

SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 31, Number 11

November 2015



November Meeting

The speaker for the November 9, 2015 meeting will be Ned AC6YY who will be speaking on DIGITAL MODES. Ned was first licensed for Amateur Radio in the former Yugoslavia and quickly passed his test for Extra Class when he moved to the U.S.A. Ned is an active DXer and Contester and enjoys working portable.

Gregg KF6FNA

December Meeting

Our annual holiday meeting will be a luncheon on Saturday December 12th at 12:00 noon. This year our luncheon will be at Michael's at Shoreline 2960 North Shoreline Blvd in Mt. View..(east on Shoreline next to the golf course.)

We will also be having a gift exchange. The way it works is that everyone brings a wrapped gift suitable for a man or women costing about \$10.00. This type of exchange is always a lot of fun to participate in.

Reservation need to be in by Monday Dec. 7th (see the sign up sheet). Talk in will be on our repeater, W6UU 146.985(+). Why not renew your membership at the same time? I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there.

73, Don Village K6PBQ

ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, Oct 1, 2015

League Reiterates Call for FCC to Allocate 630 Meters, Okay Rules for 2200 Meters

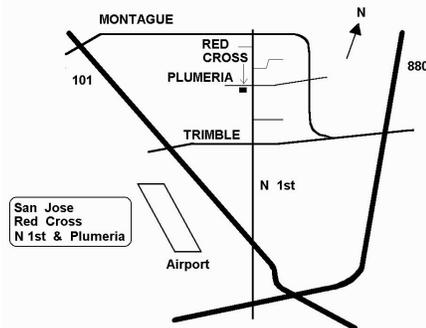
The ARRL has again urged the FCC to go forward with a proposed new Amateur Radio allocation at 472-479 kHz (630 meters) and to establish service rules for Amateur Radio operation at 135.7-137.8 kHz (2200 meters). The League reiterated its August 31 arguments (<http://www.arrl.org/files/media/News/Docket%2015-99%20Comments%20of%20ARRL.pdf>) in favor of flexible FCC Part 97 regulations in its September 30 reply comments (<http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/comment/view?id=60001300718>) to the FCC's April Report and Order, Order, and Notice of Proposed

Calendar

- 11/9 SCCARA General Meeting -- club elections
- 11/16 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

General Meeting

Day: Monday, November 9, 2015
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Hospital B-06
Featuring: Ned AC6YY on Digital Modes



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)

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS
(all officers are also directors)

President	Fred Townsend, AE6QL	408-263-8768
	e-mail: ae6ql@arrl.net	
Vice President	Greg Lane KF6FNA	408-393-5607
	e-mail: kf6fna@comcast.net	
Past President	Don Steinbach, AE6PM	408-867-3912
	e-mail: ae6pm@arrl.net	
Secretary	Greg Lane KF6FNA	408-393-5607
	e-mail: kf6fna@comcast.net	
Treasurer	Goetz Brandt, K6GKB	408-259-7287
	e-mail: goetz@ix.netcom.com	
Station Trustee	Don Village, K6PBQ	408-263-2789
	e-mail: donvillage7@yahoo.com	
Director	Clark Murphy, KE6KXO	408-262-9334
	e-mail: clarkmurph@yahoo.com	
Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	408-241-7999
	e-mail: wa6qys@aol.com	
Director	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	408-293-3847
	e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net	
Director	Richard Clare WB6EWM	
	e-mail: crrr@pacbell.net	
Director	Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI	408-225-6769
	e-mail: kd6fji@arrl.net	

COMMITTEES

Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	408-269-2924
	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	
Repeater	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	408-293-3847
	e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net	
N0ARY BBS	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	408-269-2924
	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 (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

Rulemaking (R&O/NPRM) in ET Docket 15-99. That R&O/NPRM raised several questions regarding how Amateur Radio might coexist with PLC systems used to control the power grid. Targeting comments filed by the Utilities Telecom Council (UTC), the ARRL called on the Commission to ignore UTC's call not to allocate 630 meters to Amateur Radio. It asked the FCC to implement a notification procedure for amateur stations within 1 kilometer (0.62 miles) of a transmission line carrying PLC and where the PLC system is operating on frequencies within or which overlap the 2200 or 630 meter bands.

"The comments of UTC, without the benefit of any technical component or argument, oppose the allocation of the 630 meter band to the Amateur Service, and suggest overly and unnecessarily conservative regulation of amateur operation in the 2200 meter band," the ARRL told the FCC. "Whatever protection criteria are ultimately deemed to be necessary with respect to the 2200 meter band, those criteria would be applicable and sufficient as well with respect to the 630 meter band," the ARRL said. "There is no technical justification offered by UTC for withholding the 630 meter allocation."

The ARRL also urged the FCC to reject what it called "UTC's inchoate proposal" to elevate the unlicensed status of PLCs operating between 9 and 490 kHz, purportedly to protect them from interference "caused by amateur operations," while not making any accommodations to address PLC interference to Amateur Radio operations. "UTC cannot have it both ways: It cannot enjoy the benefits of unlicensed operation under Part 15 of the Commission's rules as a carrier-current, unintentional emitter and at the same time claim the protection afforded an allocated, licensed radio service," the ARRL argued.

While the UTC has offered to work with the FCC, the ARRL characterized the UTC's comments as "distinctly unhelpful" in terms of providing information regarding the prevalence and location of PLCs that need protection, the interference potential from Amateur Radio operation and notification requirements, and just how much protection the PLCs actually need. "They are not responsive at all to the plethora of questions asked by the Commission in the Notice," the ARRL continued, "and those points that UTC makes are unsubstantiated."

The League said it's willing to work with utilities in setting up a notification procedure to address the unlikely possibility that Amateur Radio operations in the two bands might interfere with critical PLC systems.

"In order to implement this, UTC should be called upon to provide to ARRL or to the general public, a list of transmission lines carrying PLC which make use of either of the two subject bands, thus to facilitate notification," the ARRL reply comments said.

The League concluded by calling on the FCC to allocate 630 meters to Amateur Radio, as proposed in the Notice, reject UTC's proposal to elevate the status of PLCs, and implement a notification procedure for amateur stations within 1 kilometer of a transmission line carrying PLC in or near the two bands, and to make the LF and MF allocation changes in Part 2 and the Part 97 service rule changes, "as proposed by ARRL and not otherwise."

From *The ARRL Letter*, Oct 15, 2015

ARRL Asks FCC to Clarify that Hams May Modify Non-Amateur Gear for Amateur Use

The ARRL has asked the FCC to make clear that Amateur Radio licensees may modify non-amateur equipment for use on Amateur

Radio frequencies. Some hams have expressed concerns that recently proposed rules would inhibit post-sale modification of Wi-Fi equipment, now sometimes altered for use on Amateur Radio frequencies. The ARRL made its point in comments filed on October 8 on a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in ET Docket 15-170 and RM-11673. The proceeding mostly addresses proposed amendments to FCC rules regarding authorization of RF equipment.

"The Commission should clarify...that the ability of licensed radio amateurs to modify and adapt non-amateur equipment for use in the Amateur Service is beneficial, is permitted, and is not restricted by any rule of general applicability adopted in this proceeding," the League said in its comments. The ARRL said proposed rules requiring manufacturers to include security features to prevent network devices from being modified were "problematic," to the extent that they would preclude hams from adapting network equipment for ham radio applications.

"The Amateur Radio Service has a very long tradition of modification and adaptation of commercial communications equipment," the ARRL pointed out in its comments, asserting that amateur licensees should be permitted to modify any previously authorized equipment for use under Amateur Service rules. The proceeding attracted many comments regarding this aspect of the proceeding, although the proposed rules differ only slightly from the current rules.

The ARRL also urged the FCC not to apply any limitations proposed for software defined radios to SDRs intended for use exclusively in the Amateur Radio Service, "as has been the policy for the past 10 years."

Equipment Authorization

The League has also called on the Commission not to combine the Declaration of Conformity (DoC) and Verification equipment authorization procedures into a single, self-approval program. The League said the proposal could lead to abuse by unscrupulous importers and manufacturers of unintentional emitters. Under the proposed rules, the FCC would do away with its DoC authorization program by combining it with equipment Verification to form a so-called "Suppliers Declaration of Conformity" category of equipment authorization. Testing in an accredited laboratory would not be required, nor would database registration or third-party review. The ARRL expressed concerns that the new regime would encourage and facilitate the introduction into the US of "non-compliant unintentional emitters" and offer no oversight.

In its comments, the League said hams and AM broadcasters have been victims of interference from such unintentional emitters as RF lighting ballasts "that routinely exceed the Commission's conducted emission limits." The ARRL said the solution is "not to loosen but to tighten the procedural controls over the testing and affirmative confirmations of compliance" to ensure greater compliance in conducted limits and other technical parameters that determine how much such devices contribute to ambient noise levels.

The League said some RF devices, such as RF "grow lights," now subject to the more informal Verification process, should be subject to Certification, owing to their substantial interference potential.

Improved Labeling for Part 15 and Part 18 Devices

The ARRL also said there is "an urgent need" for improved labeling requirements for certain Part 15 and Part 18 devices. "Necessitating change, notably, is the fact that there are many industrial Part 18 devices sold that are neither intended nor

designed for use in residential environments, but because there is no external labeling...the end user consumer is left without guidance," the ARRL said, noting that, in most cases, equipment retailers are not providing any either.

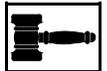
In July, the ARRL complained to the FCC about the marketing practices of various "big box" retailers, where non-consumer-rated lighting ballasts have been mixed in with consumer ballasts and other consumer products on display with no explanatory signage. Ballasts intended for industrial applications have higher permitted conducted emission limits in the Amateur Radio HF spectrum. The League called on the FCC to include a definition in Part 18 for the term "consumer RF lighting device," to provide a way to differentiate consumer devices from those intended for industrial or commercial environments.

The League also said the FCC should consider reducing its Part 15 limits for lighting devices to correspond with the Part 18 lighting device limits between 3 and 30 MHz to reduce the RFI potential of LED bulbs now being widely marketed, "before they become an aggregate problem." LED lamps operate under Part 15 rules.

The ARRL said the FCC should adopt the League's new equipment-labeling proposals with respect to certain Part 15 and Part 18 equipment "in order to stop the flood of such devices intended for commercial or industrial areas only into residential areas."

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Oct. 12, 2015



KAISER SANTA CLARA HOSPITAL, ROOM B-06

President Fred Townsend AE6QL called the meeting to order at 19:50. Introductions were made.

Announcements:

Fred AE6QL 1) stated that SCCARA NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS would be tonight. 2) PACIFICON 2015 is this weekend. There will be a Saturday Ham Class with a free test on Sunday.

Lou WA6QYS announced Oct. 24, 2015 as the next SVECS BREAKFAST. The speakers will be Rod Pharis and Terry Cummings WA6WCB from South County Airport Pilots Association Disaster Airlift Response Team. Five dollar all you can eat breakfast at 09:00, program at 10:00. \$125 DOOR PRIZE DRAWING and RAFFLE to follow. Please RSVP.

Don K6PBQ stated that the CLUB STATION will be open on the last Saturday of October. In November the CLUB STATION will be open on the 7th for the CW SWEEPSTAKES and on the 21st for the PHONE SWEEPSTAKES.

Don AE6PM stated that on NOVEMBER 21st there will be a no charge TECHNITION CLASS from 08:00 till 16:00 followed by a test that has a \$15 FEE. The class will be in Los Gatos. See Don for details.

Therese Nemeth stated that 1) KKUP has a web site at www.KKUP.com and .org. 2) Therese will be the CD JOCKEY for KKUP this Sunday from 11 Am till 1 PM for a MARITIME PROGRAM. 3) KKUP has a PUBLIC SERVICE/ OUTREACH program for PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS that SCCARA can

take advantage of.

Don K6PBQ reminded the club to send in RESERVATIONS for the HOLIDAY LUNCHEON at MICHEAL'S RESTERANT , DECEMBER 12th at 12:00 noon. The meal is \$25 and there will be a \$10 GIFT EXCHANGE.

NOMINATIONS:

Fred stated that he would take nominations for all of the SCCARA OFFICERS and for 3 DIRECTORS.

Fred AE6QL was nominated for President by Gregg KF6FNA, seconded by Don K6PBQ.

Gregg KF6FNA was nominated for Vice President by Richard WB6EWM, seconded by Therese.

Praveen KK6VGB was nominated for Secretary by Lou WA6QYS, seconded by Gregg KF6FNA.

Goetz K6GKB was nominated for Treasurer by Gregg KF6FNA, seconded by Lou WA6QYS.

Lou WA6QYS was nominated for Director by Gregg KF6FNA, seconded by Don AE6PM.

Wally KA6YMD was nominated for Director by Goetz K6GKB, seconded by Barbara KD6QEI.

Bill AG6EM was nominated for Director by Lou WA6QYS, seconded by Gregg KF6FNA.

Fred closed nominations at 20:24.

Fred AE6QL introduced Gregg KF6FNA who gave a presentation on the NATIONAL ELECTRIC CODE, ARTICLE 810- RADIO AND TELEVISION EQUIPMENT. The talk focused on proper GROUNDING OF AN AMATEUR RADIO STATION.

Fred adjourned the meeting at 22:00 and refreshments were shared.

Gregg Land KF6FNA Secretary

Board Meeting, Oct. 19, 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 19:39.

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, Clark Murphy KE6KXO, Richard Clare WB6EWM. Absent: Director Lloyd DeVaughns KD6FJI. Guests: Don Steinbach AE6PM and Gwen Steirer KF6OTD.

Announcements: 1) SVECS QUARTERLY BREAKFAST, Saturday, October 24, 2015. Setup at 07:30, breakfast at 09:00, speakers at 10:00. 2) SCCARA Elections in November. 3) SCCARA HOLIDAY LUNCHEON December 12, 2015. 4) Club station open October 31, 2015. CW SWEEPSTAKES NOV. 7, PHONE SWEEPSTAKES NOV. 21, 2015.

Secretary's Report: 1) The BOARD MEETING MINUTES as published in the SCCARA-GRAM from September were reviewed.

Lou moved to accept, second by Don, carried. The GENERAL MEETING MINUTES for October that contained nomination records was read by Gregg KF6FNA and was approved. 2) Fred suggested that all BOARD MEMBERS have an electronic copy of the New Member Packet and Membership Application Form so that they can send out copies to perspective members.

Treasurer's Report: Goetz K6GKB submitted account balances as of 10-19-15. Checking = \$7,092.98, Savings = 500.07, Cash = 311.42, TOTAL = \$7,904.47.

Trustee's Report: Don K6PBQ reported that Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio will not be attending SCCARA's HOLLIDAY LUNCHEON this year. It was suggested that Don contact Santa Clara Valley Section Manager Brandon Bianchi NI6C to extend an invitation.

Vice President's Report: Gregg KF6FNA has obtained a Cushcraft A3S with 40M kit and a Rotor from Larry Spector W2QOV (sk). Larry was a member of SCCARA and wanted his Ham Gear to benefit SCCARA and it's members. Goetz K6GKB donated some plastic trap caps to be used in rebuilding the A3S before it is put up at SCCARA'S CLUB STATION. A \$50 Thrust Bearing from HRO will be needed to install this antenna. Wally moved that \$50 be approved, second by Don. Carried.

President's Report: Fred AE6QL 1) ARRL DUES going up 1-1-16. 2) National Park Service asking for Hams to activate NPS units in 2016. Perhaps SCCARA can activate Yosemite.

Repeater Report: Wally KA6YMD reported repeater controller problems at the test repeater site. A work party will meet this Wednesday at 10:00 at the repeater site for testing and evaluation. This will include Don AE6PM, Wally KA6YMD, Goetz K6GKB, Lou WA6QYS, Clark KE6KXO, and Gregg KF6FNA.

Fred adjourned the meeting at 21:07

Gregg Lane, KF6FNA, Secretary

Packet Pieces

Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

Date: 27 Mar 2011 18:23
From: W1GMF@W1GMF
To: HUMOR@USA
Subject: The Case of the Missing Cow

A big city lawyer was called in on a case between a farmer and a large railroad company. The farmer noticed that his prize cow was missing from the field through which the railroad passed. He filed suit against the railroad company for the value of the cow. The case was to be tried before the Justice of the Peace in the back room of the General Store.

The attorney immediately cornered the farmer and tried to get him to settle out of court. The lawyer did his best selling job, and the farmer finally agreed to take half of what he was claiming to settle the case. After the farmer signed the release and took the check, the young lawyer couldn't help but gloat a little over his success.

He said to the farmer, "You know, I hate to tell you this, but I put one over on you in there. I couldn't have won the case. The engineer was asleep and the fireman was in the caboose when the train went through your farm that morning. I didn't have one witness to put on the stand."

The old farmer replied, "Well, I'll tell you, young feller, I was a little worried about winning that case myself because that durned cow came home this morning!"

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

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
Lightning protection, grounding: WB6YRU
Station set-up, equipment: K6PBQ, W6JPP
TVI/RFI: WB6YRU
Homebrew projects, construction: 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

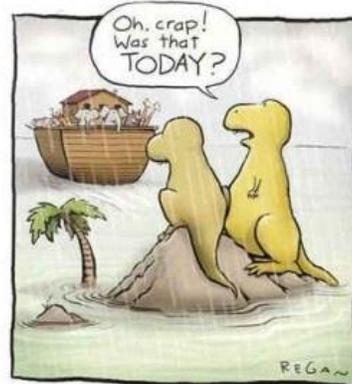
KK6MX, Don Apte, 408-629-0725
e-mail: kk6mx@aol.com

Newsletter Notes

What's a "deadline?"

Did you know it could be a line drawn around a prison beyond which prisoners might be *SHOT*? Literally a *dead* line.

That's the first definition in my dictionary. The second is: "the time after which copy is not accepted for a particular issue of a publication." Fortunately only the second one applies to the *SCCARA-GRAM*.



The good news is: articles for the *SCCARA-GRAM* are accepted at any time. The bad news is: for any particular month there *HAS* to be a cut-off point somewhere. That's the deadline.

Apparently that's not straight forward enough, Maybe it's procrastination, or maybe it's losing track (like our two friends above), or maybe it's misunderstanding that definition.

Whatever it is, please remember: the newsletter deadline is a cut-off point, it's not the time to send things in. If you play chicken with the deadline, there's a chance your article will wait for the following month. This is also true of articles that just make it under the wire, but have some problems or questions that need to be resolved first.

So, unless you're prepared to swim or take the next boat, please try to board a little early.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

December Meeting Sign-up

Our annual December meeting will be a luncheon on Saturday December 12th at 12 noon. This year our luncheon will be at Michael's at Shoreline. 2960 North Shoreline Blvd in Mountain View. You have a choice of three entrees, \$25.00 each. We need your reservations (this form) no later than Monday Dec 7th. I hope to see you all there! 73, Don Village K6PBQ

For the annual meeting in December, sign me up for the following lunch(es) at \$25.00 each:

___ Roast beef English cut ___ Chicken Florentine ___ Broiled Salmon

Name: _____ Call: _____ Total for lunch(es): \$ _____

Give this form (or copy) with payment to the treasurer, or mail to: SCCARA, PO Box 106, San Jose CA 95103-0106



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



FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SCCARA Membership Form for 2016
 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.