

# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 50, Number 4

April 2025



## Secretary Says

Our monthly general meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup> will include an overview of CHIRP, a free open-source software tool for programming most VHF / UHF HTs in use by the amateur radio community today. We'll follow that with an opportunity to have your standard VHF / UHF HT programmed for use with several local repeaters. We'll have some of the more common programming cables available but suggest you bring your cable if you own one. We should be able to support most, but not necessarily all, modern HTs designed for amateur radio use.

Doug N6DPO

## ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, March 6, 2025

### Contests

ARRL is sponsoring over 25 contests in 2025. Contesting, or radiosport, is one of the great activities of amateur radio. These on-air competitions will boost your radio operating skills and may lead you to improving or your station--helping make you a better ham! Go to the ARRL Contest Portal at [contests.arrl.org](https://contests.arrl.org) for all your contest interests (Log Submission, Logs Received, Raw Scores, Searchable access to scores and Contest Records, Log Checking Reports, Online Certificates, Club Membership Eligibility lists, etc.). From here you can access everything from the starting bell of a contest to your post-event hard-fought certificate of accomplishment. Be sure to visit the ARRL Contests page for access to the Contest Portal, contest calendars, basics, tips and rules at [www.arrl.org/contests](https://www.arrl.org/contests).

From *The ARRL Letter*, March 24, 2025

### FCC Initiates Broad Inquiry on Rules to Delete or Amend

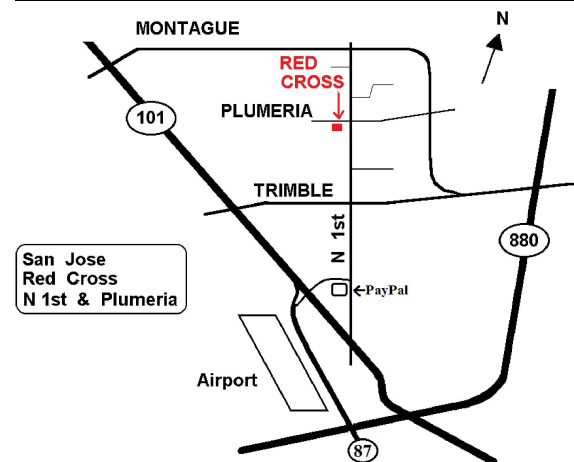
In a [Public Notice](#) titled "In Re: Delete, Delete, Delete," issued on March 12, 2025, the FCC is soliciting public input on any FCC rules in any service that members of the public believe should be deleted or modified "for the purpose of alleviating unnecessary regulatory burdens." This is the latest in a series of similar proceedings going back to 1996, when the Communications Act

## Calendar

4/13 Electronic Flea Market  
4/14 SCCARA General Meeting  
4/21 SCCARA Board Meeting:  
4/26 Club Station open, 10 AM - 5 PM

## General Meeting

Day: Monday, April 14  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Place: San Jose Red Cross, meeting room 3  
Featuring: Program your HT using CHIRP



was amended to require the FCC to periodically review its rules.  
<https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-opens-re-delete-delete-delete-docket>

ARRL, through its Executive Committee and FCC Counsel, is conducting a review of the provisions in Part 97 and other related rules that apply to radio amateurs. ARRL is also soliciting feedback from its members. Rules identified as outmoded, obsolete, or that for other reasons should be repealed or modified, will be included in ARRL filing to be submitted no later than the FCC deadline of April 11, 2025. The deadline for filing reply comments is April 28, 2025.

It is expected that the Commission will incorporate suggestions that it decides worthy of its consideration in a future Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that could be issued later this year. There will then be an opportunity for public comment on the specific rules that the Commission proposes for deletion or modification.

A PDF of the FCC Public Notice is available here:  
<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-25-219A1.pdf>.

ARRL Letter relayed b Doug N6DPO

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## Meeting Minutes

### General Meeting, Feb. 10, 2025



Draft Minutes

The Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association met in Classroom 3 at the Silicon Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross. The meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m. PST by President Gregg Lane.

#### Customary Self Introductions:

Gregg KF6FNA president, Gary W6YRU editor, Doug N6DPO secretary, Janet KF6PUQ, Lou WA6QYS, Wally KA6YMD, Jeannie KG6YOR, George N6NKT Red Cross, Josh (visitor)

#### Announcements Gregg KF6FNA:

- Board of Directors Meeting will be February 17, 2025 on the 2 meter repeater immediately following our Monday Night Net.
- SCCARA's club station at the Red Cross is scheduled to be open the last Saturday of the month. For this month, that will be February 22.
- First flea market of the season will be Sunday, March 9, 2025 hosted by our friends at SVECS. Volunteers are needed.
- SCCARA will host the flea market on June 8, 2025. Please mark your calendars.
- SCCARA's 10 meter net is every Thursday at 8:00 p.m. on 28.385 MHz USB.
- Our 2 meter net is every Monday (except our meeting night on the 2nd Monday) on the W5UU repeater.
- Our next General Meeting will be March 10th. Doug will arrange to have our projector and show a short video on how to make your own PowerPole connectors followed by a hands-on opportunity to add connectors to your cables. The club will have tools, people with experience, and limited quantities of connector assemblies and some wire available (connectors and wire for purchase at the club's cost). Bring your cables and we'll do our best to help you add PowerPole connectors.
- Our SCCARA-GRAM editor asks for content to be submitted as soon as possible and the last Monday of the month at the latest. For this month, the last Monday is February 24.
- Field Day is June 28th and 29th this year. We will be operating from the club station here at the Red Cross. We hope to have a second beam up and in operation by that time. We'll be operating at least three radios concurrently. The club gets extra points for contacts made by operators under 18 years old, and we would love to have you bring kids, grandkids, etc. to operate. Licensed or unlicensed we'll find a way for everyone to participate.

Gregg turned the meeting over to Ned Tufekcic AC6YY for an interesting discussion of the (tr)SDX radio.

The design was a collaboration between PE1NNZ and DL2MAN initially intended to be user assembled from a kit. Ned purchased a ready-made version online. Very popular with QRP operators outdoors. It is an all HF band / all mode transceiver with

all functions of a large radio, tuner, speaker, display, etc. in a tiny form that can fit in a shirt pocket. Ned made his own cables to interface to the computer for FT8. Powered from USB port, output power was 1/2 Watt. At 12v, >5 watt output. With 1/2 Watt output power, he made numerous FT8 contacts. Built in microphone and speaker performance not equal to a full size radio. Requires a resonant antenna to use stand-alone or a separate tuner.

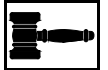
The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 p.m.

These draft minutes have not been approved and are not the official, approved record until approved and so noted by the Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,  
Doug Owens N6DPO

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### Board Meeting, Feb. 17, 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 7:44 p.m. PST by President Gregg Lane, KF6FNA, as Chairman.

Roll call was taken.

#### Officers:

President Gregg Lane KF6FNA, Treasurer Ned Tufekcic AC6YY, and Secretary Doug Owens N6DPO were present. Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Wally Britten KA6YMD, Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, Janet Motha KF6PUQ, John Parks W6JPP, and Don Village K6PBQ were present.

A quorum of voting Board members were in attendance.

Gregg KF6FNA made the following announcements:

- Articles for the March SCCARA-GRAM should be submitted by the 24th of February
- The March general meeting will be on March 10th and will cover installing PowerPole connectors
- SCCARA's club station at the American Red Cross is open the last Saturday of each month. Members and guests can confirm operation on the W6UU 2 meter repeater.
- The first electronics flea market of 2025 will be on March 9th and hosted by our friends at SVECS. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Gregg KF6FNA or Lou WA6QYS if you are able to help.

#### President's Report, Gregg Lane KF6FNA:

The meeting minutes for January general and board meetings were published. Requested corrections or additions. None were offered. Minutes declared approved by acclimation.

#### Treasurer's Report, Ned AC6YY:

Current cash and checking balance is \$11,974.20

#### Station Trustee's Report, Don K6PBQ:

Club station at the Red Cross is scheduled to be open the last Saturday of the month. We have been opening more frequently and encourage those interested to monitor the W6UU 2-meter repeater for announcements. The station provides back up operators and equipment to the Red Cross in the event of an emergency and they appreciate our higher activity level.

#### Editor's Report, Gary WB6YRU:

Not very much content is submitted for the SCCARA-GRAM.

There should have been renewal reminders sent by the Secretary and what Gary described as a grace period was ending in two weeks.

Doug N6DPO indicated that he did not send them and that unless Truman had sent them before leaving office they still needed to go out. Doug said he would take care of this.

#### BBS Report, Gary WB6YRU:

Gary reported that one of the other BBS system managers reported that our mail forwarding was working well since we installed the new Raspberry Pi computer.

Doug N6DPO asked what type of uptime we are seeing, are we still seeing the problem with the BBS going down or are those problems behind us with the corrective actions you have taken?

Gary indicated that the problem of the system not being responsive has not been fully resolved but he has a work around in place so that if he knows it is not behaving, he can reset a couple of things.

Gary asked whether anyone has checked in or taken a look at it? Paul KK6HWN reported the BBS was up and running but was down for a couple of days last week.

Doug N6DPO expressed concern about the BBS being down since it is promoted on our website and asked if there was an automated way to check when it is down.

Gary reported the problems began with the transition to the Raspberry Pi and indicated that the software seems to have a bug but hear and there but that as soon as we notice, we restart it. As for checking it, Gary reported any one of us can check it externally.

Paul KK6HWN asked: If we find the BBS down, can we send Gary an email and he will reset it? Gary confirmed that he would appreciate any reports.

#### Repeater Report, Gregg KF6FNA:

Thank you Gotz N6GKB for working to get our coordination updated with NARCC

W6JPP stated the repeater was powered down and recommended that Ned AC6YY get us access since the County now owned the hospital.

Ned reported that the hospital was not yet owned by the County yet but said he would be going there in March as part of the team to get them converted to the County system. While he is physically there next month, he will try to speak to someone to find out what is going on.

Gary WB6YRU asked if we had any reason to believe the procedure we have used to get access have changed?

Gregg asked Wally KA6YOR and Lou WA6QYS to comment. Both indicated that we don't know--possibly so given how long it has been since we have been up there. It's a good plan to have Ned check into this.

Doug Owens N6DPO asked John who had informed him that the repeater had been powered down. John indicated it was someone he spoke with at the hospital while he was there for a family member.

Gary WB6YOR reported that our license and info on who we are was attached to the repeater so there is something fishy about this. Paul KK6HWN reported that the repeater coordination for the 2M repeater was not showing on the NARCC website. After some discussing it was determined that we are in possession of the coordination certificate and that it is likely the NARCC website was not current.

Website Report: Website is up and running well. No known issues.

#### Old Business

Gregg asked Doug about LoTW status

Doug reported no issue with LoTW but the bigger question is how do we want to use it. At some point, we should transition to computer-based logging but we will need to consider everyone's preferences, etc. and suggested we address this at a future time.

Gregg mentioned that we hope to add a second beam antenna at the Red Cross. We'll provide an update at a later date.

#### New Business

Gregg asked for any new business to be considered. None was brought forth.

Gregg KF6FNA declared the meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

These draft minutes have not been approved and are not the official, approved record until approved by the Board and so noted by the Secretary

Respectfully submitted,  
Doug Owens N6DPO, Secretary

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## Packet Pieces

### Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

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Date: 11 Apr 2020 00:54  
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW  
To: HUMOUR@WW  
Subject: jokes 11/4

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Organic chemistry is the chemistry of carbon compounds.  
Biochemistry is the study of carbon compounds that crawl.  
-- Mike Adams

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An elderly ham and his XYL were on a cruise and it was really stormy. They were standing on the back of the boat watching the moon, when a wave came up and washed the old woman overboard. They searched for days and couldn't find her, so the captain sent the old ham back to shore with the promise that he would notify him as soon as they found something. Three weeks went by and finally the old man got a fax from the boat. It read:

"Sir, sorry to inform you, we found your wife dead at the bottom of the ocean. We hauled her up to the deck and attached to her posterior was an oyster and in it was a pearl worth \$50,000. Please advise"

The old man faxed back: "Send me the pearl and re-bait the trap!"

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I said to the wife, "Get me a newspaper".  
"Don't be silly", she said. "You can borrow my iPad".  
That spider never knew what hit it!

-----  
A man takes his Rottweiler to the vet. "My dog is cross-eyed, is there anything you can do for him?"  
"Well," said the vet, "let's have a look at him"  
He picks the dog up and examines his eyes, then he checks his teeth.  
Finally, he says, "I'm going to have to put him down."  
"What? Just because he's cross-eyed?"  
"No, because he's really heavy."

-----  
Two blondes walk into a building.... you'd think at least

one of them would have seen it.

I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn't find any.

I went to the butchers the other day and I bet him 50 dollars that he couldn't reach the meat off the top shelf. He said, "No, the steaks are too high."

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly. They lit a fire in the craft. It sank, proving once and for all that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

A man goes to the doctor, with a strawberry growing out of his head. Doc says "I'll give you some cream to put on it."

"Doc I can't stop singing The Green, Green Grass of Home"  
"That sounds like Tom Jones syndrome."

"Is it common?"

"It's not unusual..."

What do you call a fish with no eyes? A fsh.

I was getting into my car and this man says to me "Can you give me a lift?"  
I said "Sure, you look great, the world's your oyster, go for it."

Police arrested two kids yesterday, one was drinking battery acid and the other was eating fireworks. They charged one and let the other one off.

"You know, somebody actually complimented me on my driving today. They left a little note on the windscreen. It said, 'Parking Fine.' So that was nice."

Grandpa

Grandpa was always going on about the good old days, and the lower cost of living, in particular.

"When I was a kid, my mom could send me to the store, and I'd get a salami, two pints of milk, 6 oranges, 2 loaves of bread, a magazine, and some new blue jeans... All for a dollar!!"

Then Grandpa said sadly, "You can't do that anymore... They've got those darn video cameras everywhere."

Sleepers Wanted

In need of sleeping cars, a Canadian Railroad inserted the following advertisement in one of the trade journals.

"300 Sleepers Wanted. Needed at Once."

A short time later they received a letter from a minister of a church in Iowa offering his entire congregation.

SIGNS

1. In an office:  
TOILET OUT OF ORDER... PLEASE USE FLOOR BELOW

2. In a Laundromat:  
AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINES: PLEASE REMOVE ALL YOUR CLOTHES WHEN THE LIGHT GOES OUT

3. In a London department store:  
BARGAIN BASEMENT UPSTAIRS

4. In an office:

WOULD THE PERSON WHO TOOK THE STEP LADDER YESTERDAY PLEASE BRING IT BACK OR FURTHER STEPS WILL BE TAKEN

5. In an office:

AFTER TEA BREAK STAFF SHOULD EMPTY THE TEAPOT AND STAND UPSIDE DOWN ON THE DRAINING BOARD

6. Outside a secondhand shop:

WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING - BICYCLES, WASHING MACHINES, ETC. WHY NOT BRING YOUR WIFE ALONG AND GET A WONDERFUL BARGAIN?

7. Notice in health food shop window:

CLOSED DUE TO ILLNESS

8. Spotted in a safari park:

ELEPHANTS PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR

9. Seen during a conference:

FOR ANYONE WHO HAS CHILDREN AND DOESN'T KNOW IT, THERE IS A DAY CARE ON THE 1ST FLOOR

10. Notice in a farmer's field:

THE FARMER ALLOWS WALKERS TO CROSS THE FIELD FOR FREE, BUT THE BULL CHARGES.

11. On a repair shop door:

WE CAN REPAIR ANYTHING. (PLEASE KNOCK HARD ON THE DOOR - THE BELL DOESN'T WORK)

=====

Date: 11 Apr 2020 23:23

From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW

To: HUMOUR@WW

Subject: jokes 12/4

Is this in our not too distant future?

"Hello, is this Gordon's Pizza?"

"No sir - it's Google Pizza."

"I must have dialled a wrong number. Sorry."

"No sir - Google bought Gordon's Pizza last month."

"OK. I would like to order a pizza."

"Do you want your usual, sir?"

"My usual? Do you know me?"

"According to our caller ID data sheet, the last 12 times you called you ordered an extra-large pizza with three cheeses - sausage - pepperoni - mushrooms and meat balls on a thick crust."

"OK, yeah, that's what I want."

"May I suggest that this time you try a pizza with ricotta - arugula - sun-dried tomatoes and olives on a whole wheat, gluten free, thin crust?"

"What? I detest vegetables."

"Your cholesterol is not good, sir."

"How the hell do you know?"

"Well, we cross-referenced with your medical records. We have your blood tests for the last 7 years."

"Okay, but I do not want your rotten vegetable pizza! I already take medication for my cholesterol."

"Excuse me sir, but you have not taken your medication regularly. You only purchased a box of 30 cholesterol tablets once, at Drugsale Network, 4 months ago."

"I bought more from another drugstore."

"That doesn't show on your credit card statement."

"I paid in cash."

"But you did not withdraw enough cash according to your

bank statement."

"I have other sources of cash."

"That doesn't show on your last tax return unless you bought them using an undeclared income source, which is against the law."

"WHAT THE HELL?!"

"I'm sorry sir, we use such information only with the sole intention of helping you."

"Enough already! I'm sick to death of Google - Facebook - Twitter - WhatsApp and all the others!! I'm going to an island without internet - cable TV - where there is no cell phone service and no one to watch me or spy on me!"

"I understand, sir - but you'll need to renew your passport first. It expired 6 weeks ago."

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A woman is sitting at home on the veranda with her husband and she says, "I love you."  
He asks, "Is that you or the wine talking?"  
She replies, "It's me... talking to the wine."

Taxes

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A citizen can hardly distinguish between a tax and a fine, except that a fine is generally much lighter.

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I changed my car horn to gunshot sounds. People get out of the way much faster now.

Gone are the days when girls used to cook like their mothers. Now they drink like their fathers.

You know that tingly little feeling you get when you really like someone? That's common sense leaving your body.

I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row.

I decided to change calling the bathroom the John and renamed it the Jim. I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.

Old age is coming at a really bad time.

When I was a child I thought "Nap Time" was a punishment. Now, as a grownup, it feels like a small vacation.

The biggest lie I tell myself is, "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."

I don't have gray hair, I have "wisdom highlights." I'm just very wise.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would've put them on my knees.

Why do I have to press ONE for English when you're just gonna transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?

Of course I talk to myself; sometimes I need expert advice.

At my age "Getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came in there for.

## 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  
packet: home BBS N0ARY  
e-mail: [wb6yru@ix.netcom.com](mailto:wb6yru@ix.netcom.com)

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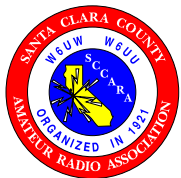
## Newsletter Notes

June will be a busy month for us, we'll have two activities: the electronic flea market and Field Day. SCCARA will host the June 8 flea market, and on June 28-29 we'll participate in Field Day at the club station. It's time to start planning. I've not yet heard of a chairman for either one; so if you'd like to help out, contact our president, Gregg KF6FNA. Hopefully more info on both will be forthcoming in the *SCCARA-GRAM* soon.

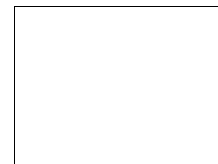
And if you need help programming your handheld radio, remember to bring it to the next general meeting.



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 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.