

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County
Amateur Radio Association

Volume 23, Number 2

February 2007

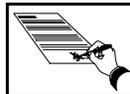


President's Prose

A year of great change, personal growth and opportunities for the club and its members. The Board of Directors, Our News Editor and club members are working enthusiastically to promote change. Changes to our club equipment storage that impacts storage fees. Changes to the delivery options for the newsletter with a PDF copy on our web site. Changes to our archived history to reduce the bulk and improve retrieval. Changes from within the club will provide a solid base for growth. Changes by the FCC will provide our Technician Class operators with greater HF experience with access to the Tech Plus and Novice HF bands. This in turn will impact our field day HF operations in a positive way providing higher point scores. Momentum is building the Club Board of Directors has put the club on a solid path of fiscal responsibility and membership growth. 2007 will be and exciting year of change.

73, Jim KG6UDW

Your comments are welcomed: kg6udw@arrl.net



ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, January 26, 2007

IT'S OFFICIAL! MORSE CODE REQUIREMENT ENDS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Circle Friday, February 23, on your calendar. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules. Effective that date, applicants for a General or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio license no longer will have to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. They'll just have to pass the applicable written examination. Federal Register publication January 24 of the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, started a 30-day countdown for the new rules to become effective.

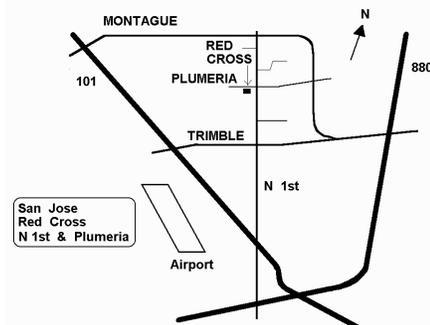
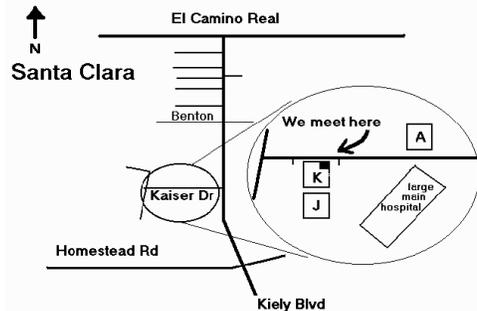
"The overall effect of this action is to further the public interest by encouraging individuals who are interested in communications technology or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become Amateur Radio operators; and eliminating a requirement that is now unnecessary and may discourage Amateur Service licensees from advancing their skills in the

Calendar

- 2/12 SCCARA General Meeting
- 2/19 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 3/12 SCCARA General Meeting--dinner meeting

General Meeting

Day: Monday, Feb. 12, 2007
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Bld K, Rm 1
Featuring: Eric Swartz, WA6HHQ of Elecraft will demonstrate new products.



The **SCCARA-GRAM** is published monthly by the **SANTA CLARA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**, PO Box 6, San Jose CA 95103-0006. 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 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.

Web page: <http://www.qsl.net/sccara>.

OFFICERS - DIRECTORS - STAFF

President	Jim Tyranski, KG6UDW	453-0745
	e-mail: kg6udw@arrl.net	
Vice President	Fred Townsend, AE6QL	263-8768
	e-mail: fred@dcctolight.net	
Secretary	Mike Aronoff, WB0TOW	781-5704
	e-mail: aronoff@att.net	
Treasurer	Don Steinbach, AE6PM	867-3912
	e-mail: dlsteinbach@comcast.net	
Station Trustee	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
	e-mail: donvillage7@yahoo.com	
Director	Don Steinbach, AE6PM	867-3912
	e-mail: ae6pm@arrl.net	
Director	Ned Tufekcic, AC6YY	690-7250
	e-mail: ac6yy@arrl.net	
Director	Don Village, K6PBQ	263-2789
	e-mail: donvillage7@yahoo.com	
Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	241-7999
	e-mail: wa6qys@aol.com	
Director	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
	e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net	
Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	269-2924
	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	

COMMITTEES

Repeater	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	293-3847
	e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net	
N0ARY BBS	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	269-2924
	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	

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 and N0ARY BBS 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 (San Jose). User ports: 144.93 (1200 baud), 433.37 (9600 baud), telephone 408 259-8497.. Sysop: Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

SCCARA contact Clark KE6KXO:	408 262-9334
ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group, Morris Jones, AD6ZH:	408 507-4698

communications and technical phases of Amateur Radio," the FCC remarked in the Federal Register version of the "Morse code" R&O. The League had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants, but the Commission held to its decision to eliminate the requirement across the board. The rules that appeared in the Federal Register constitute their official version <<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/v/2007/pdf/E7-729.pdf>>.

The new rules also mean that starting February 23 all Technician licensees, whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination, will have CW privileges on 80, 40 and 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters. Once the new rules go into effect Technicians may begin using their new privileges without any further action.

An applicant holding a valid Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) credit may redeem it for an upgrade at a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) exam session. A CSCE is good for 365 days from the date of issuance, no exceptions.

For example, a Technician licensee holding a valid CSCE for Element 3 credit would have to apply at a VEC test session and pay the application fee, which most VECs charge, in order to receive an instant upgrade to General.

ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, cautions that a license upgrade is *not* automatic for those holding valid CSCEs for element credit. "You must apply for the upgrade at a VEC test session, and you may not operate as /AG or /AE until you have upgraded and have been issued a CSCE marked for upgrade," he stresses. "A valid CSCE for element credit only does not confer any operating privileges."

Henderson also advises all radio amateurs to know and fully understand their operating privileges before taking to the airwaves. Some Technician licensees reportedly started showing up on 75 meters December 15 in the mistaken belief that they had gained phone privileges there.

The FCC R&O includes an Order on Reconsideration in WT Docket 04-140 -- the so-called "omnibus" proceeding. It will modify Part 97 in response to ARRL's request to accommodate automatically controlled narrowband digital stations on 80 meters in the wake of other rule changes that became effective last December 15. The Commission designated 3585 to 3600 kHz for such operations, although that segment will remain available for CW, RTTY and data. The ARRL had requested that the upper limit of the CW/RTTY/data subband be set at 3635 kHz so there would be no change in the existing 3620 to 3635 kHz subband.

The ARRL has posted all relevant information on these important Part 97 rule revisions on its "FCC's Morse Code Report and Order WT Docket 05-235" Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/>>.

AO-27 REJUVENATED, BACK ON THE AIR

AMSAT News Service reports that AO-27 (EyeSat-1) <<http://www.ao27.org>> has again been recovered and returned to operation. Launched in September 1993, AO-27 has been listed as non-operational. Michael Wyrick, N3UC, of the AO-27 command team told ANS that after addressing problems with the microsat's AFSK modem, ground controllers were able to upload operational software. The satellite has been sending telemetry, and the analog transponder has been turned on again. Under the current schedule, AO-27 is on during ascending (south-to-north) passes at approximately 30 degrees north latitude, although it's impossible to say when the satellite will be operational for a given location.

An initial 20 seconds of telemetry are followed by 5 minutes of analog repeater operation. AO-27 then transmits another 60 seconds of telemetry before shutting down. The satellite carries a Mode V/U FM repeater with the uplink at 145.850 MHz and the downlink at 436.795 MHz. "Please keep in mind that AO-27 is 13 years old and takes some work to keep going," Wyrick advised users. Ground controllers are seeking help in logging telemetry from AO-27. Visit the Logging AO-27 Telemetry page <<http://www.ao27.org/tlm.shtml>> for information.

From *The ARRL Letter*, January 19, 2007

BILL SEEKS BPL INTERFERENCE STUDY, REPORT TO CONGRESS

US Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), has introduced a bill in the 110th Congress calling on the FCC to study the interference potential of broadband over power line (BPL) technology and report its findings back to Congress. One of two radio amateurs in the House, Ross submitted the "Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007" (HR 462) on January 12. The bill's official text became available this week. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, says the League shares Ross's concern about interference to emergency communication networks.

"We wholly support his effort to ensure that public safety remains a priority over flawed political agendas regarding communication technology," Harrison commented.

The bill calls for the FCC to conduct "a comprehensive BPL service study leading to improved rules to prevent interference." If the measure is adopted by both houses of Congress and signed by the president, the FCC would have to undertake a study of BPL's interference potential within 90 days of enactment and report to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

In 2005, Ross introduced a non-binding House resolution, HRs 230, in the 109th Congress that would have had the FCC conduct "a full and complete analysis" of radio interference from BPL with an eye toward revising the FCC rules that govern BPL to minimize the potential of harmful interference. It was unsuccessful.

Last year, the US House passed a telecommunications bill containing language that Ross proposed requiring the FCC to study the interference potential of BPL systems. The study requirement did not make its way into the final version of the bill, however.

HR 462 would require the Commission to address several technical facets, including variations in BPL emission field strength with distance from power lines and a technical justification for using a particular distance extrapolation factor when making measurements.

The FCC also would have to investigate the degree of notching necessary "to protect the reliability of mobile radio communications," and provide a technical justification for permitted BPL radiated emission levels relative to ambient noise levels. Finally, the study would have to outline options for new or improved BPL rules aimed at preventing harmful interference to public safety and other radio communication systems.

Ross's bill zeroes in on some of the same issues the ARRL cited last October when it asked the US Court of Appeals -- DC Circuit to review certain aspects of the Part 15 BPL rules. The ARRL specifically has taken issue with §15.611(c)(1)(iii), which sets a lower standard of protection for licensed mobile stations in any radio service, including public safety, that may receive BPL

interference.

The League's lawsuit also faults the FCC's decision not to adjust the 40 dB per decade "extrapolation factor" applied to BPL emission measurements taken at distances from power lines other than those specified in Part 15. The ARRL contends that BPL measurements made according to existing BPL rules underestimate actual field strengths and that an extrapolation factor closer to 20 dB per decade would be more appropriate.

The League's Petition for Review asserts that the BPL rules "exceed the Commission's jurisdiction and authority; are contrary to the Communications Act of 1934; and are arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion and otherwise not in accordance with law."

The Association of Maximum Service Television and the National Association of Broadcasters are supporting the ARRL lawsuit as interveners.

HR 462 has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. The text of the bill is available on the Library of Congress' Thomas Web site <<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c110:H.R.462>>.

NEW ARGENTINE AMATEUR RADIO SATELLITE NOW IN ORBIT

AMSAT-LU (Argentina) has announced that Pehuensat-1, the second Argentine Amateur Radio satellite, now is in a 635 to 640 km sun-synchronous polar orbit (97.92 degree inclination). It was launched January 10 from India. Once activated Pehuensat-1 will transmit voice messages in three languages -- English, Hindi and Spanish -- on 145.825 MHz followed by AX.25 1200 bps packet. Named after the native Patagonian Pehuén tree, Pehuensat-1 was developed by the Argentina School of Engineering at the National University of Comahue, the Argentina Association for Technology and Space and AMSAT-LU. More information is on the AMSAT-LU Web site <<http://www.amsat.org.ar/>>. To determine the next pass at your location, click on the small revolving globe off of the coast of Argentina, select your location from the map, and then select PEHUENSAT-1. Reception reports are welcome <<http://www.amsat.org.ar/?f=z>>. -- AMSAT-NA; AMSAT-LU

FCAL SATELLITE GETS OSCAR NUMBER

AMSAT-NA OSCAR Coordinator Bill Tynan, W3XO, has announced that the recently deployed FCal Amateur Radio satellite now has an OSCAR number. Built at the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL). FCal (Fence Calibration Satellite) contains an Amateur Radio CubeSat for communications and telemetry. The spacecraft has been designated NRL-OSCAR-62 or NO-62. "I wish to congratulate you and your entire NRL Amateur Radio Club team for the successful construction, testing and orbiting of this spacecraft," Tynan said. FCal's downlink frequency is 437.385 MHz (AX.25 AFSK 1200 bps packet). It identifies as KD4HBO.

Treasurer's Treatise

SCCARA Year-End Financial Summary for 2006

The SCCARA treasury has \$5,586.33 as of 12/31/2006, compared with \$5,810.21 on 1/1/2006, for a net decrease of \$223.88.

The amounts held in checking, savings and cash, respectively,

on 1/1/2006 vs 12/31/2006 are \$5,398.39 vs \$760.38, \$411.82 vs \$4,772.45, and \$0.00 vs \$53.50.

Major income items were: Membership Dues \$910.00, Sale of Assets \$964.05. Flea market income: Gate receipts were \$2,760 for 138 spaces, food sales were \$348.23 net, equipment sales were \$121.00.

Major expense items were: Field Day \$679.24, Flea Market \$1,500.00, Postage \$433.25, Rent \$950.00, SCCARA-GRAM \$680.35 and Telephone \$420.24.

Don Steinbach, AE6PM, Treasurer

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Jan. 8, 2007



The first meeting of 2007 and for new president Jim Tyranski, KG6UDW, was attended by 30 members and guests.

Introductions and a brief discussion of the status of no-code licensing was followed by a report of repeater status. A memo of understanding (MOU) with the county is under review for the site and equipment. The 440 machine is still down, but the BBS is up and running.

There were a number of announcements:

- The newest ham in the SCCARA "family" was introduced: Victoria, KI6GNT is 9 years old.
- N2RHV (SCM) anticipates that everyone will have some HF privileges for Field Day this year, and hopes for a good turnout.
- Converting the SCCARA-Gram to email was discussed and will be taken up by the Board. There are potential benefits in cost, timeliness, and labor.
- It was suggested that our long-suffering net control operators (Don K6PBQ on 2m and Wally KA6YMD might like to have alternates or relief. The Board will take up the questions of rotation and training. Volunteers are welcome.
- The SVECS Breakfast will be on January 27 in Washington Park, Sunnyvale.
- Field Day will be at Mt. Madonna State Park again this year. It is time to start planning, and volunteers or anyone with a nominee for chairperson should contact Jim KG6UDW.
- SCARRA will have a group operating in the ARRL VHF contest on January 20-21 on Skyline Drive.
- Fred AE6QL gave an update on the BPL battle with the FCC. Bill N2RHV mentioned that the League Spectrum Defense Fund can always use contributions.
- The Club received the gift of a portable programmable electronic sign board from John W6JPP and Ron W6RLK for use in all our public events.
- The March 12th general meeting will be the annual social at Hometown Buffet. Details next month.

The second half of the meeting was a "chalk talk" by Fred AE6QL on taking the written tests to upgrade to General Class (Element 3). Included were license structure changes, how to take tests, circuits, components, formulas, and some sample test questions. When the no-code licenses become effective, the club may arrange a VEC upgrade session. Contact Don AE6PM, or Mike WB0TOW if you are interested.

Mike Aronoff, WB0TOW, Secretary

Board Meeting, Jan. 17, 2007



{No minutes received by the deadline. --Ed.}

Visalia International DX Convention 2007

The 2007 International DX Convention will take place April 27, 28 & 29, 2007 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center in Visalia, California. This is an ARRL sanctioned convention that is sponsored this year by the Northern California DX Club. It is expected to draw visitors from around the World and will feature programs from recent DX-Peditions and contest operations.

The Convention theme this year is, "Elmering New DXers is Job Number One!" Accordingly, a portion of the programming will be devoted to helping new DXers learn about how to be noticed in a pile-up, snag a "new one" and get that elusive QSL card.

Other Convention offerings will include: DX, Top Band and Contest Forums, technical talks, many door prizes, both Friday and Saturday evening "attitude adjustments", Saturday Barbecue Lunch, Saturday night banquet, Sunday morning "power" breakfast, Vendors Exhibits and QSL card checking.

Current information and registration forms are available on the Convention web page, which can be found at www.dxconvention.org. Additional registration information can be obtained by contacting Convention Registration Chairman, Dick Letrich, W6KM via Email at dlw6km@aol.com.

If you're interested in DX or DXing, the Visalia International DX Convention is the place to be. We hope to see you there.

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the packet network:

Date: 3 Jan 2005 19:22
From: KD4GCA@KD4GCA
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: 40 Things Never Said By Rednecks

40. Does this shirt stink to bad to wear one more day?
39. I'll take Shakespeare for 1000, Alex.
38. Duct tape won't fix that.
37. Lisa Marie was lucky to catch Michael.
36. Come to think of it, I'll have a Heineken.
35. We don't keep firearms in this house.
34. Has anybody seen the sideburns trimmer?
33. You can't feed that to the dog.
32. I thought Graceland was tacky.
31. No kids in the back of the pickup, it's just not safe.
30. Wrasslin's fake.
29. Honey, did you mail that donation to Greenpeace?
28. We're vegetarians.
27. Do you think my gut is too big?
26. I'll have grapefruit and grapes instead of biscuits and gravy.
25. Honey, we don't need another dog.
24. Who's Richard Petty?

23. Give me the small bag of pork rinds.
22. Too many deer heads detract from the decor.
21. Spittin is such a nasty habit.
20. I just couldn't find a thing at Walmart today.
19. Trim the fat off that steak.
18. Cappuccino tastes better than espresso.
17. The tires on that truck are too big.
16. I'll have the arugula and radicchio salad.
15. I've got it all on the C drive.
14. Unsweetened tea tastes better.
13. Would you like your salmon poached or broiled?
12. My fiance, Bobbie Jo, is registered at Tiffany's.
11. I've got two cases of Zima for the Super Bowl.
10. Little Debbie snack cakes have too many fat grams.
09. Checkmate.
08. She's too young to be wearing a bikini.
07. Does the salad bar have bean sprouts?
06. Hey, here's an episode of "Hee Haw" that we haven't seen.
05. I don't have a favorite college team.
04. Be sure to bring my salad dressing on the side.
03. I believe you cooked those green beans too long.
02. Those shorts ought to be a little longer, Darla.
01. Nope, no more for me. I'm drivin tonight.

Date: 23 Jan 2007 23:20
 From: ZL3AI@ZL2BAU
 To: HUMOR@WW
 Subject: Dubya

"[President] Bush admitted to making mistakes in Iraq and says he has learned from these mistakes and will do better in Iran." - David Letterman

73, David ZL3AI.
<http://www.geocities.com/zl3ai>

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 including who to contact for each.

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 from the club secretary.

Antennas, feed-lines, tuners: WB6EMR, K6PBQ, WB6YRU
 Lightning protection, grounding: WB6YRU
 Station set-up, equipment: K6PBQ
 TVI/RFI: WB6YRU
 Homebrew projects, construction: KD6FJI, WB6YRU
 Computers: KB6NP; IBM PC: WB6YRU
 Packet Network (BBS, forwarding): WB6YRU
 Code operating and installations: WB6EMR, K6PBQ
 DX (long distance/propagation): WB6EMR
 Emergency operating/preparedness: WA6QYS
 FM (VHF/UHF, repeaters):
 HF operating techniques (SSB, CW): WB6EMR, K6PBQ
 Classes/license upgrading: W6ACW
 Legal/FCC rules: WB6YRU
 SCCARA (club inner workings): K6PBQ, WB6YRU, WA6QYS

Children's Discovery Museum, volunteer operator:
 K6PBQ
 EchoLink: KK6MX

W6ACW, Ed Hajny, (408) 739-6105

WB6EMR, James D. Armstrong, Jr.,
 evening & msg: (408) 945-1202

KD6FJI, Lloyd DeVaughns,
 (408) 225-6769 e-mail: kd6fji@arrl.net

KK6MX, Don Apte, (408) 629-0725
 e-mail: kk6mx@aol.com

KB6NP, Jon Dutra, day & msg (408) 428-2058
 evening (408) 867-8654
 packet: home BBS NOARY
 e-mail: jad@aol.com

K6PBQ, Don Village, (408) 263-2789

WA6QYS, Lou Steirer, (408) 241-7999
 packet: home BBS NOARY

WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, msg (408) 265-2336
 also (408) 269-2924
 packet: home BBS NOARY
 e-mail: wb6yru@aenet.net

Newsletter Notes

The *SCCARA-GRAM* is now on-line!

At the last general meeting several people indicated they would rather receive the *SCCARA-GRAM* in electronic form. We had some problems that prevented this from happening in the past, but those have just been ironed out.

The membership form now has some newsletter choices. You can select the *SCCARA-GRAM* by U.S. post just as it is now or electronically (in pdf format) on the SCCARA web site, <http://www.qsl.net/sccara>.

If you'd like to receive it by both e-mail and U.S. post, we can do that too, if you insist, but it does sort of defeat the purpose.

Here's how it will work: Let us know you want the electronic version. Your e-mail address will be put on a SCCARA remailer list—which will only be used for club notices and won't be given out to anyone. When a new issue is posted on the SCCARA web site an e-mail notice will be sent out with a link to the new issue. Just click on the link and there it is.

There's a bonus for the electronic version: **Color!** When we have photos or anything in color, it will remain in color. We haven't published a color printed newsletter because of the cost, but there's no such problem on the internet.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor



SCCARA

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association
PO Box 6
SAN JOSE CA 95103-0006

Affiliate of the ARRL,
American Radio Relay League



FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SCCARA Membership Form for 2007

(Fill in name and call only if renewing and no info has changed)

Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: E A G T+ T N

Address: _____ Licensed since (yr): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____ Licence Expiration
Date (mo/yr): _____

Telephone: () _____ New Member Renewal
 I'm also a member of the ARRL

E-mail: _____ Packet: _____

Annual membership dues are payable at the first of the year and expire the following December 31.
New members joining on or after July 1, pay half the membership dues.

Annual Membership dues: \$20 Individual \$25 Family \$10 Student (under 18)
For family memberships (at the same address), please include a separate form for each family member.

I want the newsletter by: U.S. Mail internet (make sure your e-mail address is legible and correct)

Give this completed form (or copy) with payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or mail to the club address.