

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 26, Number 8

August 2010



President's Prose

Don Johnson, W6AAQ, a former SCCARA member and friend to many current members has, regrettably, become a Silent Key. Don was known for his "screwdriver" antenna. If you're not familiar with the concept, see the ARRL Antenna Compendium Vol. 7 (p89), or the ARRL Antenna Book 21st Edition (p16-16).

Our annual picnic-in-the-park will be August 21. This event is family-friendly, and suitable for spouses, friends and the kids. Look elsewhere in this issue for details.

I've mentioned some of the ARRL publications here previously. I took the PIC Programming For Beginners book with me to read on a recent airline flight. I discovered that the book presumes that the programming hardware and a kit of parts to support the exercises in the book accompany the book as ordered from the ARRL. Not true. That doesn't negate the purpose of the book, but it does mean that there is more shopping for the reader to do. Also, regardless of what the title implies, it's not for the real beginner. Familiarity with assembly language programming concepts should be stated as a prerequisite. If you're not familiar with words like stack, opcode, operand, etc., this isn't the place to start. A good reference book and tutorial nevertheless.

Don't forget the 2-meter FM net on Monday nights, and the 10-meter SSB net (28.385 MHz USB) on Thursday nights. Anyone who has a license can participate in these nets. If you're not equipped to operate on 10-meters, you might want to consider doing so. When the band opens up, which it will when sunspot activity increases, you can make many long distance contacts with 10 watts and a simple dipole or vertical antenna. Antennas at this frequency are very manageable, being less than 17 feet for a half-wave dipole, and half that for a quarter-wave vertical.

73,
Don - AE6PM



Picnic

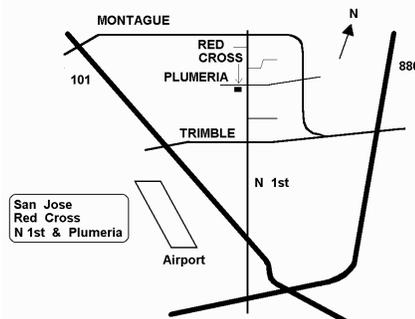
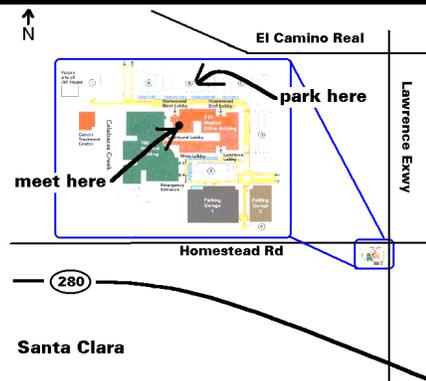
The SCCARA picnic this year will be on Saturday August 21st at 10AM until 4PM or so, at Mary Gomez Park In Santa Clara. It's located at the north-west corner of San Thomas

Calendar

- 8/9 SCCARA General Meeting
- 8/14 DeAnza Electronic Flea Market
- 8/16 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)
- 8/21 SCCARA picnic, at Mary Gomez Park

General Meeting

Day: Monday, Aug. 9, 2010
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Rm 196, 1
Featuring: Digital Modulation Techniques



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
(all officers are also directors)

- | | | |
|-----------------|--|----------|
| President | Don Steinbach, AE6PM | 867-3912 |
| | e-mail: ae6pm@arrl.net | |
| Vice President | Fred Townsend, AE6QL | 263-8768 |
| | e-mail: fred@dcotlight.net | |
| Past President | --- | |
| Secretary | Jeannie Felix, KG6YOR | 293-3847 |
| | e-mail: jrfv7600@yahoo.com | |
| Treasurer | Ned Tufekcic, AC6YY | 690-7250 |
| | e-mail: ac6yy@arrl.net | |
| Station Trustee | Don Village, K6PBQ | 263-2789 |
| | e-mail: donvillage7@yahoo.com | |
| Director | John Glass | |
| Director | Lou Steirer, WA6QYS | 241-7999 |
| | e-mail: wa6qys@aol.com | |
| Director | Wally Britten, KA6YMD | 293-3847 |
| | e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net | |
| Director | John Parks, W6JPP | 309-8709 |
| | e-mail: w6jpp@arrl.net | |
| Director | Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU | 269-2924 |
| | e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com | |

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- | | | |
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| | e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com | |
| 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 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

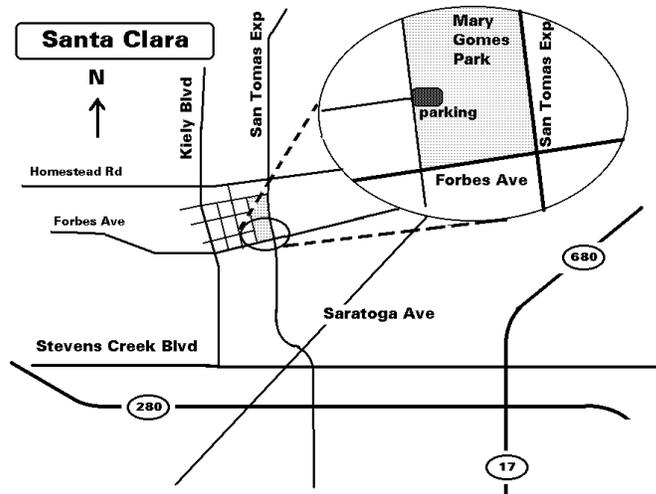
SCCARA hosts the packet BBS N0ARY (Mt Umunhum). User ports: 144.93 (1200 baud), 433.37 (9600 baud), telnet sun.n0ary.org (login "bbs"). Sysop: Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU (packet info: www.n0ary.org/nepa)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

Expressway and Forbes. Enter from the west side: go west on Forbes, north on Bucher. Then right into the small parking lot (see the map below). We will have a HF radio set up again for a miniature field day operation. Gwen, Lou, Sheryl and Edward will be running our bingo game. So please bring a gift or two for prizes. The club will provide sodas, plates, utensils, condiments and charcoal. Please bring your own meat and a dish to share.

Don Village K6PBQ



NOARY BBS

The N0ARY BBS is down for maintenance. It has been producing memory fault errors. Hopefully it will be back in service before too long.

Gary, WB6YRU

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, July 8, 2010

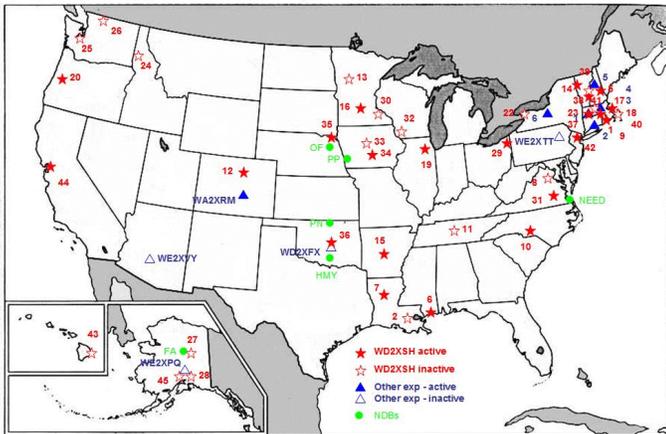
ARRL'S 500 KHZ EXPERIMENT

In the quarterly report for the ARRL's 500 kHz Experimental Station for the period ending May 2010, Experiment Coordinator Fritz Raab, W1FR, reported that since the experiment began in late 2006, 20 of the 32 participating stations are currently active. The FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology granted the WD2XSH experimental license to the ARRL in September of that year. "Our present license grant expires on August 1," Raab said. "We are planning to do an 'as-is' renewal this month." Raab said that during the quarter, one additional QSO was made, bringing the total number of WD2XSH contacts to 405. The WD2XSH Web site (www.500kc.com) has received 511 reports since the end of February, bringing the total number of reports to 11,234 since the beginning of the issuance of the experimental license. Raab said more than 60,000 hours of activity has been logged on the Web site since September 2006. Stations do not have to be members of the experimental team to post reception reports.

"As usual, the decrease in night time hours, coupled with the increase in static, meant the spring results showed reduced

operations, Raab explained. “Nonetheless, a number of stations have remained active. A good deal of recent activity has been WSPR transmissions. We will be conducting several ground-wave tests during the summer months. The most extensive is being coordinated by Ralph Wallio, W0RPK, and involves several Midwest stations and several other clusters who produced useful results in the 2008 tests. A number of the new stations are continuing to ready their stations.”

According to Raab, several WD2XSH stations are subject to a “QRT Order” for not being current in submitting their logs. “These stations are required to remain QRT until they have rectified the situation,” Raab told the ARRL. “Generally, these stations have an equipment problem or some other problem that keeps them from operating. Two stations moved from the location specified on our original license, but are now authorized to operate at their new locations.”



On the international front, Raab said that German amateur Horst St=cker, DO1KHS, has been issued experimental license DI2AN. The Radioclub YO2KAB Beacons in Romania, using call sign YO2X, is reported to be operating a beacon on 505.110; this is the second Romanian station to operate on 500 kHz. The Fort Pearch Rock special event station, GB4FPR, operated on 502 kHz from Fort Perch Rock to celebrate Marconi Day in April.

Raab said that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) continues to oppose an amateur allocation on 600 meters. The IMO’s subcommittee on Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR) noted in its March meeting that “a secondary allocation [in the 415-526.5 kHz band] for the Amateur Service would increase the probability of harmful interference.”

From *The ARRL Letter*, July 22, 2010

FCC MODIFIES AMATEUR RULES TO ALLOW PARTICIPATION IN DISASTER AND EMERGENCY DRILLS ON BEHALF OF AN EMPLOYER WITHOUT A WAIVER

In a Report and Order (R&O) released Wednesday, July 14, the FCC amended Part 97.113 to allow amateurs to participate without an FCC waiver in government-sponsored disaster preparedness drills on behalf of their employers participating in the exercise. The FCC also has amended the rules to allow employees to participate in non-government drills and exercises up to one hour per week and up to two 72-hour periods during the year.

“Experience has shown that amateur operations can and have played an essential role in protecting the safety of life and property

during emergency situations and disaster situations,” the FCC noted in the R&O. “Moreover, the current Amateur Radio Service rules, which permit participation in such drills and tests by volunteers (ie, non-employees of participating entities), reflect the critical role Amateur Radio serves in such situations. However, as evidenced by recent waiver requests, state and local government public safety agencies, hospitals and other entities concerned with the health and safety of citizens appear to be limited in their ability to conduct disaster and emergency preparedness drills, because of the employee status of Amateur Radio licensees involved in the training exercises. We therefore amend our rules to permit amateur radio operators to participate in government-sponsored emergency and disaster preparedness drills and tests, regardless of whether the operators are employees of the entities participating in the drill or test. We find that extending authority to operate amateur stations during such drills will enhance emergency preparedness and response and thus serve the public interest.”

In order to allow participation in non-governmental disaster drills -- such as those sponsored by ARES or private hospitals -- the FCC will now allow amateurs employed by an agency participating in such a drill to participate up to one hour per week. In addition, they may also participate in up to two exercises in any calendar year, each for a time period not to exceed 72 hours. “This time limitation, which is consistent with the timeframes contained in the waiver requests filed with the Commission, should serve to further ensure the use of Amateur Radio for bona fide emergency testing, the R&O stated. “We emphasize that the purpose for any drills we authorize herein must be related to emergency and disaster preparedness. By limiting the purpose in this manner, we further ensure that such drills will be appropriately limited.”

In amending the Amateur Radio rules, the FCC reiterated that it does not intend to disturb the core principle of the Amateur Radio Service “as a voluntary, non-commercial communication service carried out by duly authorized persons interested in radio technique with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest. Rather, we believe that the public interest will be served by establishing a narrow exception to the prohibition on transmitting amateur communications in which the station control operator has a pecuniary interest or employment relationship, and that such an exception is consistent with the intent of the Amateur Radio Service rules.”

The effective date of the R&O is to be determined and will be at some time after its publication in the Federal Register. A more detailed story will be forthcoming from the ARRL.

From *The ARRL Letter*, July 29, 2010

THE BANDS "HEAT UP" FOR THE 2010 ARRL UHF CONTEST

VHF/UHF weak-signal operators across North America are making the final tests on their stations in preparation for the ARRL UHF Contest, coming up the weekend of August 7-8. Most VHF+ weak-signal operation takes place on the two lowest-frequency bands of the VHF spectrum -- 6 and 2 meters; however, a lot of activity takes place above 144 MHz in the UHF portion of the radio spectrum and beyond. This contest focuses on 222 MHz and above; there will be lots of activity, and hopefully lots of propagation, too! Read more at www.arrl.org/news/the-bands-heat-up-for-the-2010-arrl-uhf-contest.

RADIO FOXHUNTERS FIND THEIR CHAMPIONS IN OHIO

By ARRL ARDF Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV

They came from 15 states and four foreign countries. In their suitcases were radio sets, antennas, sun block and running shoes, but they left some room in hopes of taking home a medal or two. They were the hams and future hams -- ranging from age 12 to older than 70 -- who went to Southwest Ohio in the third week of May for the 10th Annual USA Championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF). ARDF is done on 80 meter CW and 2 meter AM in separate events, each with five "fox" transmitters. A course is typically three miles from start to each of the five transmitters (in optimum order) and then to the finish. Your mission is to find your assigned three, four or all five foxes, depending on which of the 11 age/gender categories you are in. Each transmitter is on for one minute at a time in a five-fox cycle that repeats. You must find your way on foot with just your direction-finding gear, the map you're given and your compass. GPS help is not allowed. Read more at www.arrl.org/news/ardf-update-radio-foxhunters-find-their-champions-in-ohio.

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, July 12, 2010



Kaiser Hospital 710 Lawrence Expwy., Santa Clara, CA. 95051

SCCARA Membership meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by AE6PM, Don Steinbach

Presentation: Kit Building by AE6QL, Fred Townsend

Introduction of members and guests

Announcements:
Various donated items from KD6UD estate to SVECS Flea Market

Lou Steirer, WA6QYS talked about the electronic flea market on July 10

Lou Steirer, WA6QYS announced SVECS Breakfast will be held on July 24 and the Presentation will be given by Lynne Engelbert, KD6ZBW, 19327 North Hampton Dr. Saratoga, CA. 95070 and she will be discussing Canine Search and Rescue.

Gwen Steirer, KF6OTD talked about her trip to New York.

Don Village, K6PBQ announced the club station will be open for general operating at the Red Cross on July 31 and the club picnic will be on Aug. 21.

Clark Murphy, KE6KXO announced about field day and said thank you to the club for their hard work.

\$1264.50 profit from flea market sales.

50% better at field day, 3000 Points

Fred Townsend, AE6QL did a interesting presentation on kit building for hams.

Meeting Adjourned at 9 p.m.
Jeannie Felix, KG6YOR - Secretary

Board Meeting, July 19, 2010



Red Cross 2731 N 1st St., San Jose, CA.

The SCCARA Board Meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by Fred Townsend, AE6QL

Attendance:
Vice President: AE6QL, Fred Townsend Secretary: KG6YOR, Jeannie Felix Treasurer: AC6YY, Ned Tufekcic Trustee: K6PBQ, Don Village Director: WA6QYS, Lou Steirer Director: KA6YMD, Wally Britten Director: WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell Director: W6JPP, John Parks

Visitors: KF6FNA, Gregg Lane KF6OTD, Gwen Steirer

Excused Absences: President: AE6PM, Don Steinbach Director: NU6P, John Glass

W6JPP, John Parks made a motion to accept the minutes from June as corrected. Lou Steirer, WA6QYS seconded the motion. Motion accepted

Treasurer's Report: \$4964.63 (Checking) \$3846.36 (Savings) \$87.95 (Petty Cash) Total: \$8898.94

Station Trustee: Club Station open on July 31 at Red Cross for general operating

V.P. Report repair list of club equipment and trailer, address issue each month to get items fixed as time and expenses will allow.

Don Village, K6PBQ made a motion to approve \$30.00 to repair the club generator. Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU seconded the motion. Motion accepted

Wally Britten, KA6YMD made a motion to allocate \$60.00 round trip for the hauling of club trailer to field day. Lou Steirer, WA6QYS seconded the motion. Motion accepted

Webmaster: Webpage is proceeding as normal.

Repeater Chairman: Repeaters seem to be working normally.

Editor: Other clubs have expressed interest in converting to email to receive club newsletter.

Gary is still working on cost cutting measures for sccara-gram.

Field day expenses all reimbursed.

Upcoming Events: Aug 21: SCCARA Picnic 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. , Publication in sccara-gram, webpage and next general meeting.

New Business: Retiring of HF rig and replacing it w/ a new one w/ a Icom 7000 or suppliment

Upcoming Programs: 08/ :Digital Modulation Techniques 09/ :RTTY

John Parks, W6JPP absent August and September.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 p.m.
Jeannie Felix, KG6YOR - Secretary

W6AAQ SK

Joe W6SNV sent this from Al Melcher, W6ARM:

W6AAQ Donald K. Johnson "Mr. Screwdriver," became a Silent

Key at age 91. Don, the inventor of the screwdriver mobile antenna, died Wednesday, April 14th according to his son Don Jr. He had been ill for several months and died in a hospital. Don lived in Esparto, a small community in Northern California west of Sacramento. He was buried with full military honors at the National Cemetery in Dixon, California.

When the FCC first authorized HF mobile, a group of us in the SF Bay area decided to go mobile on 75 meters. We chose 3995 kHz as an operating frequency to reduce the possibility of high power fixed stations interfering. We conducted field tests with our home brewed antennas using a field strength meter to see who had the strongest signal. Don came up with the idea of using a metal tube with a whip on top of a coil that fit inside the tube. By raising and lowering the coil a resonant point could be found. He was searching for a method of tuning the antenna remotely when W6MHP, Denny (SK), suggested using the motor from a cordless screwdriver. Thus the "screwdriver mobile antenna" was born. Don received a patent on the device and built and sold thousands. In his words "Plus thousands that were sold by shameless bootleggers."

Don was a retired Navy radioman and pilot. He once told me that he had spent 30 years in the navy and never served aboard a ship. For a time, while in the navy, he flew three round trips weekly between San Francisco and Honolulu on MARS seaplanes.

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====
Date: 27 Nov 2008 01:35
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: DEAF MAN'S TEST

A man is talking to the family doctor. "Doc, I think my wife's going deaf."

The doctor answers, "Well, here's something you can try on her to test her hearing. Stand some distance away from her and ask her a question. If she doesn't answer, move a little closer and ask again. Keep repeating this until she answers. Then you'll be able to tell just how hard of hearing she really is."

The man goes home and tries it out. He walks in the door and says, "Honey, what's for dinner?" He doesn't hear an answer, so he moves closer to her. "Honey, what's for dinner?" Still no answer. He repeats this several times, until he's standing just a few feet away from her.

Finally, she answers, "For the eleventh time, I said we're having MEATLOAF!"

=====
Date: 25 Jan 2007 22:51
From: ZL3AI@ZL2BAU
To: HUMOUR@WW
Subject: Flexible

I said to the gym instructor "Can you teach me to do the splits?"

He asked, "How flexible are you?"

I replied, "I can't come on Tuesdays".

He just looked at me and shook his head. I'm not sure why.

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, W6JPP, K6PBQ, WB6YRU
Lightning protection, grounding: WB6YRU
Station set-up, equipment: K6PBQ, W6JPP
TVI/RFI: WB6YRU
Homebrew projects, construction: KD6FJI, WB6YRU
Computers: older IBM PC: WB6YRU
Packet Network (BBS, forwarding): WB6YRU
Code operating and installations: WB6EMR, K6PBQ
DX (long distance/propagation): WB6EMR
Emergency operating/preparedness: WA6QYS
HF operating techniques (SSB, CW): WB6EMR, K6PBQ
Legal/FCC rules: WB6YRU
SCCARA (club inner workings): K6PBQ, WB6YRU, WA6QYS
EchoLink: KK6MX

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

W6JPP, John Parks, (408) 309-8709
e-mail: w6jpp@arrl.net

K6PBQ, Don Village, (408) 263-2789
e-mail: donvillage7@yahoo.com

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

WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, (408) 269-2924
packet: home BBS NOARY
e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com

Newsletter Notes

By now I was hoping the *SCCARA-GRAM* would have photos and articles from our Field Day activities, but so far nothing, not even a report on how well we did.

If anyone has something, please don't be bashful.

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 2010

If none of your info has changed, fill in name and call only

Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: E A G 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: _____

Memberships begin January 1 and expire December 31.

If renewing: annual membership dues (base rate) are: \$20 Individual, \$25 Family, \$10 Student (under 18)

For new members:

If joining in January: base rate

If joining in February through October: base rate x (11 - month) x 10% (e.g. for June, that would be: base rate x 50%)

If joining in November or December: free for November and December if paying the base rate for the following year

\$ _____ **Dues payment for:** individual family student

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.