

# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 32, Number 3

March 2016



## March Dinner Meeting

The SCCARA general meeting for March will be a dinner meeting at the Milpitas Denny's located at 333 Abbott Ave. (the southeast corner of the intersection of the 880 Fwy and Calaveras Blvd.). SCCARA has reserved the accessible "Upstairs Banquet Room" (which is in the back of the restaurant) from 7:30 PM until 10:30 PM. The program will be a showing of some of SCCARA's archived videos. This is a chance to get to visit with other SCCARA members and to meet their families. Be sure to bring your families too!

Gregg KF6FNA

## SCCARA table at the March flea market

SCCARA will be setting up a table at the March 12 Electronics Flea Market. Items have been donated to SCCARA that we will be selling to help fund the clubs commitments (Repeaters, Field Day, Club Station, Insurance, etc.). Club members will also be able to bring their own items to sell at the table. Set up will start around 5:15 AM and the table will be shut down at Noon or when we sell out. If you are available to help man the table, set up or tear down the space, or help transport some of the items, please call or email me at 408-393-5607, kf6fna@comcast.net.

Gregg Lane KF6FNA

## Prez Sez

Before I begin a question for all... a few alerts. First we are in the process of raising a new antenna at the Red Cross. Here is a good chance to learn from our master builder Gregg. If you can help out please let Gregg know. There will be future weekend and midweek events.

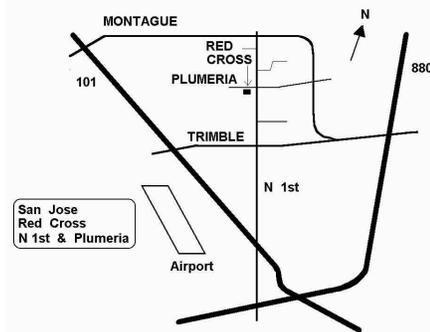
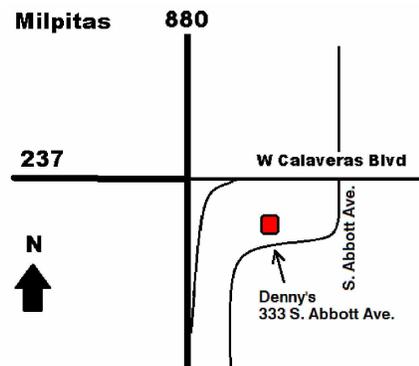
Second, this season's Flea Market will begin March 12<sup>th</sup> at the usual DeAnza location. SCCARA is not the March sponsor but will be selling items donated to SCCARA at the March 12<sup>th</sup> event. SCCARA members may bring their personal equipment and sell alongside without the cost of renting a space.

## Calendar

- 3/12 **Electronic Flea Market** -- we'll have a table
- 3/14 **SCCARA General Meeting** -- dinner
- 3/21 **SCCARA Board Meeting** -- (San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

## General Meeting

- Day: Monday, March 14, 2016
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: Denny's 333 S Abbott Ave Milpitas
- Featuring: Dinner meeting. SCCARA videos



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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:** [www.qsl.net/sccara](http://www.qsl.net/sccara).

**OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

(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 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](http://sun.n0ary.org) (login "bbs"). Sysop: Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU. For general packet info, see the NCPA web site [ncpa.n0ary.org](http://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

Third, we have switched to a new repeater. Let us know how it works for you. We would particularly like to know if former weak spots are better covered.

Finally, Our March meeting will be a special one so don't go to Kaiser. It's a dinner meeting at Denny's in Milpitas (in the back room, not the one we were in before)

Time: 7:30pm (you might like to get there early)  
Address: 333 S Abbott Ave. Milpitas, CA 95035  
Phone: (408) 262-9090

73, Fred, AE6QL, [ae6ql@arrl.net](mailto:ae6ql@arrl.net)



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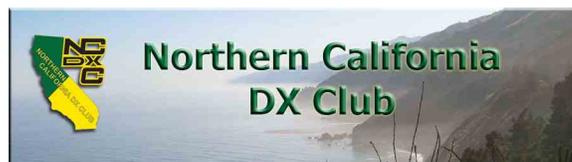
## Thanks, SCCARA!

Regarding SCCARA's 16 mm film... Many thanks to your Editor and SCCARA for putting this interesting video online for us all to enjoy.

I'd like to note that Daniel L. O'Brien, 6VK - who is featured so prominently in this video with his bowler hat with '6VK' and 'WARA' written on it, later became W6PB. Then in 1946 he was a Charter Member and first President of the Northern California DX Club. In 1948 when the NCDXC began publishing the DXer newsletter, Dan was our first DXer Editor. His work as Editor can be seen in our DXer Archives online at <http://www.ncdxc.org/pages/dxer.html>.

A grateful thanks from the NCDXC Membership to SCCARA for making this video available.

- 73 and good DX de Mike, K6MKF, President - NCDXC



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## Your Novice Accent And What To Do About It

*Your Novice Accent And What To Do About It*, by Keith S. Williams, W6DTY (<http://www.atcweb.com/tsn/Accent.pdf>) is the title of a November 1956, QST magazine article later republished as a pamphlet. (Keith is a Silent Key but I believe his grandson maintains the call.) Its purpose was to teach good CW operating practice and avoid the title of 'LID' (derogatory term) and belay Wouff Hong (club like device) measures. The pamphlet had a price tag of 25 cents although I'm pretty sure the League sent me my copy for free.

The FCC, as they do today, made the list of newly licensed amateurs available to the public so after receiving your license your mailbox was kept full of advertising materials. If you wanted more ads, QST Classified was full of even more vendors asking only a SASE (Self Addressed Stamped Envelope) to further burden your mailbox.

I think the best was the Mosely Antenna mailer which included a plastic call sign holder and letters along with an offer of Mosely templated QSL cards. The cards showed an arrow to your QTH on an outline map of the USA. The white plastic holder looked like something from a Cracker Jacks box but it was your call and that was all that mattered. The QSL card wasn't pretty either but for \$5/100 what the hell. \$5 was big bucks back then when the minimum wage was \$1/hr. Also, you didn't want to be buy more than a hundred cards because upgrading your license got you a new call sign.

Usually a KN6xxx became a K6xxx. However, California having as many Novices as the rest of the country combined quickly exhausted the KN6xxx supply and went on to WN6xxx and WV6xxx. However many of the W6xxx calls were already taken so just dropping the 'N' was no longer automatic when passing the General. You might get a completely different call.

The term of the Novice license was one year, non-renewable. This guaranteed that if you wanted to stay in amateur radio you would upgrade. Later the Novice term was increased to two years and even later to five and finally to 10 years renewable making the renewed Novice the rarest license of all.

In 1951 during the license overhaul promised at the suspension of all amateur activity at the start of WWII the Novice, Technician, and Amateur Extra Class licenses were established. The new license grades added to the older licenses to form six license grades in ascending order of frequency privileges: Entry level Novice, Technician, Conditional or General, Advanced, and Amateur Extra Class. However that wasn't necessarily a straight, six-step ladder. It was more like a step to the side and then a single step up.

The technician license was to be the first US no code license. International regulations said all amateurs must take a code test but it was argued by limiting the Technician to 50 MHz and above, they wouldn't be communicating internationally or to lifeboats at sea and therefore didn't need code proficiency. A compromise was struck; the Technician license would be 5 WPM like the Novice. The irony is today the only maritime radio watch today is on VHF (FM voice). Also every day, US Techs talk across the border to Mexico and Canada stations on 50 MHz and above.

In 1990 the code requirement for Technicians was eliminated and in 1994 those Technicians that had already taken the code test were promoted to Technician Plus with HF privileges.

The Conditional and General licenses had the same test elements and code requirements and privileges but the Conditional test was administered by a local General class or above amateur examiner. To be eligible for the Conditional you had to be bedridden or living further than 125 miles from a FCC testing office. Later, the distance was reduced to 75 miles.

The joke, if it were, was the Conditional, General, Advanced, and Amateur Extra Class licenses all had identical privileges. The only reason anyone every got an Advanced or Extra was bragging rights. Some argued there should be some incentive to advance to the higher grades. Of course the Conditionals and Generals argued against incentive licensing fearing the incentive would be gained by removing privileges from the Conditionals and Generals. It turns out they were mostly right.

In 1964 after many on-the-air discussions and gallons of print ink, the FCC, working with ARRL, developed a program known as "Incentive Licensing." Incentive licensing rearranged the HF spectrum privileges and created a hierarchy in the way new call signs were issued.

The General, Conditional, Advanced, and Extra portions of the HF bands were reduced, with the reduced spectrum reassigned to Advanced and Extra only and Extra only segments. If you were a DXer (someone that likes to work the rare and distant stations) it was indeed an incentive because these were the portions made exclusive to Advanced and Extras.

The call signs were also sweetened too. Some call signs are just a mouthful. Likewise call signs with lots of dashes in them are difficult on CW. Previously if you had one of these awkward calls your only remedy was to let the call expire and retest for a new license or move to another region where you were required to obtain a new call. Incentive licensing created four call sign groups with the best, group A, available to only Amateur Extras. Of course, as with HF spectrum, the Extra can choose from Advanced group B, Technician/General group C or Novice group D as well.

In 1999, the FCC reduced the number of operator licenses to three (Technician, General, Extra). The Advanced, Technician Plus, and Novice licenses were deemed redundant and would no longer be issued; however, existing licensees would retain their operating privileges and be allowed to renew their licenses. The Conditional had been eliminated some time earlier when all existing Conditionals were converted to Generals. With the inauguration of the VE (Volunteer Examiner) System in 1984, new entries to the Conditional license were no longer needed. Also with the rule simplification, all Tech Pluses were qualified to become Generals. All that was necessary was to apply for the General license, usually through a "paper upgrade." The restructuring also enabled the Technician Plus to become an Extra class simply by passing the element 4 exam. In what appeared to be unequal treatment Advanced license holders were not allowed a paper upgrade to Amateur Extra even though the same written exam was used for both Advanced and Extra. They were told if you want the Extra you have to retest element 4.

SCCARA has a new member handout. We are seeking to expand that folder. Do you think a pamphlet such as *Your Novice Accent And What To Do About It should be included?* Obviously the focus is no longer on CW. However the Internet for software and voice and data modes need explanation for the newbie. What about buying your first rig? Should it be a HT or mobile unit that can be used for home and car? I ask every member to think back to when you were and newbie. What were your most pressing questions and let me know.

73, Fred, AE6QL, ae6ql@arrl.net



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## 2016 Flea Markets

De Anza Electronics Flea Market Schedule 2016, host clubs:

March 12	SPECS
April 9	FARS
May 14	SVECS
June 11	WVARA
July 9	PAARA
August 13	SPARK
<b>September 10</b>	<b>SCCARA</b> 📧

Lou WA6QYS

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# ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, Feb. 11, 2016

## US House Subcommittee to Consider Amateur Radio Parity Act

The Amateur Radio Parity Act, H.R. 1301, was among three bills that the US House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology considered in a Thursday, February 11 “markup” session. Subcommittee members voted to send the measure to the House Energy and Commerce Committee for further consideration.

The Subcommittee on Communications and Technology is chaired by Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), who, during a January 12 Subcommittee hearing on H.R. 1301, called the measure “a commonsense bill” and urged his colleagues’ support. Subcommittee members submitted in advance any amendments they might have to any of the bills being considered in the February 11 markup.

The House bill’s sponsor, Rep Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), also spoke in favor of H.R. 1301 at the January 12 hearing, explaining that hams in some neighborhoods “are outright prohibited” from erecting antennas on their properties. He cited Amateur Radio’s role in emergency communication support, and said his bill’s “reasonable accommodation standard” would not mandate placement, size, or aesthetics regarding an outdoor antenna, leaving ham radio operators and homeowners associations to decide those issues.

Reps Walden and Kinzinger made impassioned statements at the markup session, in favor of the bill. Representative Anna Eshoo also spoke and recognized the work all parties are doing to insure the passage of the bill in the House.

H.R. 1301 would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land-use restrictions, such as deed covenants, conditions, and restrictions. The bill has attracted 120 cosponsors from both sides of the aisle. An identical US Senate measure, S. 1685, has attracted three cosponsors. It cleared the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation last November.

More information is on the ARRL Amateur Radio Parity Act web page, <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act>.

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From *The ARRL Letter*, Feb. 18, 2016

## ARISS Contact with UK School

The “Ham TV” digital Amateur Radio television system onboard the International Space Station was used for the first time ever this month for an Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) school contact. UK and ESA Astronaut Tim Peake, KG5BVI, inaugurated the system as he spoke on February 11 with students at a school in Rickmansworth, England. The DATV system in the Columbus module of the ISS allowed students at Royal Masonic School, home of GB1RSM, to see as well as listen, as Peake, operating as GB1SS, answered their questions about life in space. The one-way DATV downlink took place near 2.4 GHz, while the two-way FM audio component was maintained on 2 meters. The IK1SLD ground station received the Ham TV signal.

“It was a historic event!” enthused past ARISS-EU Chair Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, who helped shepherd the DATV system into existence after it was first proposed more than 15 years ago.

As students at the all-girls school looked on, Peake’s image appeared on a large viewing screen before a fully packed auditorium. Peake’s Principia Mission has been aimed at engaging students on Earth in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects.

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From *The ARRL Letter*, Feb. 25, 2016

## FCC Seeks Comments on Petition to Grant Lifetime Amateur Radio Licenses

The FCC is seeking comments on a Petition for Rule Making (RM 11760 <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=60001333714>) that asks the FCC to grant lifetime Amateur Radio licenses. Mark F. Krotz, N7MK, of Mesa, Arizona, filed his request with the FCC last November. He wants the FCC to revise § 97.25 of its rules to indicate that Amateur Radio licenses are granted for the holder’s lifetime, instead of for the current 10-year term. Krotz noted that the General Radiotelephone Operator License (GROL) already is issued on a lifetime basis, and he maintained that not having to renew licenses would lighten the FCC’s workload.

“It would be mutually beneficial for the FCC and Amateur Radio operators to update Part 97 to grant operator licenses for lifetime,” Krotz said in his filing. “The FCC would benefit by reducing administrative costs.”

In 2014, the FCC granted lifetime credit for examination elements 3 and 4, but applicants seeking relicensing under that provision still must pass examination element 2.

Individuals may submit comments via the FCC’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) at, <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/proceeding/view?name=RM-11760>.

## FCC Invites Comments on ARRL Petition That Seeks 80/75 Meter Adjustments

The FCC has put the ARRL’s Petition for Rule Making (RM 11759 <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/comment/view?id=60001374190>) on public notice and invited interested parties to comment on what the League has called “minimal but necessary changes” to 80 and 75 meters. The ARRL petitioned the FCC to fix a “shortfall in available RTTY/data spectrum” that the Commission created when it reapportioned 80 and 75 meters 10 years ago. The League’s petition asked the FCC to shift the boundary between the 80 meter RTTY/data subband and the 75 meter phone/image subband from 3600 kHz to 3650 kHz. The proposed change received strong support from ARRL members, and the ARRL Board of Directors adopted it as policy at its July 2015 meeting. At that time the Board also agreed to seek RTTY and data privileges for Novice and Technician licensees within their current 15 meter CW subband, and to do the same on 80 meters, depending on the outcome of the 80/75 meter subband revision.

The petition asks the FCC to make the following changes to the Part 97 Amateur Radio Service rules, with respect to 80/75 meters:

- Modify the RTTY/data subband, so that it extends from 3500 kHz to 3650 kHz.
- Modify the phone/image subband, so that it extends from 3650 kHz to 4000 kHz.
- Make 3600-3650 kHz available for General and Advanced Class licensees, as was the case prior to 2006.
- Make 3600-3650 kHz available to Novice and Technician licensees for telegraphy -- consistent with existing rules permitting Novices and Technicians to operate CW in the 80, 40, and 15

meter General and Advanced RTTY/data subbands.

- Modify the rules governing automatically controlled digital stations (ACDS), to shift the ACDS segment from 3585-3600 kHz to 3600-3615 kHz, consistent with the IARU Region 1 and 2 band plans.

According to the ARRL, the FCC Report and Order in Docket 04-140 released in 2006 departed substantially and without justification from the rules proposed in the FCC's so-called "Omnibus" Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), with respect to 75 and 80 meters. Among other actions, the resulting changes expanded voice privileges on additional frequencies in various bands, including 75 meters. The FCC shifted the phone/image subband from 3750-4000 kHz to 3600-4000 kHz, trimming the 80 meter RTTY/data subband from 3500-3750 kHz to 3500-3600 kHz and substantially changing "the entire dynamic of this band," the League said.

Although the Omnibus R&O had indicated that incumbent licensees would not lose any operating privileges, some clearly did, the ARRL has pointed out. The most substantial adverse effect of the "unexpected and vast expansion" of the 75 meter phone/image subband, the League said, was the elimination of access to 3620-3635 kHz by ACDS.

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## Meeting Minutes

### General Meeting, Feb. 8, 2015



Meeting started at 19:38 PM by Fred - AE6QL

Gregg made an announcement - March 14th - Dinner Meeting at Denny's

John - DX Convention

Gary - Got the old club videos digitized, including a 16 mm film by the first members in 1925. Gary requested everyone keep a copy so that we do not lose it, as the film is 90 year old. Theresa mentioned that there are Non-Profits that store and maintain old tapes.

First flea market is before the next meeting. Gregg informed that SCCARA has some merchandise that needs to be disposed. SCCARA will have couple of tables at the first Flea market. Members are welcome to help.

HAM CRAM on February 13th followed by the exam at Los Gatos. \$15 for the exam. The class is free.

Don Stienbach -AE6PM - Speech - Kit Building in the 21st Century

21:05 - Presentation Complete

21:05 - Close & disperse

Praveen Akunuru, KK6VGB, Secretary

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### Board Meeting, Feb. 15, 2015



{No minutes were received by the deadline. -- Editor}

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## 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 and 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

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

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## Newsletter Notes

Thanks to Bill AG6EM, the scanning of old SCCARA-GRAMs should start happening faster. Keep an eye on the archive page of our web site for additions to the collection.

Also, our video archive section is gaining a few tidbits of information about our early years, thanks to interest in our 16 mm film. For example, Frank Quement 6NX/W6NX was SCCARA's president when we sponsored the ARRL Pacific Division Convention in 1926. Furthermore, in one scene "6KG" can be seen written on a sheet of paper. That's Thornelius Hansen W6KG, who later became a director of SCCARA and one of the signers of our Articles of Incorporation in January 1947.

73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

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**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 renewing and none of your info has changed, we only need your name and call

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Licensed since (yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Licence Expiration  
 Date: (mm/dd/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ New Member Renewal I'm also an ARRL member

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

(only for club communications and the SCCARA-GRAM (pdf) newsletter)

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 and payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or mail to the club address.