

# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 50, Number 6

June 2025



## ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, May 15, 2025

### ARRL Renews Defense of the 902-928 MHz Amateur Radio Band

ARRL, in a recent filing, encouraged the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to listen to industry stakeholders about the detrimental impacts that proposed changes to the 902-928 MHz band would have for current users.

The FCC is considering a petition by NextNav, Inc., a licensee in the 900-MHz Location and Monitoring Service (LMS), to reconfigure the 902-928 MHz band to obtain more spectrum for itself and replace the LMS with high-power 5G cellular and related positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT) services that would supplement GPS. ARRL filed comments opposing NextNav's proposal in September 2024.

Read more: [NextNav's proposal on ARRL News](https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-urges-protecting-the-amateur-radio-902-928-mhz-band) (8/15/2024)  
<https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-urges-protecting-the-amateur-radio-902-928-mhz-band>

Read more: [ARRL Defends 902-928 Amateur Radio Band](https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-defends-902-928-amateur-radio-band) (9/12/2024)  
<https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-defends-902-928-amateur-radio-band>

[ARRL's latest filing](#) [PDF] was submitted on May 13, 2025, by the association's Washington Counsel in response to an inquiry initiated by the Commission to consider more broadly ways to improve and harden GPS. ARRL's response echoes concerns of many others and underscores the need to improve and harden the current GPS system in a manner that doesn't impact radio amateurs and other users of the 902-928 MHz band. The band supports an extraordinary number of unlicensed consumer devices used by consumers both inside and outside the United States with which radio amateurs coexist.

<https://arrl.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zMzM1OTczJnA9MSZ1PTUyMjY3NTk1OSZsaT0zODA3Mzc5OA/index.html>

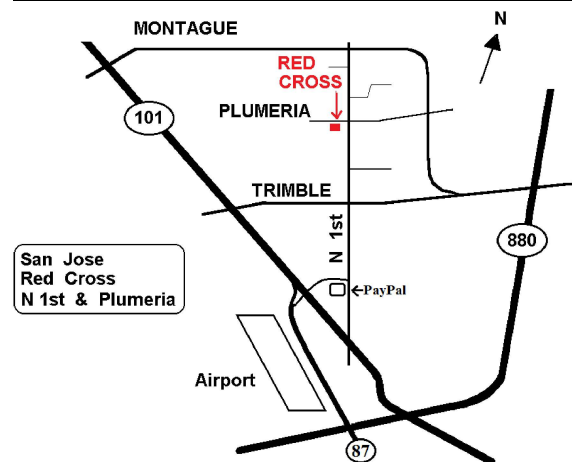
ARRL strongly agrees with the many parties that point out in the record of this proceeding that, in working with its sister federal agencies on this issue, one of the Commission's primary goals should be to ensure that existing services already operating in the spectrum, such as in the crowded 902-928 MHz band, should not be disrupted by complementary PNT if equal or better means are available. Many billions of unlicensed devices are in use to provide hundreds of applications and functionalities to the American public, and the number of devices and the functionalities

## Calendar

- 6/8 Electronic Flea Market -- **We host!**
- 6/9 SCCARA General Meeting
- 6/16 SCCARA Board Meeting
- 6/28-29 Field Day -- We'll be at the club station

## General Meeting

Day: Monday, June 9  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Place: San Jose Red Cross, meeting room 3  
Featuring: Field Day



that they provide continue to grow.

These devices coexist with amateur radio operations in the 902-928 MHz band but they as well as amateur radio operations would be displaced if a 5G-like PNT service was authorized to use this spectrum.

In the current proceeding, the FCC addresses GPS concerns holistically that also are being addressed by multiple other federal government agencies under the direction of the President. ARRL emphasized the FCC's expertise and role in making the best use of the spectrum resource.

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](http://www.sccara.org)

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

(officers are also directors)

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	e-mail: <a href="mailto:wa6qys@aol.com">wa6qys@aol.com</a>	
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Director	(open)	
	e-mail:	

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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](http://ncpa.n0ary.org).

#### **AMATEUR LICENSE TESTING**

ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group:  
Morris Jones, AD6ZH: 408-507-4698

We commend the Commission for initiating this proceeding to take a holistic approach to the problem and possible solutions thereto, rather than a piece-meal approach that might have led to systems that would unnecessarily use valuable spectrum with inferior results and take years longer to construct from scratch. The Commission is the civilian spectrum expert among the collection of agencies that are addressing this issue. We rely on the Commission to make clear the value of each megahertz of spectrum and the trade-offs in designating any particular band for the purpose of complementary PNT.

ARRL's filing is intended to emphasize the public interest in protecting amateur and others' access to the 902-928 MHz band and to highlight that other, less disruptive options are available for PNT.

ARRL will continue to defend amateur access to this and other threatened amateur allocations.

### **Next Generation DXing Track Videos Available**

ARRL has published an 8-video series about the Next Generation of DXing. The all-day seminar was captured at the [76th International DX Convention](http://www.dxconvention.com/), held April 11-13, 2025, in Visalia, California. It featured expert panelists with deep knowledge of the current state of the art in the DXpedition world.

<https://dxconvention.com/>

The group of panelists covered everything from financing and planning of a DXpedition to getting permits, arranging logistics, planning out equipment, managing both remote and local operators, dealing with problems, and much more. The latest technology being used in DXpeditions was explained in detail, including the Radio in a Box (RIB), Starlink, software-defined radios, and the latest digital modes such as FT-8 SuperFox.

The content is available on the ARRLHQ YouTube channel as a [playlist](https://www.youtube.com/@ARRLHQ). <https://www.youtube.com/@ARRLHQ>

**Session 1 - Mission Planning** (51:24) talks about planning a DXpedition. It is emceed by Ned Stearns, AA7A, and features Don Greenbaum, N1DG; George Wallner, AA7JV, and Bart Jahnke, W9JJ. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-rK-W2h23Q>

**Session 2 - Search for Solutions** (54:36) discusses hardware and process solutions. It is emceed by Don Greenbaum, N1DG, and features Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA; Ned Stearns, AA7A, and George Wallner, AA7JV. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjsLYgJuYlK>

**Session 3 - Team Building** (56:22) goes into detail about how to build your team for a DXpedition. It is emceed by Glen Johnson, W4GJ, and features Don Greenbaum, N1DG; Gregg Marco, W6IZT, and Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4S7bm4hFhc>

**Session 4 - Data Networks for Ham Radio** (56:09) covers the vital components of local networks and internet connectivity for activations. It is emceed by Ned Stearns, AA7A, and features Bill Fehring, W9KKN; Kevin Rowlett, K6TD, and Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcQ7NPsoCOU>

**Session 5 - Radio Systems Design** (40:10) covers the RF hardware used in DXpeditions, including the RIB and the Mother of all Switches (MOAS). This session is emceed by Kevin Rowlett, K6TD, and features Bill Fehring, W9KKN; Gregg Marco, W6IZT, and George Wallner, AA7JV. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cgbfh4cmEOI>

[Session 6 - Managing the User Experience](#) (43:14) goes over how to make things work for your operators (both local and remote) and your DXers. Ned Stearns, AA7A, leads this discussion featuring Gerry Hull, W1VE; Kevin Rowett, K6TD, and George Wallner, AA7JV. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVMGKK1WtKo>

[Session 7 - Station Integration and Test](#) (46:35) shows you how to put it all together, and (perhaps more importantly) how to test it - really test it - before the activation hits the air. It is emceed by Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, and features Gerry Hull, W1VE; Brian Moran, N9ADG, and Ned Stearns, AA7A. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=354LdZ3xraE>

[Session 8 - Scheduling and Execution](#) (50:25) is all about getting it done. The best laid plans are worthless if they aren't executed. This video shows you how to make it all work. It is emceed by Don Greenbaum, N1DG, and features Glenn Johnson, W0GJ; Gerry Hull, W1VE, and Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmTXYwv4gM8>

ARRL provided the video equipment and staff to record and produce the content, but it was created by the thought-leader panelists.

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## Meeting Minutes

### General Meeting, May 12, 2025



*{no minutes submitted}*

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### Board Meeting, April 28, 2025



#### Draft Minutes

Pursuant to due notice, the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association met in normal session over the air on the W6UU 2 Meter Repeater. The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. PST by President Gregg Lane, KF6FNA, as Chairman.

Roll call was taken.

Officers: President Gregg Lane KF6FNA, Treasurer Ned Tufekcic AC66YY, Secretary Doug Owens N6DPO and Don Village K6PBQ were present.

Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Wally Britten KA6YMD, Gary Mitchell WB6YRU were present

Janet Motha KF6PUQ was excused due to 2 meter radio problems at her QTH, and John Parks W6JPP was absent.

A quorum of voting Board members were in attendance.

Gregg KF6FNA made the following announcements:

- SCARRA hosts the June 8, 2025 Electronics Flea Market.
- Field Day is June 28 and 29.
- June 9, 2025 General Meeting will be on Field Day
- Red Cross Radio Room will be open on May 26.

President's Report, Gregg Lane KF6FNA: Club pursuing go kit for POTA activations.

Treasurer's Report, Ned AC6YY: Current cash and checking balance is \$10,473.68.

Station Trustee's Report, Don K6PBQ: Everything at the club

station is going well. We have been operating more frequently.

Editor's Report, Gary WB6YRU: Needs info on Flea Market for SCCARA-GRAM right away.

Do we want to abandon remaining QSL cards and print new ones with our updated URL? It was agreed that we continue to use existing stock.

BBS Report, Gary WB6YRU: BBS running well. Just confirmed it is up and running.

Repeater Report, Doug N6DPO for Ned AC6YY: Ned will identify who the right person to engage with in the new structure of hospital as soon as possible. Team has been very busy with the substantiation integration activities.

Website Report, Doug N6DPO: Website is up and running well. No known issues. Not an issue to track, but we are generating a lot of spam messages from Russia every night. Working to address this.

#### Old Business

Gregg KF6FNA: We plan to add a second HF beam antenna on the roof of the Red Cross. We have pre-positioned the antenna on the roof and are working to assemble the remaining materials. Are working to assemble the rest of the needed materials. Will organize a work party when appropriate (volunteers please contact Gregg).

#### New Business

Gregg KF6FNA:

POTA: SCCARA will be assembly a POTA go kit that will include a battery, antenna, and radio. We hope operating in the parks will not only be fun for the operators but may generate some interest in SCCARA and ham radio.

Field Day: Doug N6DPO has volunteered to help schedule our radios on field day. Doug appealed for inputs on what people would like to do (mode, time, hours). This information will be helpful in trying to marry our station foot print to match available operators. We are going to pull people into a committee to address various aspects of preparations, and operations. June 8 meeting will be used to make final plans.

Gary WB6YRU asked who the chairman for the field day and the flea market chairman.

Gregg KF6FNA and Lou WA6QYS will be chairman

Gary highlighted the need to decide if we can have a table where members can sell stuff.

AC6YY agreed we should have tables for members to sell.

We will have table(s) available for members to sell. Gary WB6YRU will manage that aspect of our flea market activity on June 8, 2025.

Gregg KF6FNA declared the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Doug N6DPO

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## Packet Pieces

**Downloaded from the BBS packet network:**

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Date: 12 Apr 2020 23:33  
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW  
To: HUMOUR@WW  
Subject: jokes 13/4

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A fifteen-year-old came home with a Porsche. His parents yelled "Where did you get that car?!" He calmly said "I bought it today."  
"With what money!?" demanded his parents. "We know what a Porsche costs."  
"Well," said the boy, "It was only fifteen dollars."  
The parents said "Who would sell a car like that for fifteen dollars!?"  
"It was the lady up the street," said the boy. "Don't know her name--they just moved in. She saw me ride past on my bike and asked if I wanted to buy a Porsche for my age in dollars."  
"Oh my goodness!" moaned the mother, "John, you go right up there and see what's going on."  
So the boy's father walked up the street to the house where the lady lived and found her out in the yard calmly planting flowers. He introduced himself as the father of the boy to whom she has sold a Porsche for fifteen dollars and demanded to know why she did it.  
"Well," she said, "this morning I got a phone call from my husband. I thought he was on a business trip, but just learned from a friend he has run off to Hawaii with his secretary and really doesn't intend to come back. He claimed he was stranded, and I should sell his new Porsche and send the money to him right away. So I did."

-----

Six retired Irishmen were playing poker in O'Leary's apartment when Paddy Murphy loses \$500 on a single hand, clutches his chest, and drops dead at the table. Michael O'Conner looks around and asks, "Oh, me boys, someone got's to tell Paddy's wife. Who will it be?"

They draw straws. Paul Gallagher picks the short one. They tell him to be discreet, be gentle, don't make a bad situation any worse.

"Discreet? I'm the most discreet Irishmen you'll ever meet. Discretion is me middle name. Leave it to me."

Gallagher goes over to Murphy's house and knocks on the door. Mrs. Murphy answers, and asks what he wants. Gallagher declares, "Your husband just lost \$500 gambling and is afraid to come home."

"Tell him to drop dead!" says Murphy's wife.  
"Yes'm, I'll go tell him." says Gallagher.

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One of the students in my college seminar could not take his final exam because of a funeral. I told him he could make it up the following week. The following week rolled around and he said he couldn't take it then due to another funeral.

"Well, all right," I said, "but you'll \*have\* to take the test next week. I can't keep postponing it."

"I'll take it next week for sure," he replied, "unless someone else dies."

Well, that raised the red flag of my suspicion even higher. "How can so many people you know pass away in just three weeks?"

"Oh, I don't know any of these people," he answered, "but I'm the only gravedigger in town."

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My pastor friend put sanitary hot air hand dryers in the rest rooms at his church and after two weeks took them out. I asked him why and he confessed that they worked fine but when he went in there he saw a sign that read, "For a sample of this week's sermon, push the button."

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There is something wrong if you're always right.

Once you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall.

A pessimist mourns the future.

"A mother takes twenty years to make a man of her boy, and another woman makes a fool of him in twenty minutes." --Robert Frost

Calories are delicious.

The colder the X-ray table the more of you has to be on it.

Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy.

Stupidity is not a handicap. Park elsewhere.

Be different: conform.

-----

An 80-year-old man went to his doctor for his check-up. The doctor asked him how he was feeling, the man said, "Things are great and I've never felt better. I now have a 20 year-old bride who is pregnant with my child. So what do you think about that?"

The doctor considered his question for a minute and then began to tell a story:

"I have an older friend, much like you, who is an avid hunter and never misses a season. One time day he was in a bit of a hurry, he accidentally picked up his walking cane instead of his gun. As he neared a lake, he came across a large male beaver sitting at the water's edge. He realized he'd left his gun at home and so he couldn't shoot the creature. Out of habit he raised his cane, aimed it at the animal as if it were his favorite hunting rifle and said 'bang, bang'. Miraculously, two shots rang out and the beaver fell over dead. Now, what do you think of that?" asked the doctor.

The man said, "If you ask me, I'd say somebody else pumped a couple of rounds into that beaver."

The doctor replied, "Yes, my point exactly."

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## 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 for the above topics:

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

WA6QYS, Lou Steirer, 408-241-7999, e-mail: [wa6qys@arrl.net](mailto:wa6qys@arrl.net)

WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, 408-269-2924

e-mail: [wb6yru@ix.netcom.com](mailto:wb6yru@ix.netcom.com)

## Newsletter Notes

We have two big activities this month: We host the June electronic flea market and Field Day. Sorry about the lack of info. but despite repeated efforts to solicit articles, nothing was sent in.

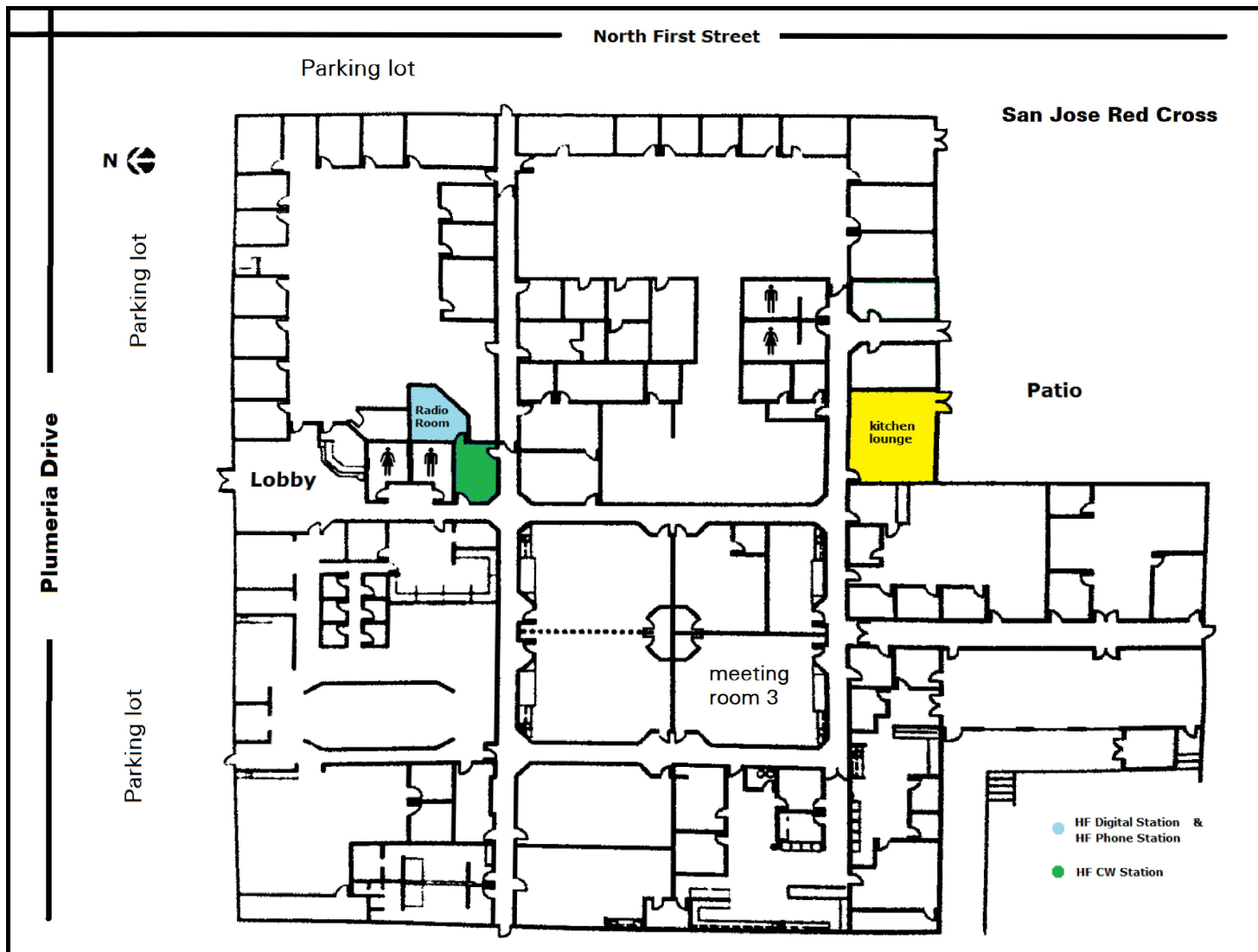
You may have noticed in the April minutes (above), our flea market chairman is Lou WA6QYS and our Field Day chairman is Gregg KF6FNA. However, at the May general meeting I was told Lou may *not* be the flea market chairman after all. For questions or more info, contact Gregg KF6FNA.

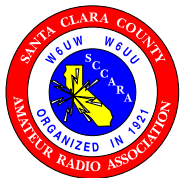
On the flea market, what I know for sure is: we'll host it; we'll have a booth available for SCCARA members to sell a few things; and we need members to help. The flea market web site is: <https://www.electronicfleamarket.com>.

On Field Day, what I know for sure is: we'll participate at our club station at the Red Cross. Floor plan below.

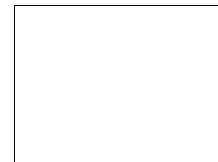


73, Gary WB6YRU, editor



**SCCARA**

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association  
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SAN JOSE CA 95103-0106

**FIRST CLASS**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**SCCARA Membership for 2025**

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.