz -- are commonly used for communication with and tracking of launch vehicles.

The Commission noted, however, that several commercial space launch providers indicated that they do not use either band for their operations. The FCC concluded, "Given the limited current use of these bands during space launches [by commercial space entities], we are not convinced that there is need for new allocations for either band."

Comments are due on or before July 12, 2021; reply comments are due on or before August 9, 2021.

### 13 Colonies Special Event Set for July 1 - 7

The 13th running of the popular [13 Colonies Special Event](#) will take place July 1 - 8. A series of 1 x 1 call signs (K2A - K2M) will represent each of the original colonies in North America. The event begins at 1300 UTC on July 1 and concludes at 0400 UTC on July 8. (<http://www.13colonies.us/>)



This year, some French stations will be joining, in recognition of the French Navy's importance in the 1700s as part of the France-Britain global competition. TM13COL will be a bonus station, as will GB13COL and WM3PEN in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, named after land-grant grantee William Penn, the colony's founder. Of course, Philadelphia is where the US founding fathers met.

Last year, the Special Event's 13 stations made 202,000 contacts. Each QSL card will be different, including the three bonus stations, each bearing a representative image of a ship.

### SAQ in Sweden to Conduct Annual Alexanderson Day Transmission

SAQ, the call sign of the vintage Alexanderson alternator transmitter in Grimeton, Sweden, will conduct its annual Alexanderson Day transmission on Sunday, July 4. The CW transmission will be on 17.2 kHz CW. The Alexanderson Grimeton Association is planning for two broadcasts from the circa-1924 Alexanderson alternator.



Startup and tuning for the first SAQ transmission will take place at 0830 UTC, with a message transmission to follow at 0900 UTC. Startup and tuning for the second SAQ transmission will take place at 1130 UTC, with a message transmission to follow at 1200 UTC.

Both events will be [livestreamed](#) on the Alexander SAQ Grimeton Association YouTube channel. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybGdKzwIMss>)

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## Meeting Minutes

### General Meeting, June 14, 2021



*{meeting was canceled}*

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### Board Meeting, June 21, 2021



SCCARA Board Meeting Minutes June 21, 2021  
Held verbally on our 2m Repeater, W6UW/R.

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

#### 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.

Absent: James "Rusty" Rustemier KI6ZSK

Excused absence: Ben Shuford KK6CCU

Visitors: Editor Gary Mitchell WB6YRU

#### Announcements:

Field Day 2021: Field Day is June 26-27, participate from home, the club won't be doing anything.

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. Correction: This report was omitted: "Gregg KF6FNA: The QSL certificate design is done and ready to print." Motion by John W6JPP to approve the minutes as corrected.

Seconded by Don K6PBQ.

Gregg KF6FNA, Ned AC6YY, Truman N6TRU, Goetz K6GKB, Lou WA6QYS, John W6JPP, Don K6PBQ all voting yes; Wally KA6YMD abstain

Gregg KF6FNA: Minutes are approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report, Goetz K6GKB:

Checking \$11,366.62, Cash \$216.04, Total \$11,582.66.

Note: That's not including the PO BOX fee which just came in, (\$166 / year).

Trustee's Report, Don K6PBQ: Nothing new to report, except Field Day is this weekend, but the club station will be closed, members should participate at home.

Standing Committees

Editor's Report, Gary WB6YRU: Not much new to report. Except there's an article mentioning that our special event station didn't go so well and instead of a QSL certificate asking if members would like a 100th anniversary member certificate instead. So far I haven't received any comments. If there's little interest, I guess we can forget the whole idea.

BBS Report, Gary WB6YRU: Nothing new to report, it's running normally.

Repeater Report, Wally KA6YMD:

Report relayed from John W6JPP: Everything is running fine. Goetz K6GKB: There was some interference. Paul KK6HWN figured out it was APRS. He contacted the person and that will be the end of that. My wind generator can charge a separate set of backup batteries without producing interference.

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

Old Business

Gregg KF6FNA: The antennas at the Red Cross are still not installed.

Gregg KF6FNA: Our special event station maybe could be continued on July 31 on 2 m, but we'll table that.

Gregg KF6FNA: Members may operate Field Day at home and turn in their logs on behalf of SCCARA.

Don K6PBQ: For submission to the ARRL, call the club "Santa Clara County ARA" otherwise it won't be recognized.

Gregg KF6FNA: We need a work party for the antenna trailer after Field Day, maybe July. Contact John W6JPP regarding scheduling.

John W6JPP: That should be headed up by someone who knows the antenna assembly better than me.

Don K6PBQ: We have two beams. There's no tuning, just put the elements where indicated by the markings. It's pretty easy.

John W6JPP: During the week would be better. I'll be gone in the first half of August, it would be good if we can do this in July.

Gregg KF6FNA: Did we have any takers for a camp trip with the antenna trailer?

John W6JPP: Just a one.

New Business:

Gregg KF6FNA: Gary put an article in the newsletter asking about

having a membership certificate.

Gary WB6YRU: Years ago we used to have membership cards. This would be like that but just for our 100th anniversary year. It wouldn't cost much, no more than a single run of the newsletter.

John W6JPP: I think we should switch over from the QSL to the membership certificate.

Meeting adjourned, 8:20 PM PDT

Truman Lindsey N6TRU, Secretary

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## Packet Pieces

**Downloaded from the BBS packet network:**

-----  
Date: 22 Nov 2012 01:23  
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW  
To: HUMOUR@WW  
Subject: Jokes 22/11  
-----

Drowning

-----

Standing at the edge of the lake, a man saw a woman flailing about in the deep water. Unable to swim, the man started to scream for help.

A trout fisherman ran up. The man said, "My wife is drowning and I can't swim. Please save her! I'll give you a hundred dollars."

The fisherman dived into the water. In ten powerful strokes, he reached the woman, put his arm around her, and swam back to shore. Depositing her at the feet of the man, the fisherman said, "Okay, where's my hundred?"

The man said, "Look, when I saw her going down for the third time, I thought it was my wife. But this is my mother-in-law."

The fisherman reached into his pocket and said, "Just my luck. How much do I owe you?"

Some Sympathy!

-----

Dad was up early Saturday morning mowing with a lawn mower around some trees near our pond. The grass was still wet from the dew, which made the slope he was mowing very slick. While lifting an evergreen branch, Dad's foot slipped under the mower!

He was very lucky, the blade didn't cut through his shoes. It did whack his big toe a few times before he managed to pull his foot out though.

A few days later, Dad was telling the story to a neighbor, and showing him his bruised and swollen toe. The neighbor took a close look at the toe and then said, "Looks like you need to sharpen your lawn mower blade."

Married

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My wife said she wishes I would act like I did before we married... So I started dating.

Island

-----

"Iran is going to build an island just for women who want to go on

vacation. No men will be allowed on the island. Which leads to the question, 'If something goes wrong, whose fault will it be?'"

Work

-----  
"Hard work spotlights the character of people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don't turn up at all." -- Sam Ewing

Holiday makers' Complaints

-----  
According to Thomas Cook in the UK, some holiday makers are just never satisfied. Here are the top ten most bizarre and genuine customer complaints received by the firm in recent years:

1. On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food at all.
2. The beach was too sandy.
3. I bought a snorkel and swimming mask for my six-year-old son, but he was too upset to use them as the fish frightened him.
4. It rained on my birthday.
5. Topless sunbathing on the beach should be banned. The holiday was ruined as my husband spent all day looking at other women.
6. I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts.
7. It's lazy of the local shopkeepers to close in the afternoons. I often needed to buy things during 'siesta' time - this should be banned.
8. We bought 'Ray-Ban' sunglasses for five Euro from a street trader, only to find out they were fake.
9. None of the hotel staff was English, and the tea didn't taste the same as at home.
10. I would like to complain about the price of alcohol in the resort. It was too cheap and I woke with a hangover every day.

=====  
Date: 27 Mar 2011 18:24  
From: W1GMF@W1GMF  
To: HUMOR@USA  
Subject: A Coke, Please  
-----

I've always ordered beverages one simple way, e.g. "A Coke, please."

Lately, though, this hasn't seemed to work. Waitresses now often respond, "I'm sorry, we don't have Coke. We have Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Dr. Pepper, 7-Up, Mr. Pibb...."

Tired of listening to the long list of soft drinks, I thought I'd make life easier. So one day I simply asked the snack bar lad at a movie theatre for a "dark, cold, carbonated beverage."

The young man behind the counter chuckled and asked, "Yes sir, and would you like a long, thin, cylindrical plastic sucking device with that?"

## 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  
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)

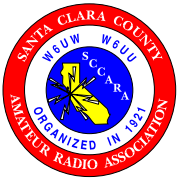
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## Newsletter Notes

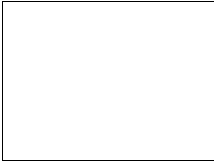
If you're reading this as a pdf on your computer, you'll see text here and there that's blue and underlined. Those are links. You should be able to click on them and go to whatever web site, page, or document is referenced. If you hover your mouse pointer over them, most pdf readers will display a small pop-up window showing the URL. Try it here: [the SCCARA web site](http://www.qsl.net/sccara). And the URL will be given as text nearby. (<https://www.qsl.net/sccara>).

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 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.