

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County
Amateur Radio Association

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ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, January 9, 2014

ARRL REPLY COMMENTS CITE “FUNDAMENTAL MISUNDERSTANDING” OF “SYMBOL RATE” PETITION

In reply comments filed on its “symbol rate” Petition for Rule Making (RM-11708), the ARRL said comments opposed to its initiative reflect a “fundamental misunderstanding” of the petition's intent. The League's petition now tops the FCC's list of “Most Active Proceedings.” More than 800 comments were filed as of January 7, some of them posted after the December 23 cut-off date and most favoring the ARRL's proposal. The ARRL earlier filed comments with the FCC on its own Petition (plus Erratum). RM-11708 proposes to drop the symbol rate limit in §97.307(f) of the FCC Amateur Service rules, substituting a maximum occupied bandwidth of 2.8 kHz for HF data emissions. The ARRL said those opposing the Petition do not, in general, challenge the removal of the symbol rate limit for data emissions in band segments where RTTY and data emissions are now permitted.

“Rather, they tend to view the proposal to establish a maximum occupied bandwidth of 2.8 kHz for data emissions in the medium-frequency (MF) and high-frequency (HF) bands where data emissions are permitted now as an enabling provision,” the ARRL said. Instead, the League said, its Petition is intended to impose “a limitation on the maximum bandwidth of data emissions where none exists now.” Given state-of-the-art data technologies, the League said, there is no necessary correlation between the symbol rate and the bandwidth of a data emission. The current symbol rate “acts only as a limit on the efficiency of data emissions in the HF bands as a practical matter, and as an artificial and arbitrary filter on the types of emissions that can be utilized by radio amateurs.”

The ARRL said its suggested 2.8 kHz maximum bandwidth reflects a balanced approach that will permit all currently used data emissions, encourage experimentation with data emissions that the current symbol rate restriction prohibits, and preclude the use of wider-bandwidth data emissions that could usurp the limited RTTY/data subbands. Petition opponents, the ARRL went on to say, “offer no evidence” that the rule changes it proposes will lead to a situation where data transmissions overwhelm the subband and preclude narrow bandwidth emission communications.

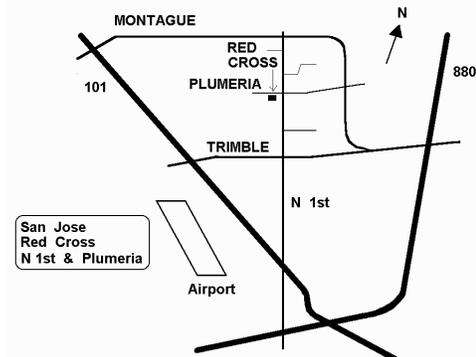
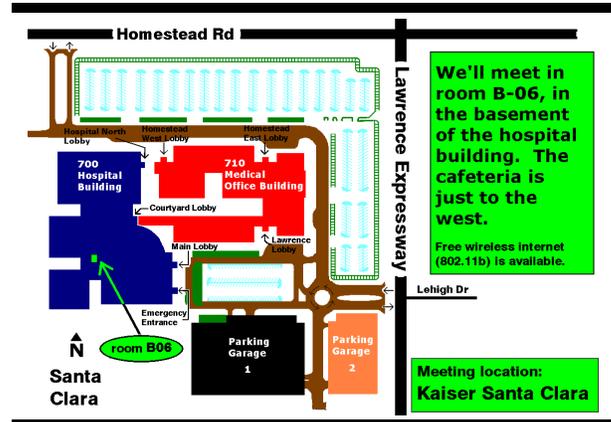
“The Commission has properly chastised the Amateur Service for resisting deregulatory proposals that are designed to enable amateur experimenters to refine and adapt technologies,” the

Calendar

- 2/10 SCCARA General Meeting
2/17 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting

- Day: Monday, Feb. 10, 2014
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, hospital building basement room B-06
Featuring: (to be announced)



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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>. (Webmaster: Wally Britten, KA6YMD, 408-293-3847, ka6ymd@arrl.net)

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(all officers are also directors)

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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 (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.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

League said in its reply comments. "ARRL is of the view that outdated Commission regulations that needlessly preclude experimentation with data technologies should not be preserved. Outdated regulations are not a viable alternative to cooperative sharing arrangements in the HF bands through voluntary band plans."

Some of those opposing its petition, the ARRL went on to say, expressed the belief that the proposed rule change would impose wider-bandwidth data emissions in spectrum where narrow-bandwidth modes such as CW and PSK31 now operate, to the detriment of the narrow-bandwidth modes. Other opponents contended that the Petition will benefit a few operators at the expense of the many now operating narrowband data, RTTY, and CW on the HF bands.

"It is illogical to argue on the one hand that the Petition is intended to benefit 'the few' who are data emission experimenters and users, and on the other hand to predict that the relief requested in the Petition would create a flood of 'wide-bandwidth' data emissions, swamping the band segments used for CW, RTTY, and narrow-bandwidth data emissions," the League pointed out. "If the concern is that the rule changes will encourage more radio amateurs to experiment with data emissions, that would be a positive outcome." The ARRL further asserted that the fear of interference from automatically controlled stations "is not a valid one."

Its Petition, the ARRL concluded, "is not a referendum on the value of MF or HF data emissions or data experimentation in those bands," but intended to encourage experimentation now restricted artificially by outdated rules. "It is instead a proposal to delete outdated limitations on Amateur Radio experimentation, which Commission policy supports, and which the basis and purpose of the Amateur Radio Service necessitates."

ARRL-SPONSORED MEDIUM-FREQUENCY EXPERIMENT CONTINUES AS HAMS HOPE FOR NEW BAND

The ARRL-sponsored medium-frequency experiment, operating as WD2XSH, continues apace in an effort to demonstrate the viability of 472 to 479 kHz as a secondary Amateur Radio allocation. At the same time, the FCC has been silent regarding the ARRL's November 2012 Petition for Rule Making that asked the Commission to make this segment of the spectrum available to radio amateurs in the US. Delegates to the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference approved a 7 kHz-wide secondary allocation between 472 and 479 kHz for the Amateur Radio Service, with a power limit of 5 W EIRP (or 1 W EIRP, depending on location). The FCC has indicated that it will address the issue within the context of its Notice of Proposed Rule Making in ET Docket No 12-338, to formally reflect the Final Acts of WRC 2007 in its rules. In his quarterly WD2XSH update, Experiment Coordinator Fritz Raab, W1FR, reported that 514 contacts -- 10 in the last quarter -- have been logged among those taking part in the experiment across the US.

"As usual, activity increased as conditions improved during the fall. Much of the recent activity has involved WSPR-15," Raab reported. "Reception over significant distances (eg, Europe, Alaska) has been reported. Much of the activity is being undertaken by a few new experimental licensees." Raab noted that WD2XSH participant Brian Justin, WA1ZMS, transmitted Fessenden commemorative broadcasts on AM via his own experimental license, WG2XFQ, during the December holidays.

In the US, the 472-479 kHz band is part of the larger 435-495 kHz segment that is allocated on a primary basis to the Maritime Mobile Service (federal and non-federal users), and on a secondary

basis for federal government aeronautical radionavigation. The ARRL stated in its Petition that it is unaware of any domestic assignments that might conflict with the allocation of 472 to 479 kHz to the Amateur Radio Service, and there is almost no power line carrier (PLC) operation in this band segment. The FCC in 2003 cited the potential for interference to utility-operated PLC systems when it turned down an ARRL petition seeking an LF "sliver band" at 135.7 to 137.8 kHz.

The WD2XSH experiment involves more than three dozen stations and includes all geographic areas of the US, including Alaska and Hawaii. Most of the stations are in the eastern half of the US. Raab has reported no interference issues during the WD2XSH experiment, begun in 2006 and initially using spectrum in the vicinity of 500 kHz. Read more at www.arrl.org/news/arrl-sponsored-medium-frequency-experiment-continues-as-hams-hope-for-new-band.

NEW ARRL SINGLE-OPERATOR UNLIMITED CONTEST CATEGORY NOW IN EFFECT

Responding to many requests, the ARRL Programs and Services Committee in 2013 accepted the Contest Advisory Committee (CAC) recommendation to add the Single-Operator Unlimited category to the ARRL 10 Meter Contest, ARRL 160 Meter Contest, RTTY Roundup, and the IARU HF Championship. "This particular issue has been a long time coming," said CAC Chairman Al Dewey, K0AD.

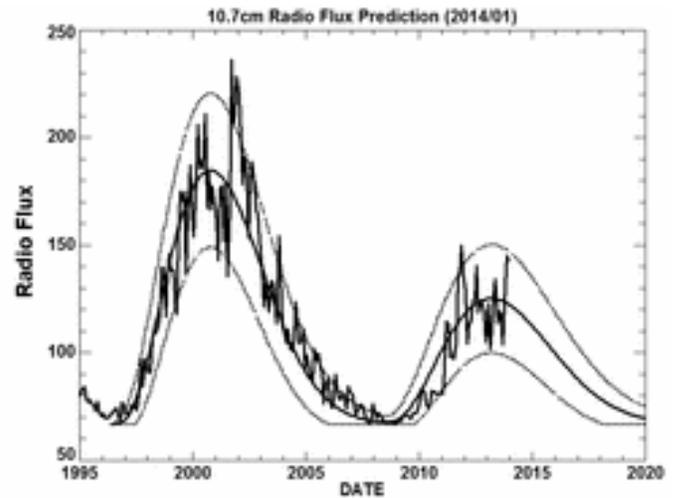
The new category permits the use of spotting information within the Single-Operator class. In the past, using spotting information placed a station in the Multioperator category. Per the revised rules, "Single-Operator Unlimited: The use of spotting assistance or automated, multi-channel decoders is permitted."

SOLAR FLUX RECORD HIGH COULD HERALD BETTER CONDITIONS

The 10.7 centimeter solar flux index (SFI) jumped to a Cycle 24 record of 262 on January 4, suggesting that Cycle 24 has not yet begun drawing to a close and may be approaching or at a "second peak." The previous peak for the current cycle was 190 on September 24, 2011. As NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) explains, the flux of the sun's radio emissions at 10.7 centimeter (2.8 GHz) is another indicator of solar activity levels, since it tends to follow changes in the solar ultraviolet that influence Earth's upper atmosphere and ionosphere.

"Many models of the upper atmosphere use the 10.7 centimeter flux (F10.7) as input to determine atmospheric densities and satellite drag," NASA/MSFC noted, adding that SFI "has been shown to follow the sunspot number quite closely." The January 6 sunspot count was 225. The Cycle 24 sunspot count peaked at 282 on November 17, 2013, according to WM7D.net.

Canada's Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory (DRAO) indicated an "official" flux of 262 at 2000 UTC on Saturday, January 3. The official figure for Sunday, January 5, was 217.5. ARRL solar observer Tad Cook, K7RA, who reports 10.7 centimeter flux numbers in his weekly "Solar Update" bulletins, suggests that they are not as valuable as sunspot numbers in predicting radio propagation. The solar flux was over the January 4-5 weekend was far higher what was anticipated, judging by predictions Cook reported in his January 3 "Solar Update" for this past weekend and the week ahead. NASA/MSFC indicates a 95 percent predicted flux for the month of January at 146.5, continuing at about the same level through the first half of the year.



Solar flux between 1995 and (predicted) 2020. [NASA/MSFC]

The Daily DX said the SFI was expected to remain above 200 for this week. As Ian Poole, G3YWX, explained solar flux in his article, "Understanding Solar Indices" in the September 2002 edition of QST, "[H]igh values generally indicate there is sufficient ionization to support long-distance communication at higher-than-normal frequencies." He pointed out, though, that it can take a few days of high values for conditions to show improvement. "Typically values in excess of 200 will be measured during the peak of a sunspot cycle, with high values of up to 300 being experienced for shorter periods," Poole wrote. For more, see www.arrl.org/news/solar-flux-record-high-could-herald-better-conditions.

From *The ARRL Letter*, January 23, 2014

CANADA TO GET FIVE 60 METER CHANNELS

Industry Canada has granted Amateur Radio operators there the use of five 60 meter channels on a non-interference basis. The center-channel frequencies harmonize with those available to US radio amateurs on 60 meters: 5332 kHz, 5348 kHz, 5358.5 kHz, 5373 kHz, and 5405 kHz.

"[G]iven that use of these frequencies was requested, in part, to allow for cross-border communications in times of emergency," Industry Canada said, "harmonization of the frequencies with the United States would facilitate such communications between the Canadian and the US Amateur Radio communities."

Amateur stations will be restricted to USB, data, RTTY and CW modes, with a maximum bandwidth of 2.8 kHz, and a maximum power output of 100 W ERP -- the same as the US allows.

"Canadian amateur operations shall not cause interference to fixed and mobile operations in Canada or in other countries," Industry Canada ruled, "and, if such interference occurs, the Amateur Service may be required to cease operations. The Amateur Service in Canada may not claim protection from interference by the fixed and mobile operations of other countries."

Elsewhere, Unión de Radioaficionados Españoles (URE) General Secretary Salvador Bernal, EA7SB, reported recently that Spain's telecommunications regulatory agency has authorized the use of several 60 meter frequencies through June 30, 2014. The

authorized center frequencies are 5268, 5295, 5313, 5382, 5430, and 5439 kHz, with a power of 100 W PEP and a maximum bandwidth of 3 kHz. Center channels authorized for the US and Canada differ. The URE is recommending that hams in Spain use USB on 60 meters, the mode employed in most countries authorizing operation on 60 meters.

In the Czech Republic, up to 10 radio amateurs are being permitted to operate on 60 meters on an experimental basis until the end of 2014. This experimental phase of 5 MHz operation follows an initial trial that ended two years ago. Czech Republic radio amateurs holding a special permit may use six channels that are common to many current 5 MHz ham radio allocations. The USB dial frequencies are 5288.5, 5330.5, 5366.5, 5371.5, 5398.5, and 5403.5 kHz. Experimenters will be allowed to operate 100 W ERP on USB and CW (+1.5 kHz from the USB dial frequency). -- Thanks to Industry Canada and Bryan Rawlings, VE3QN, URE and Southgate ARC.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS RELEASES FREE BRAILLE AND AUDIO READING APP

The Library of Congress Braille and Talking Book Program (www.loc.gov/nls/) has a free Braille and Audio Reading Download, BARD, (nlsbard.loc.gov/login/NLS) app for iOS devices available via the iTunes Store. QST is among the available publications that can use this app.

“People who are blind, visually impaired or have a physical disability may now download audio and Braille books to their iPhone, iPad or iPod touch, if they are registered with the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) in the Library of Congress,” the Library of Congress announcement said. NLS is also working on a version of the app for Android devices.

The program permits readers to download audio and Braille books from their NLS BARD accounts. Access to BARD is provided through local cooperating libraries. For QST the program describes every circuit. It lets users adjust speed and tone, and it offers a quick rewind to replay the last few seconds or a minute at a time, as well as fast forward, wind back by phrase, and other features. Users can go directly to articles, skip from section to section within an article, and jump from article to article.

For more info see www.arrl.org/news/library-of-congress-releases-free-braille-and-audio-reading-app

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Jan. 13, 2014



{No minutes received by the deadline. -Editor}

Board Meeting, Jan. 20, 2014



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

The SCCARA BOARD MEETING was called to order by Fred Townsend AE6QL at 19:37

Attendance: President: Fred Townsend AE6QL; Vice President: Gregg Lane KF6FNA; Treasurer: Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Trustee: Don Village K6PBQ; Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Wally Britten KA6YMD, Clark Murphy KE6KXO, Lloyd DeVaughns KD6FJI, Janet Motha KF6PUQ; Absences: Secretary Viki Moldenhauer KI6WDS(excused); Visitors: Gwen Steirer KF6OTD.

Announcements: Fred AE6QL announced: SVECS Quarterly Breakfast is Saturday Jan. 25, 2014. Anyone willing to help out should show up at the Santa Clara Senior Center at 7:30. The \$5 all you can eat breakfast is at 09:00, speaker at 10:00.

The SCCARA club station at the Red Cross on Plumeria St., San Jose, will be open after the SVECS breakfast.

The next SCCARA General Meeting is Feb. 10, 2014.

The next SCCARA BOD Meeting is Feb. 17, 2014

Secretary's Report: The Dec. 2013 BOD Meeting was canceled, so there were no minutes to approve.

Treasurer's Report: Goetz K6GKB handed out the balance sheet for 1-20-2014:

checking = 4,510.54
savings = 500.07
cash = 490.88
total = \$5,501.49

Trustee's Report: Don K6PBQ is in the process of renewing the FCC License for the club station. The club station will be open Sat. Jan 25, 2014 after the SVECS breakfast. Also, SCCARA received a new AMSAT book which will be kept in the radio room at the Red Cross.

Don also reported that 22 people showed up for the Christmas Dinner. At the dinner Bob Valio W6RGG, ARRL Pacific Division Director, donated a Repeater Directory to SCCARA. Clark KE6KXO suggested that it could be raffled off at the Feb. General Membership Meeting. The suggestion had unanimous support.

Vice Presidents Report: Gregg KF6FNA has not yet gotten confirmation for the Feb. speaker. It will be announced on the SCCARA Monday night Net.

Presidents Report: Fred AE6QL welcomed new board members Janet KF6PUQ and Lloyd KD6FJI. Fred asked the board members for ideas on increasing SCCARA membership. For Field Day 2014 Fred is researching new location possibilities. He mentioned Almaden Lake and Persona Lake, stating that he was looking for less wind and more amenities. He also announced that Dennis KJ6ZZJ had contacted him to, once again, offer SCCARA the use of a diesel generator from Hertz (SCCARA pays for fuel.) Fred then gave a report on the 11-19-2013 Leadership Meeting he had attended at Livermore, CA.

Newsletter: no report

BBS: no report

Property List: no report

Web page: Wally KA6YMD will announce meeting locations on the web page since meeting rooms will vary in 2014.

General Meeting Room: Lou WA6QYS stated that Kaiser has moved most of the SCCARA General Membership Meetings to Room B-06 in the basement of the Hospital Building. Three exceptions are March 10 and Nov. 10 to be in C1/C2 and Sept. 8 to be in B1/B2, both locations in the Medical Building Ground

Floor. Check the SCCARA web page and monitor the SCCARA Monday night 2M net for location updates.

Old Business: none

New Business: After discussion, it was decided that at the 2014 Holiday Banquet there will not be a formal prayer. Perhaps a moment of silence for those who wish to say their own prayer would be more appropriate.

Fred AE6QL adjourned the meeting at 20:57

On behalf of the SCCARA BOD I would like to thank our secretary Viki KI6WDS for her Holiday "care package." Viki mailed a Danish pastry called a "Kringle" that was heated up and served at the Jan. BoD meeting. Fred AE6QL chose to delay the start of the meeting until everyone regained their composure (and stopped moaning.) It was that good! Thank you for thinking of us and looking forward to your return.

Gregg KF6FNA, recording secretary

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
License testing, new amateurs: W6JPP

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

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====
Date: 21 May 2010 11:57
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Dangers of Technology

At a recent Sacramento PC User's Group meeting, a company was demonstrating its latest speech-recognition software. A representative from the company was just about ready to start the demonstration and asked everyone in the room to quiet down.

Just then someone in the back of the room yelled, "Format C: Return."

Someone else chimed in: "Yes, Return."

Unfortunately, the software worked perfectly.

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 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 from the club secretary.

Antennas, feed-lines, tuners: WB6EMR, W6JPP, K6PBQ, WB6YRU

Newsletter Notes

The meeting map (front page) has changed slightly—we'll meet in the basement of the main hospital building now. Just head toward the south west part of the building, near the cafeteria.

The *SCCARA-GRAM* is a little thin on local content this time. It would be nice to have the **Work in Progress** column back, but Goetz tells me no one has submitted anything. Isn't there something you're working on that you'd like to share with the rest of us?

How about a Q&A column? If you're working on a project and need some advice, would you find that useful? Or if you're knowledgeable on one or more topics, would you be interested in providing some answers?

If there's some other feature you'd like to see in the *SCCARA-GRAM*, let me know. However, keep in mind the information will have to come from somewhere—I don't just somehow magically pull it out of thin air. Watch out for copyrighted material, that will require written permission.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor



SCCARA

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association
PO Box 106
SAN JOSE CA 95103-0106

Affiliate of the ARRL,
American Radio Relay League



FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SCCARA Membership Form for 2014
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: _____

make sure your e-mail is legible and correct if you want the newsletter by internet

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
(costs the club about \$35/year)

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