

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 31, Number 5

May 2015



One Last Time

Years ago I bought an ICOM 4-KL amplifier, a beautiful beast that cranks out 1250 effortless watts. This from eight NPN transistors arranged in two sets of four that are protected in every possible way from SWR mismatches or even no antenna at all. It even has an antenna tuner that gets band switching information from my Icom IC-775DSP transceiver that follows me wherever I tune. And here is where my problem began. It stopped tuning the 80 meter and 160 meter bands, hunting endlessly with no tuning solution found.

When I had a previous problem with this amplifier I phoned ICOM USA, then in Bellevue Washington, and they said they did not work on this unit. Instead they gave me the name of a super tech sent from Japan to help them out. He had stopped working for them and gone into business for himself. Thus did I hook up with Kuni Okuma in Poulsbo Washington. Doing business as Comtek Radio Repair, he became a legend with his quick and reasonably priced work. Originally he fixed the switching power supply in my 4-KL for which ICOM did not even have a circuit diagram!

Unfortunately, Kuni has retired and is taking no more business. What to do? So I sent Kuni an email, reminding him of his previous work for me and asked if maybe he would do just one more repair. To my delight he said yes. This 4-KL weighs just shy of 80 pounds. Truly a hernia looking for a place to happen and not something to be entrusted to UPS or FedEx. What better excuse for a nice car ride through the great northwest? Using the best lifting techniques, I hefted the 4-KL into the back seat of my car and wrapped it securely with seat belts right and left.

I headed up the east bay, crossed the San Rafael Bridge and proceeded north on US 101. Interstate 5 seemed just too generic and violated my rules of travel. The road through Santa Rosa, Ukiah, Garberville and on to Fortuna is just a beautiful drive. I got off 101 and took the Redwood Highway, called the Avenue of the Giants. There is barely room for two way traffic as the monster coastal redwoods squeeze in from both sides. You are in a tunnel of darkness as the 200 foot plus trees obscure the sky. Eventually, like Ronald Reagan before me, I had seen enough and returned to US 101 with an overnight in Arcata on the coast.

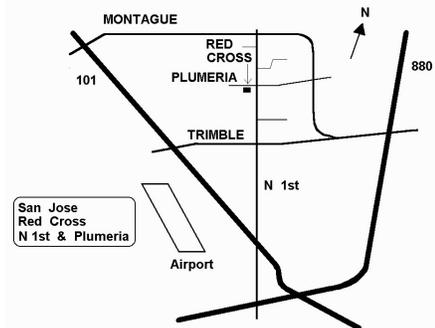
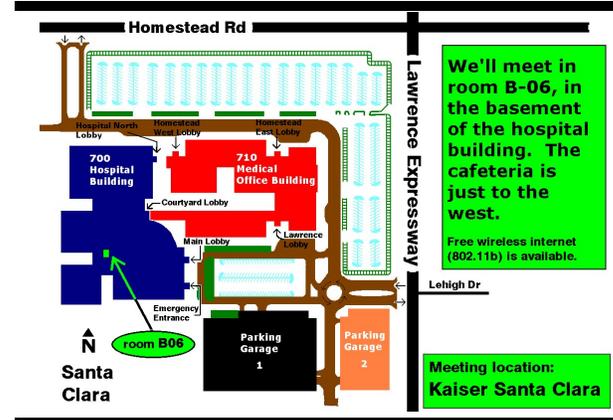
The next day I took California 96 back to I5 and then up to Ashland Oregon. Highway 96 follows the Klamath River, a breathtaking road and would be the perfect motorcycle ride. I spent the night with a friend in Shakespeare Town, the festival well underway. After a gas fill up at Costco in Medford, I violated all

Calendar

- 5/11 SCCARA General Meeting
5/18 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting

- Day: Monday, May 11, 2015
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Hospital B-06
Featuring: Members -- Home Brew Night



The **SCCARA-GRAM** is published monthly by the **SANTA CLARA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**, PO Box 106, San Jose CA 95103-0106. 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>. (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

my rules and took I5 to Tacoma, then across the infamous "Galloping Gertie Bridge" to Poulsbo where I dropped off the amplifier with a friendly waiting Kuni. Not knowing how long the repair would take I decided to visit Viki (KI6WDS), our club ex-secretary, who now lives in Idaho. I blasted through eastern Seattle and spent the night in Ellensburg. Interstate 90 is a wonderful drive through the Cascades, superbly engineered and legally 70 MPH all the way.

The trip through eastern Washington to Lewiston Idaho takes you through some of the plushest farmland imaginable. The rolling hills are plowed from horizon to horizon and ample rainfall produces an abundance of wheat. After forever you come to the north rim of Hells Canyon and you look down 6000 feet on the town of Lewiston and the snake river. I took the old winding road down the face of the cliff, but the new highway bypasses the town and lets you drive at 70 MPH. Going east, I followed the Clearwater River of Lewis and Clark fame toward Viki's family ranch. Viki could not be more obscurely hidden from the outside world if the witness protection program had made all the arrangements. This is the way she likes it, but I cheated on my last visit using my android phone to capture the longitude and latitude of the front porch of the main house. Putting these two numbers back into the phone, I followed the Clearwater River all the way to the ranch.

I spent three days and two nights with Viki and her sister, both in total overload managing the 13 baby goats that have been born this spring. This along with the two steer, the horse, the guinea hens and chicken coop, and the two are only getting four hours sleep a night. Using a land line to check my cell phone messages, no AT&T of course, Kuni had left a message saying my amplifier was ready for pickup. So back the way I came, using Google Maps on my cell phone to guide me. Imagine my surprise when I ended up at the downtown Seattle waterfront and the phone politely told me to take the ferry! Not knowing whether there was room for my car was taxing, but this was the largest ferry in the system and I was one of the 140 cars to get on board. I got off on Bainbridge Island and then spent the night in Poulsbo. Downtown Poulsbo, like the thousands of others in Puget Sound, is a delightful boutique town.

Next morning I picked up my amplifier from Kuni who let me know that he will do no further repairs, a sad pronouncement indeed. So I went north, crossing the Hood Canal Floating Bridge. The bridge had opened up to allow a tug and barge to pass through. This allowed me to see how a floating concrete bridge handles this problem. The steel cantilevered road sections lift vertically up and the center pontoons withdraw under the lifted roadway. Very clever. From there I went around the Olympic Peninsula and back down the coast till I reached home. I stuck my nose into every little town, shipyard and airport, they being way up on my list of interests. Lots of beautiful country, a refreshing alternative to city living and bad news on TV. My Camry performed flawlessly and the on board Icom 706 allowed me to join the Rhubarb Net every day, even from Viki's ranch. The 4-KL is back in the shack and working perfectly. Let's hope it stays that way, because I don't know who else can fix it.

Goetz Brandt, K6GKB

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 9, 2015

ARRL to FCC: Amateurs and Vehicular Radars Can Play Nicely Together on 77-81 GHz

In comments filed on April 6 in response to a February FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Reconsideration Order (NPRM&RO) in ET Docket 15-26, the ARRL has told the Commission that it should make no change in the Amateur Radio allocation at 76-81 GHz and impose no additional regulatory constraints on Amateur or Amateur-Satellite uses of the band. The League said the FCC should proceed with authorizing short-range radar (SRR) systems for automotive applications in the band under Part 15 rules, and that such applications are compatible with amateur operations in the band.

In its NPRM&RO, the FCC solicited comment on issues involving expanded use of various radar applications in the 76-81 GHz band, which Amateur Radio shares with other services. The band 77.5-78 GHz is allocated to the Amateur and Amateur Satellite services on a primary basis, and to the Radio Astronomy and Space Research services on a secondary basis. The NPRM&RO was in response to a 2012 Petition for Rulemaking (RM-11666) by Robert Bosch LLC and to two petitions for reconsideration of a 2012 Report and Order (R&O) addressing vehicular radar systems in the 76-77 GHz band. ET 15-26 incorporated earlier proceedings.

In its comments, the ARRL suggested that the FCC overreached in proposing unjustifiable changes at 77-81 GHz on its own initiative.

“There is not, anywhere in the four corners of the Bosch Petition for Rule Making or in any comments that have been filed thus far in response to RM-11666, any suggestion that there is any incompatibility between Amateur Radio operation and automotive radars,” the ARRL said. “Quite the contrary.” The League said a credible, current ITU study has “definitively established” compatibility between short-range automotive radars and Amateur Radio.

The ARRL said Bosch's filing of its Petition followed “extensive discussions and technical evaluations between ARRL and Bosch” that making spectrum at 77-81 GHz available for automotive radars “would have no significant impact on the Amateur Radio Service.” Bosch, the League pointed out, “did not propose a domestic spectrum allocation for vehicular radar devices and systems,” just modification of the FCC Part 15 rules to permit vehicular radars at 78-81 GHz on the same basis that these radars now operate in the US at 76-77 GHz -- on a non-allocated, non-interference basis.

The ARRL said that no changes are necessary in the Amateur Radio domestic primary allocation at 77.5-78 GHz or in the secondary amateur allocation at 77-77.5 GHz or 78-81 GHz to accommodate automotive radar systems at 77-81 GHz. “Nor are any additional Part 97 rules necessary to accommodate compatible sharing of that band between radio amateurs and automotive radar systems,” the League added. “Indeed, that is the position of the United States in anticipation of consideration of WRC-15 agenda item 1.18 later this year.”

The League characterized as “both premature and poor spectrum management” the FCC's proposal to unilaterally permit unspecified fixed radar systems throughout the 76-81 GHz band “without the benefit of any completed, definitive studies relative to the compatibility of fixed radar systems with automotive radar, radioastronomy and/or Amateur Radio in this band.”

Any consideration of fixed radars at 77-81 GHz, the League said, “should await the completion of conclusive, refereed compatibility studies that credibly establish compatibility with incumbent services.”

WWV's 25 MHz Signal Still Going Strong After One Year Back on the Air

Time and frequency standard station WWV silenced its 25 MHz signal in 1977, but it returned to the air on an “experimental basis” a year ago, and it's still up and running. Resurrecting the long-dormant standard time outlet operated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) was Matt Deutch, NORGT, WWV's Lead Electrical Engineer.

“We have been at 1 kW for the past year,” Deutch told ARRL. “We have had a few hiccups, but nothing serious.” Deutch said he was pleased to see the 25 MHz signal included in a recent QST article, “just like the good ol' days” (see “Measuring Frequencies at VE3GSO,” in the April 2015 issue of QST, p 37).

“Here at the site we have even been discussing giving the 25 MHz signal its own antenna again,” Deutch said. “The ham in me wants to give it something more exotic than a plain ol' boring dipole. But what antenna could it be?” Deutch said he was inspired by the article “Amateur Radio Science” by Eric Nichols, KL7AJ, in the February 2013 issue of QST, which asked hams to do more to advance and contribute to the radio art, “but the gears in my brain are still turning,” Deutch said.

The return of WWV's 25 MHz outlet came about after Dean Lewis, W9WGV, lamented its loss last year in an e-mail to Deutch, who surprised him by putting the signal back on the air, initially temporarily. The 25 MHz signal not only provides another option to check your frequency calibration or the exact time, it also can serve to indicate the state of propagation on 12 and 10 meters. Deutch said the WWV 25 MHz signal still gets signal reports from across the Atlantic.

WWV has invited listeners' comments and signal reports (www@nist.gov).

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 16, 2015

Switching Power Supplies a More Common Noise Source than Power Lines, ARRL Lab Manager Says

ARRL Laboratory Manager and EMI Expert Ed Hare, W1RFI, told the HamRadioNow webcast recently that switching-mode power supplies are a more common noise source for radio amateurs than electrical power lines. HamRadioNow host Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, interviewed Hare on April 4 at the Raleigh, North Carolina, RARSfest, where Hare also presented a forum, “Tall Tales from the ARRL Lab.” Hare told Pearce that switching-mode power supplies are in -- or provide power for -- many home electronics these days.

“The old days of those iron transformers are gone,” Hare said. “Every single one of these is a switcher. We're also seeing noise from pulse-width control motors.” Hare said the big culprits are “little wall warts,” not switching supplies designed to power Amateur Radio gear. “Every TV you own has a built-in switcher, almost every device has a wall wart, and a lot of these are imported, not necessarily meeting the FCC rules, so we're seeing more reports involving those,” he said.

Hare also told HamRadioNow that a few LED-type lightbulbs that are becoming more common also can be noise-generators, as are “grow lights” used for cultivating plants indoors. He said that the ARRL Lab can work with manufacturers to correct these problems, but the Lab needs model numbers and “specific information about the problems amateurs are having, so that we can put some of our resources toward helping.”

Many interference issues can be resolved without FCC intervention, Hare said, noting that Commission enforcement is the last step, if other efforts fail. "We've been told by Laura Smith [of the FCC Enforcement Bureau] that she's going to continue to be engaged in this," he said, "so we're going to continue to send problems [in] that direction."

Hams experiencing RF interference problems can contact the ARRL Laboratory by contacting Ed Hare or ARRL Lab EMC Specialist Mike Gruber, W1MG. The complete interview with Hare is in Episode 196 at www.hamradionow.tv.

-- Thanks to Gary Pearce, KN4AQ/HamRadioNow

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 23, 2015

FCC Proposes to Make Past Amateur Radio Address Information Private

The FCC is seeking comments on a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 15-81 that would restrict routine public inspection of an Amateur Radio licensee's address history. The proposal, released March 31, calls for removing from public view in the Universal Licensing System (ULS) Amateur Radio licensee address information not associated with a current license or pending application.

"We believe that these steps will enhance Amateur Radio operators' privacy without undermining the public interest in knowing who is authorized to operate on amateur spectrum," the FCC said in the NPRM.

The proposed change would not affect public access to a licensee's current address information, which would remain available.

"We believe that publicly available licensee address information facilitates the Amateur Radio community's self-regulation and maintains the distinction between the Amateur Service and other radio services," the FCC said in the NPRM.

The Wireless Bureau also solicited public input on whether it should extend the same approach to individual licensees in any other radio services.

The FCC said that it has, in recent years, received occasional requests from amateur licensees to remove their address information from public access in the ULS. "These requests are not granted, because Section 0.453(d)(4) requires that the information be available for public inspection in ULS," the Commission explained.

The FCC noted in the NPRM that the ULS includes not only current authorizations and pending applications, but expired, canceled, or terminated licenses; archived versions of active licenses, and applications that have not been processed. "Information available on ULS includes a licensee's name and address, and technical information about the authorization requested or granted," the NPRM explained.

The FCC pointed out that an Amateur Radio licensee is not required to provide a home address, just a valid mailing address. "Those who are concerned about their residential address appearing in ULS may use, among other alternatives, a post office box, a business address, the address of another property the licensee owns, or the address of a friend or relative as their mailing address," the NPRM suggested.

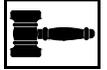
The FCC acknowledged that for a licensee whose residential address may already appear in ULS, this approach "offers only a

partial solution," the NPRM said, "because replacing the address on a current license does not remove the old address information from archived licenses and processed applications, and it remains publicly viewable even if the license expires or is canceled or otherwise terminated."

Comments are due in the proceeding by June 16, with reply comments due on July 16.

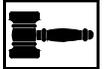
Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, April 13, 2015



{no minutes received by the deadline. -- Editor}

Board Meeting, April 20, 2015



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

The SCCARA BOARD MEETING was called to order by President Fred Townsend AE6QL at 19:47.

Attendance: President Fred Townsend AE6QL; Vice President/Secretary Gregg Lane KF6FNA; Treasurer Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Trustee Don Village K6PBQ; Directors Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Wally Britten KA6YMD, Lloyd DeVaughns KD6FJI, Clark Murphy KE6KXO and Richard Clare WB6EWM. Visitors Gwen Steirer KF6OTD and Paul Gorny KK6HWN.

Announcements: 1) SVECS QUARTERLY BREAKFAST, Saturday, April 25, 2015. 07:30 set up, 09:00 breakfast, 10:00 program. 2) MS Walk, Vasona Park, 7-12 noon, April 25, 2015. 3) Big Sur International Marathon April 26, 2015. 4) Field Day walk through at Vasona, April 20, 2015. Time TBD. 5) Field Day at Vasona June 26-28, 2015.

Secretary's Report: Gregg KF6FNA 1) March Meeting Minutes approved as published in the SCCARA-GRAM. 2) New member kits will be available at the May General Meeting. 3) New club rosters passed out by Wally KA6YMD.

Treasurer's Report: Goetz K6GKB 1) Submitted the following account balances as of 4/20/2015. Checking = 5,839.51, savings = 500.07, cash = 432.04, TOTAL = \$6,771.07. 2) SCCARA has e-filed State and Federal Tax Forms. 3) Submitted to California corporate directors forms. 4) Goetz received an antenna rotor donated to SCCARA. He will check it out.

Trustee's Report: Don K6PBQ stated that the club station would be open on the last Saturday of April.

Vice President's Report: Gregg KF6FNA announced that May would be Home Brew Night at the General Meeting. June will be about Field Day. Also the ARRL Section Manager will speak in June.

President's Report: Fred AE6QL 1) will draft a letter to Union Bank and Fred AE6QL, Goetz K6GKB, and Gregg KF6FNA will present the letter to the Union Bank to update SCCARA's Bank signature cards. 2) Field Day walk through at Vasona will be April 29, 2015. 3) Fred, Goetz and Gregg will pick up some donated

electronic/ham parts from Gary Pace.

Repeater Report: SCCARA's new repeater needs new coax cables. Goetz will do research.

New Buisness: New Field Day Software is needed. Paul KK6HWN will research.

Adjourned at 20:36

Gregg Lane KF6FNA Secretary

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====
Date: 3 Jul 2010 02:35
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Divorce?

An elderly man in Phoenix calls his son Bob in New York and says, "I hate to ruin your day, but your mother and I are divorcing. Forty-five years of misery is enough! I'm sick of her, and I'm sick of talking about this, so call your sister in Boston and tell her," and then hangs up.

The son frantically calls his sister, who goes nuts upon hearing the news.

She calls her father and yells, "You are not getting a divorce! Bob and I will be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a single thing, do you hear me?"

The father hangs up the phone, turns to his wife, and says, "It worked! The kids are coming for a visit, and they're paying their own way!"

=====
Date: 2 Jun 2010 02:42
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: Death and Taxes

A businessman on his deathbed called his friend and said, "Bill, I want you to promise me that when I die you will have my remains cremated."

"And what," his friend asked, "do you want me to do with your ashes?"

The businessman said, "Just put them in an envelope and mail them to the Internal Revenue Service, and write on the envelope, 'Now you have everything!'"

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.

Topics:

Antennas, feed-lines, tuners: NV6W, 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: NV6W, K6PBQ
DX (long distance/propagation): NV6W
Emergency operating/preparedness: WA6QYS
HF operating techniques (SSB, CW): NV6W, K6PBQ
Legal/FCC rules: WB6YRU
SCCARA (club inner workings): K6PBQ, WB6YRU, WA6QYS
EchoLink: KK6MX
License testing, new amateurs: W6JPP

Contacts:

NV6W, James D. Armstrong, Jr.,
evening & msg: 408-670-1680

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 N0ARY
e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com

Newsletter Notes

It hasn't been publicize much, but the May meeting will be for and by YOU. It's members' night – bring your projects for show and tell.

Late breaking news is that Amateur Radio may finally get some LF spectrum, around 137 kHz. And there may finally be some movement regarding the 630 m segment too. Watch for more details in the June SCCARA-GRAM.

Remember Field Day is coming up, June 27 and 28. As usual, SCCARA will start setting up June 26. Look for more info in the next issue, and we'll be talking about it at the June 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 Form for 2015
 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: _____

 You'll get a short e-mail notice each month letting you know a new SCCARA-GRAM (pdf) is ready for download.

Memberships start January 1 and expire December 31. Annual dues are: **\$20 Individual \$25 Family \$10 Student** (under 18)
 For family memberships (members at the same address), please include the above info for each member, (use separate forms).

New members:

- If joining in January: normal dues
- If joining in February through October: dues x (11 - month) x 10% (e.g. for July, that's: \$20 x 4 x 0.1, which is \$8)
- If joining in November or December: normal dues. That's for next year, and the rest of this year is included free

I want the newsletter on paper delivered by U.S. Mail for an additional \$30 per year, prorated (\$2.50 per month).
 So that's \$27.50 if starting in February, \$25 if starting in March, \$22.50 if starting in April, \$20 starting in May, etc.

\$ _____ Total membership payment for: individual family student

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