

# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 32, Number 7

July 2016



## Prez Sez

The Last SCCARA Field Day?

The last Field Day you ask? Is that the most recent or the last one SCCARA will ever hold you ask? Let's first address the most recent and talk about where SCCARA has been and where we are going in terms of field day.

Field Day 2016 reads like the script from "Casablanca." "Round up the usual suspects." Gregg, Goetz, Lou, Wally, and I put up three wire antennas Friday night. One shot, one kill as it only took six shots with the tennis ball launcher to put up the three antennas. No miss fires and no cussing. No coax was attached at this time and the antennas were high in the air so we deemed the risk of anyone tampering to be low so we went home to sleep in our own beds.

In the morning Lou and Goetz were there with donuts and coffee as Lou, Wally, and I attached coax to the antennas while Goetz chased needed items and picked up trash the former tenants had left behind. Soon sleepy Don Village, Gregg, and Praveen and joined and helped up, the EZ ups as Wally set up the PIO station. Adding chairs and a couple of generators and we were ready about 10:30AM.

Contesting went slowly with Greg and Goetz on phone and Don on CW. Things went slowly at the GOTA station as the Trick or Treaters downed candy provided Praveen but weren't old enough to understand radio. Then Praveen made his first HF contacts on the GOTA. Band conditions were not great and the heat was building so there was much discussion about technic and few contacts. No less than five hams stopped by and said they lived around the park and were not aware SCCARA would be in the park. One was a zero call newly moved from Minnesota and another I had last seen at Mt. Madonna. I asked why I had not seen him around lately and he pointed to his son tugging to play on the Jungle Jim.

We had a succession of operators working through phone and CW stations with the CW seemingly more popular. There was an attempt to make a satellite contact but that was thwarted by defective batteries in the satellite rig. According to the satellite predictor software there was only useful FM satellite pass and it was missed.

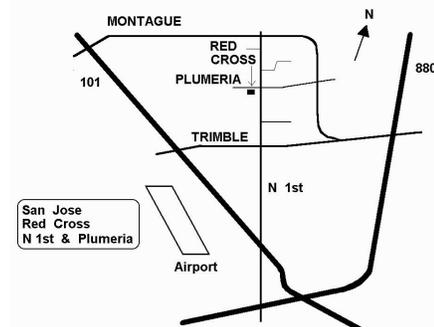
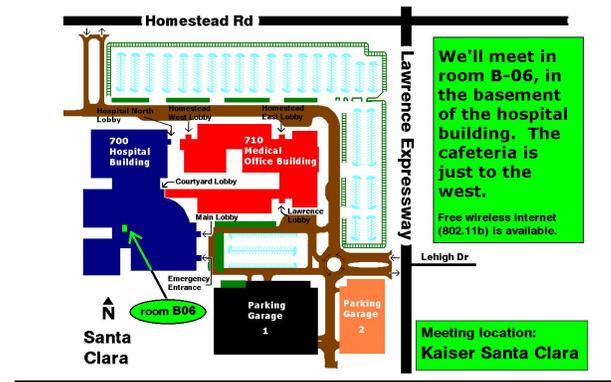
Band conditions improved a bit as the sun started to fade. The brass pounders started making some good contacts. On the GOTA some rare New England stations were heard but they were all

## Calendar

- 7/09 Electronic Flea Market
- 7/11 SCCARA General Meeting
- 7/18 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

## General Meeting

- Day: Monday, July 11, 2016
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Place: Kaiser Santa Clara, Hospital B-06
- Featuring: {to be announced}



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:** [www.qsl.net/sccara](http://www.qsl.net/sccara). (Webmaster: Wally Britten, KA6YMD, 408-293-3847, [kaf6ymd@arrl.net](mailto:kaf6ymd@arrl.net))

**OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

(all officers are also directors)

President	Fred Townsend, AE6QL	408-263-8768
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:ae6ql@arrl.net">ae6ql@arrl.net</a>	
Vice President	Greg Lane KF6FNA	408-393-5607
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:kf6fna@comcast.net">kf6fna@comcast.net</a>	
Past President		
	e-mail:	
Secretary	Praveen Akunuru, KK6VGB	408-893-3992
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:praveen.akunuru@gmail.com">praveen.akunuru@gmail.com</a>	
Treasurer	Goetz Brandt, K6GKB	408-259-7287
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:goetz@ix.netcom.com">goetz@ix.netcom.com</a>	
Station Trustee	Don Village, K6PBQ	408-263-2789
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:donvillage7@yahoo.com">donvillage7@yahoo.com</a>	
Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	408-241-7999
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:wa6qys@aol.com">wa6qys@aol.com</a>	
Director	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	408-293-3847
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:kaf6ymd@arrl.net">kaf6ymd@arrl.net</a>	
Director	Bill Staehle AG6EM	408-421-5630
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:staehle@sbcglobal.net">staehle@sbcglobal.net</a>	
Director	Clark Murphy, KE6KXO	408-262-9334
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:clarkmurph@yahoo.com">clarkmurph@yahoo.com</a>	
Director	Lloyd DeVaughns, KD6FJI	408-225-6769
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:kd6fji@arrl.net">kd6fji@arrl.net</a>	

**COMMITTEES**

Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	408-269-2924
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:wb6yru@ix.netcom.com">wb6yru@ix.netcom.com</a>	
Repeater	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	408-293-3847
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:kaf6ymd@arrl.net">kaf6ymd@arrl.net</a>	
N0ARY BBS	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	408-269-2924
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:wb6yru@ix.netcom.com">wb6yru@ix.netcom.com</a>	

**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](http://ncpa.n0ary.org).

**TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Amateur license testing, ARRL/VEC Silicon Valley VE group,  
Morris Jones, AD6ZH: 408-507-4698

working single skip contacts which left the left coast trying but not succeeding at triple skip. CW continued up to quitting time next morning with Scott Lieberman.

By 11AM it was already getting hot. Again the usual suspects, Gregg, Goetz, Lou, and Wally assisted by Praveen, Gary, Alvin, Scott and I began take down. It went fast all working together. Just before 2pm Wally and I walked the grounds looking for leftovers. The ground was left cleaner than when we arrived. This is the earliest I can recall wrapping up Field Day.

**Field Days From Past to Present and on to Future**

I joined SCCARA in 2004 after attending Field Day at Mt. Madonna. The camp area was beautiful and the temperatures moderate. I was impressed with the tribander antenna and everyone doing their thing without anyone appearing to be in charge. Everyone just seemed to know what do. I don't recall doing any operating. I just tried to fit in.

The next year I was vice president and we put up two tribanders. It took a long time to put them in the air and of course almost as long to take them down. It takes longer to coil up the ropes than it does to uncoil them.

Then there was a fire at Mt. Madonna. The fire didn't actually burn our camp grounds but the smell was everywhere so we elected not to go. Instead we camped at the Red Cross. The bathrooms were nice but that is about all you could say for the area. The LRVs going by made for horrible RFI and our antennas cross coupled so badly we could only put one station on the air at a time. RFI had been an issue at Mt. Madonna too but seemed manageable as long as no station tried to use the same band. Of course there was no place to camp but being in town people could go home to their own beds.

The next year your Board heard requests to keep our Field Day in town so camping wasn't an obstacle. We also heard the voices of several that said it would be easy to get a school or commercial space for Field Day. In the end nothing panned out so we ended up at Alviso.

Alviso was convenient because it was close to Clark's where we store our equipment but that was about all you could say for Alviso. We were again so close that only one station could work at a time. Other negatives were the broken glass in parking area, the smell, and at times strong winds and blowing sands. Night watch was kind of creepy too. After having to take my rig apart and vacuum out the sand I vowed never to do Alviso again. However the following year we did Alviso again. That was 2014.

I suggested that since following the Great 1906 San Francisco Earthquake the people had taken to the parks, our parks would be our most likely emergency deployment sites. Our board remained skeptical saying that none of the local parks allow overnight camping. I vowed I could get permission for 2015.

To get a County permit required filling out a 15 page form and waiting for months to see if it would be approved. Our permit was approved but with a \$2000 fee like we were a commercial enterprise. I appealed the fee saying we were a non-profit and drilling for the benefit of the public. The fee was waived but there were other restrictions the most painful being the gates would be closed at dusk, we couldn't drive any stakes in the ground, and each member was supposed to pay an entry fee.

In 2016 I vowed to get a city park that didn't have fences and therefore we could come and go all night long. Another 15 page form was needed and the San Jose Park and Recreation was going to charge us \$1840 for the permit. This time I asked San Jose OES

to sponsor us so the fee was waived. We could have stakes in the ground as long as they were no longer than 12 inches.

It still makes you wonder why they want to charge us \$1840 when we are a public service corporation. Also, we had many restrictions placed upon us such as the generator had to be placed on wood or cement. There was also a 100 person birthday party, a band playing in the park, a children's party with a clown and sound system as well. There wasn't any plywood under their generators and I bet they didn't have a permit either.

SCCARA has lost its storage bins at Clark's. To reduce our bulk we made an unscheduled sale at the June Flea Market. This has aided our efforts to make setup and tear down faster and easier. This has become important because the "usual suspects" are doing the heaving lifting year after year and we are literally dying off. It has also become clear that we no longer have the manpower to safely raise and lower the tower. This raises the question of how much longer we can continue to do Field Day the way we are doing it now.

I'd like to hear your ideas. Particularly I'd like to hear from someone that can loan or sell us an enclosed trailer and also from someone that can give or rent us some cheap storage space.

Thank you tall that helped or participated in Field Day 2016.

73, Fred, AE6QL, ae6ql@arrl.net  
408-425-8216



---

## ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, June 16, 2016

### "The Magic Band" Lives Up to its Name in ARRL June VHF Contest

Six meters sounded more like an HF band during the ARRL June VHF Contest over the June 11-12 weekend, as sustained sporadic E (also known as E-skip or Es) openings greeted participants. Some found 6 meter contacts so bountiful that they tended to neglect the other VHF/UHF bands, where conditions were more typical.

"As for why the contest weekend was so good, all I can say is that June can be good for E-skip," said Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, the former "Propagation" editor for National Contest Journal (NCJ). "I think the term 'sporadic' in its name is well suited. We just don't understand the detailed processes of 6 meter Es."



The well-appointed VHF-UHF tower at K2DRH.

For many, it was a 6-meters-only event, with the best conditions in

several years and much of the action on CW. "This was the consummate 50 MHz festival, with wide-open bands throughout most of the contest," Bill Schwantes, W7QQ, in New Mexico, posted in his soapbox comments on the 3830 website. "For the first time in my memory I felt like a rate junkie, often reaching 200 per hour. What fun on 6, while ignoring long-haul, weak signal contacts on 144, 222, and 432."

Bob Striegl, K2DRH, who boasts some serious VHF-UHF antennas in upstate Illinois, said the band "was going crazy" in the evening from the East Coast to Europe, and to Japan from the Midwest and South. "In a lull I tuned up JA7QVI, who was the strongest, and worked him on CW with low power!"

Mike Smith, VE9AA, in New Brunswick called it, "A VHF (6 meter) contest I can write home about." He was one station's first 6 meter contact, and "was tickled to do that."

Top-tier HF contester Dan Street, K1TO, in Florida, made his first 6 meter contact with Japan during ARRL VHF, only the third time he's operated in the event. "Conditions were amazingly different for all of us," Street said in his soapbox post. "I watched in awe as the W1s seemed to have a contest-long opening to somewhere. EA8DBM's skimmer made an incredible number of US spots, and he worked stations out to the West Coast. Yet here in Florida, I never heard him once, nor even one European."

Eric Gruff, NC6K, in California also didn't get in on the excitement. "Another frustrating VHF contest from DM13," he posted. "[T]he majority of the time, I spent listening to the same local stations calling CQ incessantly, while the rest of the country was enjoying a huge opening."

Charlie Panek, KX7L, in Washington, summed things up this way: "Every few years the planets line up right, and we get a good Es opening during the contest," he said. "This was one of those years!"

---

From *The ARRL Letter*, June 23, 2016

### FCC Technological Advisory Council Initiates Noise Floor Inquiry

Radio amateurs frequently complain about increasing noise from a variety of sources, so it should be welcome news that the FCC Technological Advisory Council (TAC) -- an advisory group to the FCC -- is investigating changes and trends to the radio spectrum noise floor to determine if there is an increasing noise problem, and, if so, its extent. The FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) announced the TAC study in a Public Notice and invited comments and answers to questions that the TAC has posed in the notice. The comment deadline is August 11. The TAC said it is trying to determine the scope of any noise issues and has invited "quantitative evidence" of noise problems, as well as recommendations on how to perform a noise study.

"The TAC is requesting input to help answer questions about the study of changes to the spectrum noise floor over the past 20 years," the announcement said. "Noise in this context denotes unwanted radio frequency (RF) energy from manmade sources."

Like many spectrum users, TAC members expect that the noise floor in the radio spectrum is rising as the number of devices in use that emit radio energy grows."

The ARRL representative on the TAC, Greg Lapin, N9GL, co-chairs the TAC Spectrum and Receiver Performance Working Group with Lynn Claudy of the National Association of

Broadcasters. Lapin also serves as chairman of the ARRL RF Safety Committee.

Praveen Akunuru, KK6VGB, Secretary

The TAC said that its search for “concrete evidence of increased noise floors” has turned up only “limited available quantitative data” to support its presumption of a rising noise floor. The TAC said it wants to find ways to add to the available data so it can “answer important questions” on the topic for the FCC.

The TAC said that responses to the questions it has posed in the Public Notice will help it to “identify aspects of a study to determine trends in the radio spectrum noise floor.” The Public Notice included information on all methods of responding to the inquiry. ARRL is planning to comment. [http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2016/db\\_0615/DA-16-676A1.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2016/db_0615/DA-16-676A1.pdf)

For more information, contact Greg Lapin, N9GL, [glapin@arrl.org](mailto:glapin@arrl.org).

---

## Board Meeting, May 16, 2016



Meeting started at 7:43

Excused Absences - Goetz  
Unexcused Absences - Lloyd - KD6 FJI

Visitors - Don Stienbach, John, Paul, Gwen

Fred moved for acceptance of April meeting minutes. Minutes accepted as corrected.

Don Village - Trustee  
There is a plan to install a Microwave dish on the roof of Red Cross Station. It may not be possible to open on May 28th. Gregg to check with George to see if the radio room can be opened or not.

Gregg - Vice President  
Antenna Party - To be decided if we can do along with the other installation happening.

Approx \$350 is the amount received at Flea Market.

Fred - President  
Houge Park -  
Need to borrow some fire extinguishers.  
Hazard tape required.  
Need an antenna tuner.  
Copy of insurance needs to be provided now.  
We have to give a walk through to the city officials. Everyone in board is welcome to join.

Gregg - Goetz changed the oil on club generators. Generator was stolen from the front yard of Clarke. Secretary to report this to the Police.

Arrangements to be made to get controller from Eagle rock facility.

Wally -  
To measure the repeater output post the changes done to it.  
Repeater is able to receive transmission with 50 mW power from Saratoga.

Goetz made payment to ASVARO for the flea market.

Bill Staehle -  
IRLP, Echolink, D-star

John asked if we are setting up IRLP/Echolink on 440 m as well. As this is not the primary, can be used by members to connect to the Echolink continuously. Suggested to setup Echolink first. Depending on the usage, we can setup IRLP later.

SCCARA received a donation from Bob Forster's wife. IC R70. Lou made a motion to send her a thank you letter. Gregg seconded. Motion carried.

Fred adjourned the meeting at 21:07.

Praveen Akunuru, KK6VGB, Secretary

*{The Icom IC-R70 is a shortwave receiver. -- Editor}*

---

---

## Meeting Minutes

### General Meeting, June 13, 2016



*{Minutes were not received. -- Editor}*

---

### Board Meeting, June 20, 2016



Started at 7:36

Excused Absences - Lloyd KD6FJI

Visitors: Gwen Steirer KF6OTD, Paul KK6HWN

Meeting Minutes from month of May. - To be sent by secretary.

Fred was sad to announce that he had received a letter of Resignation from SCCARA Board of Director Bill Staehle AG6EM.

Goetz moved to decline the offer of a new controller. - Motion Carried.

Praveen proposed using meetup.com to host SCCARA meetings with the aim of improving clubs visibility online. Lou made motion to give meetup a 6 month trial period for approximately \$10 a month. Goetz seconded. Passed unanimously.

Flea Market sales - To be tabled next month.

Storage Lockers - SCCARA has taken their equipment from Clark Murphy's property. We thank Clark Murphy for allowing us to use his house for so many years. SCCARA needs to research other options for storing club equipment.

Field Day - We will be setting up 2 stations in Houge Park along with a GOTA station. Gregg suggested setting up 3 antenna's.

Goetz will not available from July 7th to Aug 6th. We need someone else to monitor the repeater.

Meeting closed at 9:15.

# Packet Pieces

## Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====  
Date: 7 Jul 2010 01:25  
From: W1GMF@W1GMF  
To: HUMOR@USA  
Subject: Doctor's Fee  
-----

When the wealthy businessman choked on a fish bone at a restaurant, he was fortunate that a doctor was seated at a nearby table.

Springing up, the doctor skillfully removed the bone and saved the man's life.

As soon as the fellow had calmed himself and could talk again, he thanked the surgeon enthusiastically and offered to pay him for his services.

"Just name the fee," he croaked gratefully.

"Okay," replied the doctor. "How about half of what you'd have offered when the bone was still stuck in your throat?"

=====  
Date: 24 Sep 2010 15:11  
From: W1GMF@W1GMF  
To: HUMOR@USA  
Subject: Chow Time  
-----

One of my husband's duties as a novice drill instructor at Fort Jackson, S.C., was to escort new recruits to the mess hall. After everyone had made it through the chow line, he sat them down and told them, "There are three rules in this mess hall: Shut up! Eat up! Get up!"

Checking to see that he had everyone's attention, he asked, "What is the first rule?" Much to the amusement of the other instructors, 60 privates yelled in unison:

"Shut up, Drill Sergeant!"

---

## 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

---

## Newsletter Notes

Earlier this year the following report was given to the board about the *SCCARA-GRAM* for the year 2015.

We printed 15 newsletters each month, that's almost half compared to 2014. (Typically ten are available at meetings, not mailed.) The average cost to print one newsletter was \$2.65.

The cost to print one color page went up from \$0.64 to \$0.69 and to print one black & white page went up from \$0.13 to \$0.14. Postage is still \$0.49 for first class.

Mailing:

Effective January 2015, the board implemented a \$30 fee for the mailed paper newsletter. Including postage, the total cost to mail the newsletter to one member through 2015 was \$37.70. That's close enough to the break-even point, no change is recommended.

17 were on the mailing list in 2014, surprisingly about half were board members. In 2015 only five were on the mailing list. Four paid the new fee, one was a life member who continued to get the mailed newsletter free. Five is the lowest number of mailed paper SCCARA-GRAMs ever.

So far this year (2016), it appears there will be even fewer on the mailing list. The number of printed newsletters will be fewer as well.

Nearly everyone gets the digital version now (PDF file format), and back issues are being made available on our web site.

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 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.