SCCARA-GRAM

Santa Clara County
Amateur Radio Association

Volume 51, Number 6 June 2026

Field Day

Field Day is the most popular contest of the year. The basic idea is to make as many contacts as possible in abnormal situations or less than optimal conditions as would be the case in an emergency. **SCCARA will participate in Field Day at the club station in the San Jose Red Cross.**

This year Field Day will be **June 27-28**. It will begin at **1800 UTC (11 AM PDT) Saturday and end at 2100 UTC (11 AM PDT) Sunday**

The initial plans are to have three HF stations in the radio room: Phone, CW, and Digital. We'll discuss the details at our June general meeting.

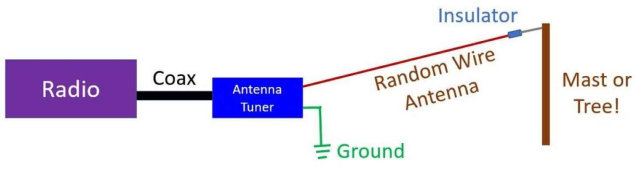
As usual, food will be pot-luck or fend for yourself, no other plans have been made yet. The lounge has a microwave and a stove available (provided you clean up after yourself). There is a refrigerator--everyone at the Red Cross may use it, so be sure to label anything you put in there with "SCCARA" (or your name if it's just for you).

Normally the club station would be open on the last Saturday of the month for *general* operating. But this time it will be open for Field Day operation only.

Drop by and see us on Field Day, maybe make some contacts. Look for signs posted indicating areas of activity.

For more info about Field Day: https://www.arrl.org/field-day

Random Wire Antenna



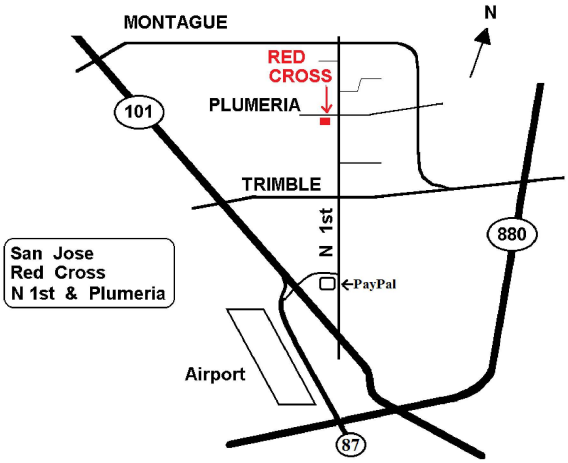
An **end-fed random wire antenna** is a highly versatile, multi-band HF antenna composed of a single length of wire paired with a 9:1 unun impedance transformer and a wide-range antenna tuner. Unlike a resonant dipole or an End-Fed Half-Wave (EFHW), the exact length of a random wire is explicitly chosen to ***not*** be a half-wavelength or any multiple of a half-wavelength of any amateur radio band you intend to use. This non-resonant design avoids massive impedance spikes, allowing an antenna tuner to easily achieve a match across multiple bands from 160 m to 6 m.

Calendar

6/8 SCCARA General Meeting
6/15 SCCARA Board Meeting
6/27-28 Field Day at the club station, Red Cross

General Meeting

Day:	Monday, June 8
Time:	7:30 PM
Place:	San Jose Red Cross, meeting room 3
Featuring:	Field Day planning



Recommended "Magic" Wire Lengths

To achieve optimal multi-band performance, you must avoid specific lengths (like 16, 32, 33, 44, or 66 feet) that match resonant harmonics. The following lengths are industry standards and provide the best middle-ground impedance for a 9:1 unun:

- **29 feet** (9.51 m): Shortest practical length for 40 m to 10 m.
- **35.5 or 41 feet (11.65 m or 13.45 m)**: Excellent, compact choices for portable operation (POTA/SOTA).
- **58 or 71 feet (19.03 m or 23.29 m)**: Highly popular "sweet spot" lengths that easily tune 80 m through 10 m.
- **84, 107, or 148 feet (27.56 m, 35.1 m, or 48.56 m)**: Ideal if you have the space and want extra efficiency on 80 m and 160 m.

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**, located at the San Jose Red Cross.

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.sccara.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(officers are also directors)

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Secretary	(open)	
	e-mail:	
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Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	408-241-7999
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	e-mail: w6jpp@arrl.net	
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	e-mail: jmotha21@gmail.com	
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SCCARA REPEATERS

SCCARA owns and operates two repeaters under the call W6UU:

2 m: 146.985 - PL 114.8
70 cm: 442.425 + PL 107.2

Phone auto-dial and auto-patch is available. The 2 m 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 2 m repeater: Mondays at 7:30 PM, (not the second Monday--that's our meeting night); net control: Don Village, K6PBQ. On 10 m, 28.385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00 PM; net control: *{to be announced}*. 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: https://www.svve.org
Morris Jones, AD6ZH: 408-507-4698

Portable Operation

My random wire POTA kit is a trail-ready, ultra-lightweight option rated for up to 100W SSB/CW that packs into any backpack. It comes with a 9:1 unun, a custom wire winder, and 29 feet of silky, tangle-minimizing copper-clad steel wire.

Essential Setup Tips

1. **Always Use a Counterpoise** An end-fed wire needs a ground plane to push against. Connect a 17 to 20-foot piece of wire to the ground side of your 9:1 unun and lay it along the ground.
2. **Deploy an RF Choke** Because the coax shield can act as a secondary counterpoise, place a 1:1 RF choke on your coax right before it enters your radio station. This prevents a "hot shack" (RF feedback) which causes painful electrical bites or audio distortion.
3. **Bring a Tuner** A 9:1 unun drops the raw high impedance down to a manageable level, but a wide-range antenna tuner is still mandatory to find a perfect 1:1 match.



73, Ned AC6YY

The 9:1 unun many of us were working on at the project meeting is just the thing for a random wire!

For 100 W or more, use heavier gauge wire and a larger toroid to avoid core saturation and dramatically higher losses. And keep in mind: High impedance corresponds to high RF voltage. So, plan accordingly.

-- Editor

Treasurer's Treatise

Account Balances - As of 5/17/2026

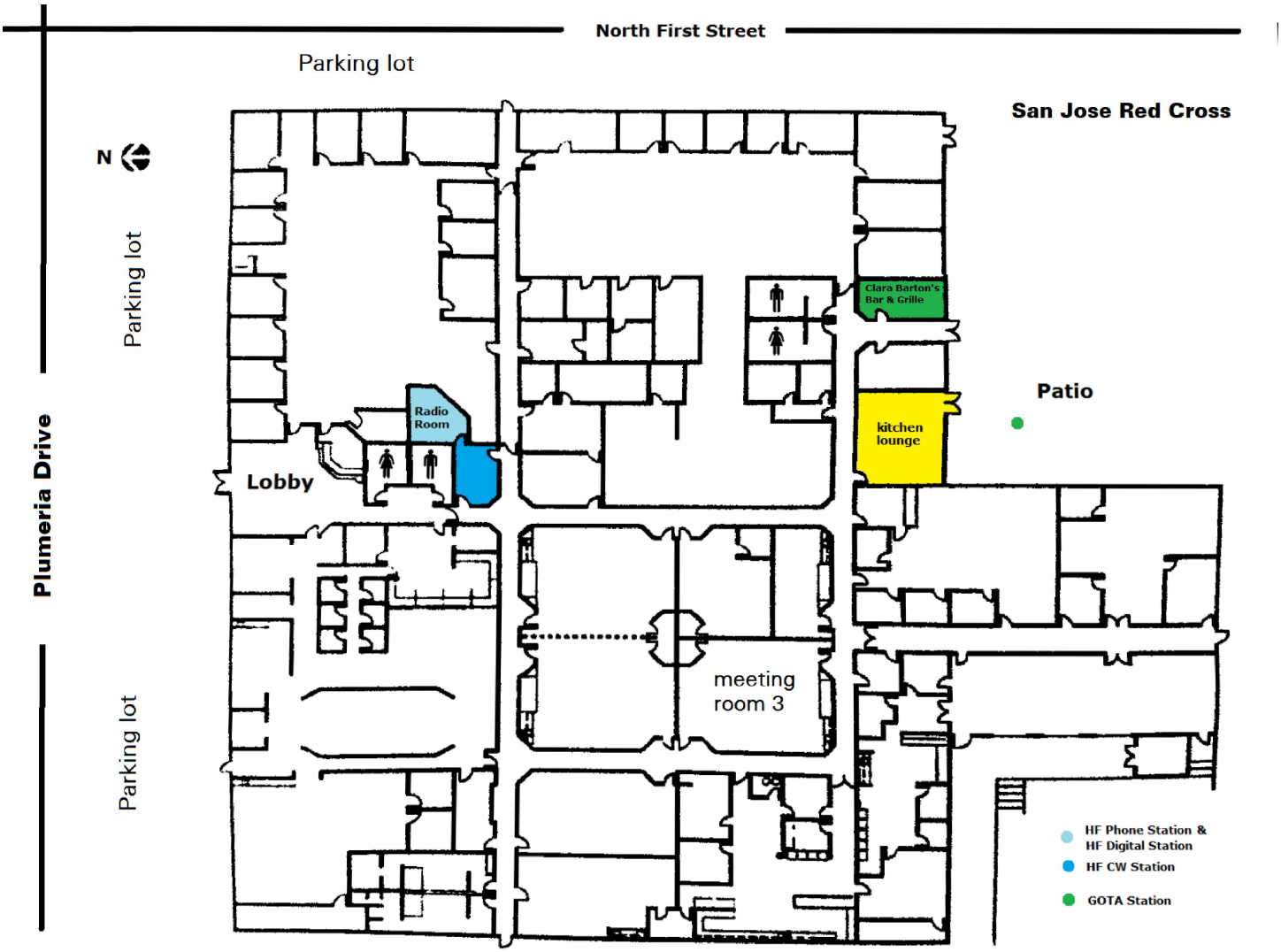
Checking	10,977.47
Cash	0.00
Total	10,977.47



Ned Tufekcic AC6YY

Field Day Locations at the Red Cross

This floor plan of the Red Cross shows the rooms where we'll be during Field Day. If we have a GOTA station, chances are it will be on the patio area or possibly the room down the hall from the lounge.



ARRL News

May 1, 2026

FCC Approves Limited Emergency Use of 70 cm Band by AST SpaceMobile Satellites Outside the U.S.

On April 21, 2026, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) granted AST SpaceMobile limited authorization when not over the United States to use five 50-kHz channels in the 430–440 MHz secondary amateur band for emergency Telemetry, Tracking, and Control (TT&C) operations for its planned satellite constellation (DA-26-391 Docket No. 25-201). The authorization applies only for communication with five specified earth stations, each located well outside of the United States and for which the foreign administration with jurisdiction also must separately authorize the communications.

More than 2,500 comments were filed during the proceeding including filings from ARRL, The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), AMSAT, and individual radio amateurs worldwide.

After considering the filed comments, the FCC narrowed the requested authorization to emergency TT&C only and further provided that:

- Use of these frequencies is permitted only in emergencies when no other spectrum is available.
- Each emergency event is limited to no more than 24 hours
- Transmissions are restricted to five specific center frequencies (430.5, 432.3, 434.1, 435.9, and 439.5 MHz), each with no more than 50 kHz bandwidth

In an April 29, 2026 statement, the IARU expressed concern with the FCC's use of Article 4.4 of the ITU Radio Regulations, which allows administrations to authorize non-standard frequency use under certain conditions. The IARU stated that other frequency bands allocated for satellite TT&C should have been used instead of amateur spectrum and encouraged amateurs to report any interference to their national regulators.

ARRL filed comments (see ARRL News) in July (PDF) and August 2025 (PDF) opposing the application, arguing that:

- The request represented an unprecedented use of secondary amateur spectrum for an unallocated use by a large commercial satellite constellation
- Such operations could cause harmful interference, particularly to amateur satellites in the 435–438 MHz subband
- The FCC should avoid authorizing non-allocated uses that could impact primary allocations for amateur services in other

countries.

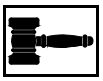
While the FCC ultimately granted the authorization, it imposed the above significant limitations in response to these concerns that reduce the likelihood of interference.

In the US, reports of suspected interference to amateur spectrum can be shared with the ARRL Regulatory Information Manager, email reginfo@arrl.org.

ARRL will oppose any similar unallocated uses of spectrum used by amateurs that might cause harmful interference to amateur services and in particular will monitor this situation.

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, May 11, 2026



Room 3, American Red Cross, N 1st & Plumeria, San Jose, CA

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

Attendance: Gary WB6YRU, Don KG6GO, Ned AC6YY, George N6NKT, Pablo KO6FCL, Gregg KF6FNA, John W6JPP.
Visitors: Marcelo Chistick (no call yet).

Announcements
Gregg KF6FNA: Field Day is June 27-28, we'll operate here at the club station (Red Cross). SCCARA will host the July 11 electronic flea market.

This is a project meeting. We've got parts for making a balun, unfortunately the toroid cores have not arrived yet. We'll have to do this in two parts, the boxes and connectors can be done now, but the winding of the baluns will be next time.

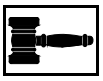
Ned brought the parts, Gregg and John brought tools, Gary brought printed hand-outs with details on making baluns.

Everyone seemed to find it interesting and informative, the consensus was we should have more project meetings. We gained a new member: Marcelo.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, recording for the Secretary

Board Meeting, May 18, 2026



Held verbally on our 2 m repeater W6UU/R

Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:43 PM

Attendance:
President Gregg Lane KF6FNA, Vice President (vacant), Secretary (vacant), Treasurer Ned Tufekcic AC6YY, Station Trustee Don Village K6PBQ.
Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Wally Britten KA6YMD, John Parks W6JPP, Janet Motha KF6PUQ.
Visitors: Gary WB6YRU, editor (also taking minutes)

Announcements
Gregg KF6FNA:
Field Day will be on June 26-28, SCCARA will operate from the club station, visitors welcome.
On July 11 SCCARA will sponsor the electronic flea market at West Valley College. We'll need volunteers.
On June 8 is our general meeting. Last time we had a project meeting, but we didn't have the toroids. We'll finish those at the June meeting along with a discussion of Field Day.

Officer Reports

President's Report, Gregg KF6FNA: (none)

Vice President's Report, (vacant)

Secretary's Report, (vacant):
Gregg KF6FNA: General meeting minutes were printed in the SCCARA-GRAM, any corrections?
(none heard)
John W6JPP: Move to accept at published.
Janet KF6PUQ: Second
Gregg KF6FNA: Any objections? (none heard)
Approved

The Board minutes were printed in the SCCARA-GRAM, any corrections?
(none heard)
John W6JPP: Move to accept at published.
Don K6PBQ: Second.
Gregg KF6FNA: Any objections? (none heard)
Approved

Treasurer's Report, Ned AC6YY:
Checking $10977. Petty Cash $0

John W6JPP: Move to accept the report, subject to audit.
Wally WA6YMD: Second.
Gregg KF6FNA: Approved
Lou WA6QYS: When is this audit going to happen? I gather we need one.
John W6JPP: There may not be one, our approval is just subject to an audit.
Discussion on the process.
Gary WB6YRU: We're getting too carried away with this, it's just a routine officer's report.
John W6JPP: I amend my motion to "accept the report as given."
Wally WA6YMD: Second the amended motion
Gregg KF6FNA: Any objections? (none heard)
Approved

Station Trustee's Report, Don K6PBQ: I was looking for someone to take over, but no problems now, I can stay on.

Standing Committees

Editor's report: Gary WB6YRU: We've been fortunate to have some articles lately from Ned. But the newsletter continues to be seriously lacking in the way information articles and notices about up-coming club activities. This isn't a new problem, whatever the issues are they're not being addressed.

BBS Sysop's report, Gary WB6YRU: N0ARY BBS has a new forwarding link with a BBS in Southern CA, KQ6UP. There were a few bugs that needed to be ironed out. If the new link proves to be stable long term, we'll look into adding more.

Repeater Chairman's report, Goetz K6GKB:
Gregg KF6FNA: I haven't noticed any problems, anyone else?

(nothing heard)

Webmaster's report, Ned AC6YY: Nothing new to report, all is OK.

Old Business

Gregg KF6FNA: About the coax jumper board for selecting antennas at the club station: Gary WB6YRU came up with a design and a diagram, thanks for that.
Any comments? (nothing heard)

Gregg KF6FNA: Field Day is coming up, we need a work party to get our new beam up. I'll be making some calls later to line that up.

Gregg KF6FNA: We have two bad Kenwood radios. Last time there were comments about some people (Kenwood technicians, etc.) who might be interested in radios that need repair.
Don K6PBQ: I have a name and number, I'll give that to you later (not on the repeater).
John W6JPP: We have a flea market coming up, we can sell them for parts there.
Gary WB6YRU: Indeed, we're talking about old busted radios, just unload them at the flea market. I've done that myself. The going rate for "in-need-of-repair" radios at the flea market is $5 to $10. That's good enough.
Gregg KF6FNA: OK, we probably should do that.

New Business

Gregg KF6FNA: Any new business?
(none heard)

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM

Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, recording for the Secretary

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

==========
Date: 2 May 2020 23:23
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: jokes 3/5

A man was driving down the road and ran out of gas. Just at that moment, a bee flew in his window. The bee said, "What seems to be the problem"?

"I'm out of gas." the man said.

The bee told the man to wait right there and flew away. Minutes later, the man watched as an entire swarm of bees flew to his gas tank. After a few minutes, the bees flew out. "Try it now," said one bee.

The man turned the ignition key and the car started right up. "Wow!" the man exclaimed. "What did you put in my gas tank"?
The bee answered, (wait for it....) "BP"

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 (see the club secretary).

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 for the above topics:
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

WA6QYS, Lou Steirer, 408-241-7999
e-mail: wa6qys@arrl.net

WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, 408-269-2924
e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com

Newsletter Notes

Unfortunately this is the last edition before Field Day and the details are very fuzzy. My best info as of this writing is that what we'll do this year will be very similar to last year.

However, last year we had the GOTA station outside in front of the Red Cross just as an experiment. Afterward it was clear that it didn't work out as well as we had hoped. So far I haven't heard if we'll even have a GOTA station this year.

So, what's going to happen? At the June general meeting we'll discuss the details of Field Day! If you'd like to get in on the planning or if you only want to operate one of the stations for a while, come to the June meeting.



73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

SCCARA
Santa **C**lara **C**ounty **A**mateur **R**adio **A**ssociation
PO Box 106
SAN JOSE CA 95103-0106

FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SCCARA Membership for 2026

If renewing and none of your info has changed, please only fill in 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: _____

For delivery of the SCCARA-GRAM (pdf) and club announcements

Membership type and dues: ☐ **Individual, $20** ☐ **Family, $25** ☐ **Student, $10** (under 18)

☞ All 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.

Rev. 11/1/2024