

# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 46, Number 11

November 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 verbally at the normal day and time on our 2 m repeater immediately following the Monday night net. The club station is open, usually the last Saturday of the month from 10 am to 4 pm. Masks and social distancing are required. The electronic flea market is planning to begin again starting March 2022.

Progress report: In the USA 700,000 have now succumbed to the virus. For perspective, that's 12 times the number of US soldiers who died in the Vietnam war. Statewide 72.3% are now fully vaccinated (69.8% last month); in Santa Clara County 85% are now fully vaccinated (83.5% last month). Getting better, but we're not out of the woods yet. And if you're 65 or over, you're now eligible to get the booster.



## Club Station News

In November we will operate the CW and phone Sweepstakes contest from our club station at the Red Cross. On Saturday November 6 is the CW Sweepstakes, at 2100 UT, 2 to 4 PM PDT. On Saturday November 20 is the phone Sweepstakes at 2100 UT, 1 to 4 PM PST. (Note the change to standard time.)

Members may come down to the Red Cross to operate the club station. We'll have two radio positions separated for social distancing and BYOM (bring your own mask). Remember the radio room is fairly cozy. We need to keep the number of people there at any given time to a minimum.

73, Don K6PBQ



## SCCARA Members:

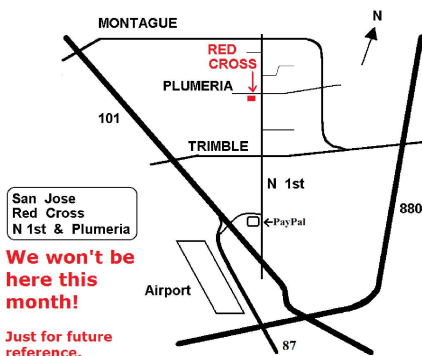
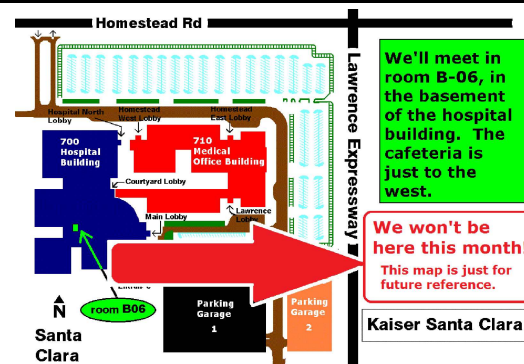
It's time to renew your membership. All memberships expire at the end of the year. There's a form on the back of the *SCCARA-GRAM* and on our web site.

## Calendar

- 11/6 Club Station open -- CW Sweepstakes
- 11/8 SCCARA General Meeting -- **canceled**
- 11/15 SCCARA Board Meeting: On our 2 m repeater after the net at 7:30 PM)
- 11/20 Club Station open -- Phone Sweepstakes

## General Meeting

Day: Monday, Nov. 8-- **Canceled**  
Featuring: Club Elections



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
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:kf6fna@comcast.net">kf6fna@comcast.net</a>	
Vice President	Ned Tufekcic AC6YY	408-690-7250
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:t94nt@hotmail.com">t94nt@hotmail.com</a>	
Secretary	- - -	
	e-mail:	
Treasurer	Goetz Brandt, K6GKB	408-259-7287
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:goetz@ix.netcom.com">goetz@ix.netcom.com</a>	
Station Trustee	Don Village, K6PBQ	408-263-2789
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:donvillage7@yahoo.com">donvillage7@yahoo.com</a>	
Director	John Parks, W6JPP	
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:w6jpp@arrl.net">w6jpp@arrl.net</a>	
Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	408-241-7999
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:wa6qys@aol.com">wa6qys@aol.com</a>	
Director	Ben Shuford, KK6CCU	408-429-5370
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:bshu288519@aol.com">bshu288519@aol.com</a>	
Director	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	408-891-1105
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:ka6ymd@arrl.net">ka6ymd@arrl.net</a>	
Director	James Rustermier, KI6ZSK	408- 972-1689
	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>	
Repeater	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	408-891-1105
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:ka6ymd@arrl.net">ka6ymd@arrl.net</a>	
N0ARY BBS	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	408-269-2924
	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



Daylight Savings Time ends  
2 AM Sunday November 7,  
turn clocks **back** 1 hour.

## **Databooks**

I've got several databooks for various IC devices, dating back to the 1980's. If you want them or know anyone who would like them, please drop me a note. [wb6yru@ix.netcom.com](mailto:wb6yru@ix.netcom.com)

73, Gary WB6YRU

## **ARRL News**

From *The ARRL Letter*, Oct. 7, 2021

### **Radio Amateurs Invited to Participate in the Antarctic Eclipse Festival in December**

The [HamSCI](#) Antarctic Eclipse Festival in December is seeking amateur radio participation. As the shadow of the moon passes across Antarctica on December 4, it will generate traveling ionospheric disturbances that will, in turn, affect radio propagation. The unusual geometry of this year's eclipses will give researchers an opportunity to investigate complicated ionospheric dynamics over the poles as the long daytime of polar summer is briefly interrupted by the eclipse.

During this and other HamSCI eclipse festivals, hams and citizen-scientists are asked to collect Doppler-shift data from time-standard stations, such as WWV. All that's needed is an HF radio connected to a computer. A GPS-disciplined oscillator is helpful for collecting data, but it is not required. Data collection will run from December 1 through December 10, and the results will be made available for scientific analysis.

All radio amateurs and shortwave listeners are invited to join in, even those located far from the path of totality. In 2020, more than 100 individuals from 45 countries took part in eclipse festivals. The instructions are available in multiple languages.

HamSCI is an initiative of ham radio operators and geospace scientists dedicated to advancing scientific research and understanding through amateur radio activities. Eclipse festivals are pilot campaigns for the Personal Space Weather Station (PSWS), HamSCI's flagship project. The PSWS team seeks to develop a global network of citizen-science stations. Participants monitor the geospace environment to deepen scientific understanding and enhance the radio art.

For more information on the Antarctic Eclipse Festival and how to participate, [visit the HamSCI website](http://www.hamsci.org/festivals).  
<http://www.hamsci.org/festivals>

-- Thanks to Kristina Collins, KD8OXT

From *The ARRL Letter*, Oct. 21, 2021

### **Enjoy Two Weekends of Fun During the ARRL November Sweepstakes**

The [ARRL November Sweepstakes](#) (SS) weekends loom large on the amateur radio contest horizon. The CW weekend is November 6 - 8, while the phone weekend is November 20 - 22. Both events begin on Saturday at 2100 UTC and conclude on Monday at 0259 UTC.

The SS offers operating categories for every preference. The goal for many seasoned SS operators is to complete a “clean sweep” by contacting all 84 ARRL and Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) [Sections](#). Canada's Prince Edward Island province joined the list last year. Most SS operators try to run up the contact and multiplier counts and stay in the chair for the full 24 (out of 30) allowable hours.  
<https://contests.arrl.org/contestmultipliers.php>

The competition can be fierce, and the pileups can be huge. In 2020, ARRL received 1,445 logs for the CW event and 2,046 for the phone event.

Some Sections are harder to contact than others. Northern Territories (NT) is always a challenge, but there's a slim chance that snagging NT could be easier this year.

Gerry Hull, W1VE (also VE1RM), is hoping to operate as VY1AAA for both weekends, using “J” Allen's, VY1JA, Yukon Territory station remotely from the US. Now in his mid-70s, Allen essentially retired from ham radio a few years ago due to health issues, but he's bounced back this year with renewed enthusiasm and working to get a station and antennas ready for Hull to operate. At this point, he's sorting through a backyard scrap pile that includes tower sections he had up in the past. He wants to get 80 - 100 feet assembled and clamped to a sturdy utility pole. Hull says Allen is committed to the task.

“VY1JA is now in re-construction,” Allen says on his [QRZ.com](#) profile. “There is only a small chance that it will be done and on the air for SS CW this year. If so, signals may be weaker than in the past, with only a 100 W Omni VII and wire antennas. Plans for building an amp failed, and antenna work has taken far longer than expected.”  
<https://www.qrz.com/lookup/vy1ja>

Hull said if Allen does manage to erect the antenna support tower, VY1AAA will have inverted V antennas for 20 and 40 meters, which Hull considers “the money bands from Yukon on CW.”

“So, hoping for good weather and good health for J, and then we might have VY1AAA on for the masses for SS CW,” he said. Hull said if the CW weekend is successful, he'll consider also operating in the phone event.

Other difficult Sections to contact include Delaware, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, Pacific, and North Dakota. (Alaska, Hawaii and other US territories in the ARRL Pacific Section, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands count as W/VE stations, not as DX, for the SS.)

Contesters, especially the less experienced, often want to know how to handle duplicate contacts (dupes). It's almost a given that this will happen in SS. While some operators still set up a “hot key” to send “WKD B4” on CW when encountering a dupe, current best practice is to work the apparent dupe, log it, and move on. While dupes don't earn any points, they also don't mean you'll incur a NIL (not-in-log) penalty if the apparent dupe did not log the initial contact for one reason or another.

The SS exchange is patterned on traffic-handling terminology. For both the CW and phone events, stations exchange a sequential serial number (no leading zeros are required), an operating category (precedence), call sign, the last two digits of the year first

licensed (check), and ARRL/RAC Section.

Most areas of the US change from Daylight Saving Time to Standard Time at 2 AM local time on November 7, by moving clocks back 1 hour. UTC is not affected.

Logs are due within 7 days after the event is over. Certificates will be awarded in the top operator CW and Phone scores in each category in each ARRL/RAC Section and Division, and plaques will be awarded to the Overall and Division winners. Icom America is the principal awards sponsor.

An operating guide that relates some of the history and evolution of these North American contests is available under “Operating Guidelines” on the [ARRL November Sweepstakes page](#).

<http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

## Tech Classes on-line

ARRL's YouTube channel, ARRLHQ, has launched a series of amateur radio Technician-class license courses. This series of videos features Dave Casler, KE0OG, QST's “Ask Dave” columnist, who leads viewers through The [ARRL Ham Radio License Manual](#). These videos supplement the manual and provide an overview of the sections students will study, along with a few videos on how things work. Share this excellent resource with those who are preparing to take the Technician exam, and visit the [ARRLHQ YouTube channel](#) for more great amateur radio videos.

[http://www.arrl.org/shop/Ham-Radio-License-Manual/?\\_zs=xdtx1&\\_zl=8ns22](http://www.arrl.org/shop/Ham-Radio-License-Manual/?_zs=xdtx1&_zl=8ns22)

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ARRLHQ>



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# Meeting Minutes

## General Meeting, Oct. 11, 2021



*{meeting was canceled}*

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## Board Meeting, Oct. 18, 2021



Held verbally on our 2 m repeater W6UW/R

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

### Attendance:

President Gregg Lane KF6FNA; Treasurer Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Station Trustee Don Village K6PBQ; Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Wally Britten KA6YMD; Ben Shuford, KK6CCU.

Absent: James “Rusty” Rustemier KI6ZSK

Excused absence: VP Ned Tufekcic AC6YY; Secretary (none) John Parks W6JPP

Visitors: Editor Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, Robert N6AIR (relayed by KA6YMD).

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

Vice President's Report, Ned AC6YY: (absent)

Secretary's Report, Gregg KF6FNA: The previous board meeting minutes were published in the SCCARA-GRAM. Hearing no corrections, approved as published by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report, Goetz K6GKB:  
Checking = \$11,164.12 , Cash = \$216.04, Total = \$11,380.16

Trustee's Report, Don K6PBQ: The club station will be open for Sweepstakes on Nov. 6 and Nov. 20 at 2100 UT. Be aware of the local time change when we go to standard time.

Editor's report, Gary WB6YRU: Club elections are coming up, the next SCCARA-GRAM will be the last one before then. By the time members see it, nominations will be over and elections will be about to begin. So far there hasn't been one word about it sent in for publication. The only info published was just what I heard at the last board meeting. Please remember, the editor turns the submitted articles into a newsletter, he doesn't write them. But for some time now I've had to or it wouldn't be much of a newsletter.

Ben KK6CCU: Who is an "official?" The Editor checked in here as a visitor. And what's procedure for elections since we aren't having face-to-face meetings?

Gregg KF6FNA: The officers and directors are elected officials. There are some unelected officials, like the editor or committee chairmen. Those are appointed positions, they're not members of the board. Elections will be discussed under new business.

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

Repeater chairman's report, Wally KA6YMD: No new changes or problems, all seems well.

Goetz K6GKB: One of the 4 backup batteries on the 2 m repeater went bad and has been replaced. I'm donating it to the cause, no need to be reimbursed.

Webmaster's report, Wally KA6YMD: One of the links was reportedly broken, it isn't now.

Old Business:

Gregg KF6FNA: Nothing new has been done with the antennas on the Red Cross (club station).

Don K6PBQ: The vertical and dipole are up and operational, so we're on the air.

Gregg KF6FNA:

We still may have a 2 m special event station for our 100th anniversary, to be determined.

Work on the antenna trailer is on hold for now (John W6JPP is ill).

Regarding having a picnic in the park, this is still to be determined.

Regarding having a Christmas dinner party, that's still on hold, we need to explore the restrictions because of the pandemic.

New Business:

Gregg KF6FNA: Regarding elections for 2022, nominations are:

Pres: Gregg KF6FNA

VP: --

Sec: Barbara KD6QEI

Tres: Goetz K6GKB

Dir: Wally KA6YMD. Lou WA6QYS will run if there are no other candidates.

Wally KA6YMD: Last year we voted by email, but it didn't go very well. Just reply to the emailed ballot, please don't send in your own format, that makes it hard to tabulate the votes.

Gregg KF6FNA: You need to put an article in the

SCCARA-GRAM informing the membership what to do and not do.

Gregg KF6FNA: Is anyone else willing to run for an elected position, any nominations? (Nothing heard.)

Gregg KF6FNA: The American Legion is storing our antenna trailer in their parking lot. They would like to have a Memorandum of Understanding absolving them of liability. Who would like to work on that?

Goetz K6GKB: Other than disposing of the trailer (which I think we should do), they have a rider on our insurance policy, what more do they need?

Ben KK6CCU: They were talking about doing away with their ham station, they seem to be winding down on amateur radio.

Gary WB6YRU: They probably want to be listed as "also insured" on our liability insurance. That's a specific document the insurance company provides for cases like this.

Goetz K6GKB: That's exactly what we did! Maybe they have some new officers who are unaware of it.

Ben KK6CCU: We need to find ways to increase membership, especially younger members. Maybe have some high school kids visit the club station, they might even want to form their own club. QST magazine (ARRL) has an article about that.

Gregg KF6FNA: Would you like to head up a new committee to that effect?

Ben KK6CCU: I have to look into the details and get back to you, but yeah I might.

Meeting adjourned, 8:14 PM

Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, recording for the Secretary

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## Packet Pieces

### Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

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Date: 27 Aug 2011 01:28

From: W1GMF@W1GMF

To: HUMOR@USA

Subject: Implements of Math Destruction

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At New York's Kennedy airport today an individual, later discovered to be a public school teacher, was arrested trying to board a flight while in possession of a ruler, a protractor, a square, a slide rule, and a calculator.

The Attorney General believes the man is a member of the notorious Al-gebra movement. He is being charged with carrying weapons of math instruction.

"Al-gebra is a very fearsome cult, indeed", the Attorney General said. "They desire average solutions by means and extremes, and sometimes go off on a tangent in a search of absolute value. They consist of quite shadowy figures, with names like "x" and "y", and, although they are frequently referred to as "unknowns", we know they really belong to a common denominator and are part of the axis of medieval with coordinates in every country.

"As the great Greek philanderer Isosceles used to say, there are three sides to every triangle." When asked to comment on the arrest, The President said, "If God had wanted us to

have better weapons of math instruction, He would have given us more fingers and toes."

## Need Help?

=====  
Date: 26 Aug 2011 01:24  
From: W1GMF@W1GMF  
To: HUMOR@USA  
Subject: A Really Bad Day  
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The following is seen in a Florida newspaper:

Now this is a bad day...

A man was working on his motorcycle on his patio and his wife was in the house in the kitchen. The man was racing the engine on the motorcycle and somehow, the motorcycle slipped into gear. The man, still holding the handlebars, was dragged through a glass patio door and along with the motorcycle dumped onto the floor inside the house.

The wife, hearing the crash, ran into the dining room, and found her husband laying on the floor, cut and bleeding, the motorcycle laying next to him and the patio door shattered.

The wife ran to the phone and summoned an ambulance.

Because they lived on a fairly large hill, the wife went down the several flights of long steps to the street to direct the paramedics to her husband. After the ambulance arrived and transported the husband to the hospital, the wife uprights the motorcycle and pushed it outside.

Seeing that gas had spilled on the floor, the wife obtained some papers towels, blotted up the gasoline, and threw the towels in the toilet.

The husband was treated at the hospital and released to come home. After arriving home, he looked at the shattered patio door and the damage done to his motorcycle. He became despondent, went into the bathroom, sat on the toilet and smoked a cigarette. After finishing the cigarette, he flipped it between his legs into the toilet bowl while still seated.

The wife, who was in the kitchen, heard a loud explosion and her husband screaming. She ran into the bathroom and found her husband lying on the floor. His trousers had been blown away and he was suffering burns on the buttocks, the back of his legs and his groin. The wife again ran to the phone and called for an ambulance.

The same ambulance crew was dispatched and the wife met them at the street. The paramedics loaded the husband on the stretcher and began carrying him to the street. While they were going down the stairs to the street accompanied by the wife, one of the paramedics asked the wife how the husband had burned himself. She told them and the paramedics started laughing so hard, one of them tipped the stretcher and dumped the husband out. He fell down the remaining steps and broke his arm.

This story redefines what it is to have a bad day.

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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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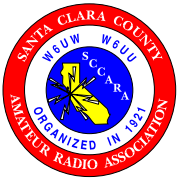
## Newsletter Notes

Have you noticed somehow it makes articles more interesting when a magazine includes photos of the authors? I'd like to do that with the *SCCARA-GRAM*. If you'll recall, the President's Prose column had a photo of Fred when he was president (mainly because it was the president's message). Well, let's do that for everyone. So... if you send in an article and I don't already have your photo, please include it!

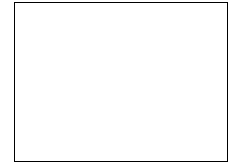
Regarding club elections: This is the month, but nothing was sent in for publication. And I did remind them. All we have is just what's in the board meeting minutes (above).

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 2022**

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.