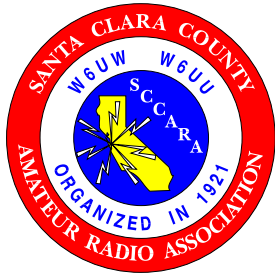


# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 34, Number 3

March 2018



## Secretary

Our secretary has decided this job isn't for her and resigned at the February meeting. So we're looking for someone who would like to be Secretary for the rest of 2018. Interested members should contact our president, Gregg KF6FNA.

## Electronic Flea Market

ASVARO (Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Organizations, [www.ASVARO.org](http://www.ASVARO.org)) the umbrella organization that represents the various clubs that sponsor the Electronics Flea Markets at De Anza in negotiations for using the College campus. Unfortunately the fee De Anza charges has escalated to the point where some of the clubs have indicated that they might not be willing to continue hosting a Flea Market. ASVARO has been given a mandate to find an alternate venue. Thanks to a person with connections to Fry's management, negotiations for having the Electronics Flea Market at Fry's Electronics, 1077 East Arques Avenue (just west of Lawrence Expressway) in Sunnyvale, have been ongoing. All questions have been resolved to mutual satisfaction. Fry's indicated that they are awaiting their legal department's authorization for the event.

The first Electronics Flea Market of 2018 sponsored by SPARK will be held as usual at De Anza on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Hopefully Fry's will have given their OK to have the Flea Market at their premises well before then to be able to initiate a publicity blitz on club repeaters, social media and at the March Flea Market about the upcoming change of venue for SCCARA's April 14<sup>th</sup> Flea Market to Fry's Electronics Sunnyvale. If Fry's OK is delayed precluding adequate publicity the SCCARA's Flea Market might still be held at De Anza.

Please listen to the club nets for further information as it becomes available.

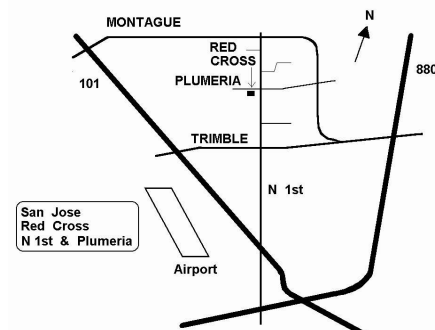
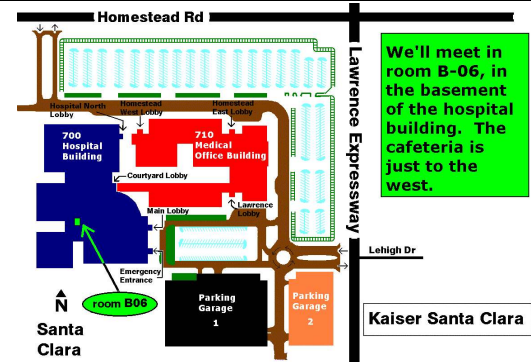
No matter where it is to take place, SCCARA is committed to sponsor the April 14<sup>th</sup> Electronics Flea Market. Please support your club and volunteer to help. Due to the circumstances more help will be needed at either location. Need help at the gate...0300...0400...0500. Need help to set up...0500. Need help with sales...0500 till 1100. Need help with clean up...1100 till 1300. Typically shifts have been 2 hours duration but you can stay as long as you want. You do not even have to be a Ham or a member of SCCARA to help out. Bring family, friends or anyone required to do community service. I'll sign off on their paper work. Please E-mail me of your availability, the number in your party and your shift preference(s) and I will try my best to

## Calendar

- 3/12 SCCARA General Meeting
- 3/19 SCCARA Board Meeting--(San Jose Red Cross, 7:30p, all are welcome)

## General Meeting

- Day: Monday, March 12, 2018
- 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.

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.

Permission to reprint articles is hereby granted, provided the source is properly credited.

**The deadline for articles is the last Monday of the month.**

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

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

(officers are also directors)

President	Gregg Lane KF6FNA	408-393-5607
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:kf6fna@comcast.net">kf6fna@comcast.net</a>	
Vice President	(open)	
	email:	
Secretary	(open)	
	e-mail:	
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:ka6ymd@arrl.net">ka6ymd@arrl.net</a>	
Director	Clark Murphy, KE6KXO	408-262-9334
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:clarkmurph@yahoo.com">clarkmurph@yahoo.com</a>	
Director	James Rustermier, KI6ZSK	408 972-1689
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:rustermier@gmail.com">rustermier@gmail.com</a>	
Director	(open)	
	e-mail:	

#### **COMMITTEES**

Editor	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	408-269-2924
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:wb6yru@ix.netcom.com">wb6yru@ix.netcom.com</a>	
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	e-mail: <a href="mailto:ka6ymd@arrl.net">ka6ymd@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>	
Webmaster	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	408-293-3847
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:ka6ymd@arrl.net">ka6ymd@arrl.net</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).

#### **AMATEUR LICENSE TESTING**

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

accommodate you.

Lou, WA6QYS, [wa6qys@arrl.net](mailto:wa6qys@arrl.net)  
408-241-7999

## **Wind Power**

Some five years ago I was walking through the Brokaw Road Fry's store with window shopping as my main activity. No shopping list whatsoever, running amok with cash in hand. That's when I ran across a "last item on shelf" closeout special that was marked down some 40%. I was a moth drawn to a flame! There for the taking was a wind generator. Doesn't matter that I had never considered wind power before, my flea market instincts kicked in and the box was in the shopping cart.



Once I got home I opened the box to find a Sunforce 45444 600 watt wind generator. Assembly was incredibly straight forward, the three bladed fan having a four and a half foot diameter. Off to Home Depot for two ten foot lengths of 2 inch galvanized water pipe, the top section slipping into the socket provide at the base of the generator. Once aloft at twenty feet and able to spin freely, only the wiring remained to be done. Connecting the controller and the battery are clearly explained in the user manual and was easily accomplished. I bought an 8D truck battery for the

purpose. The generator, more properly called an alternator, uses magnets to create the field and a delta wound rotor to produce three phase alternating current. The controller converts the alternating current to direct current and does all the regulation to properly charge the lead acid battery.



My house being on a knoll on the side of a hill, wind is never a problem. In fact, often the wind is not needed if the batteries are fully charged, in which case the controller shorts out the three wires and after a bit of a thud, the blades stop spinning. So it all works and the batteries remain fully charged. I was so delighted with this installation that I recently bought a second one. Some four years after the first purchase and the price is even lower than my theft at Fry's. Now two generators are humming away.

These units are made in China and the workmanship is flawless. One very humorous feature of the user manual is the repeated advice to contact the manufacturer for spare parts or warranty claims. I say humorous because there is no address, no phone number, not fax number, no email address, nothing to let you know where you might send your request. Since they work flawlessly, this has not been a problem.

Goetz Brandt, K6GKB

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## ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, February 1, 2018

### Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, Appointed ARRL Pacific Division Vice Director



Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, of Fremont, California, has been appointed Pacific Division Vice Director, ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, has announced. The appointment came upon the recommendation of Director Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, who succeeded longtime Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG, upon Vallio's election as ARRL Second Vice President.

McIntyre, who has served as ARRL Technical Coordinator for the East Bay Section, says on her QRZ.com profile that she's been interested in radio since she was about 5 years old. She got her Technician license in the late 1970s while a student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After letting her license expire, she re-licensed and obtained her Amateur Extra-class license.

She is also licensed in Japan, her second home, as JI1ZZ. She is president of the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association and is currently a senior software engineer at Apple.

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From *The ARRL Letter*, February 15, 2018

### “Awesome” Activity for the 2018 ARRL International Grid Chase

“On-the-air activity for the 2018 ARRL International Grid Chase (IGC) has been awesome!” ARRL Contest Branch Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, said this week. “The year also began with DXpeditions, as well as several contests at both HF and VHF, to boost numbers. Facebook and social media (Facebook, Twitter #ICG) are abuzz with chatter about the event, the excitement, the grids worked.”

Jahnke said the statistics show the highest overall activity on 40 and 20 meters -- not surprising in the winter -- and especially strong digital activity. He expects phone and CW activity to perk up this month and next, with the ARRL International DX Contest CW weekend February 17 - 18, and the phone weekend March 3 - 4. He also anticipates that February's statistics will come on strong as participants re-work January grid squares to boost their February scores. As of the January activity upload deadline of

February 10 at 2359 UTC, some 23,300 station sites were active in the IGC.

“The leader board reporting system continues to evolve, with much helpful participant feedback,” Jahnke said. That user input is improving how ARRL reports participation.

“From the statistics, it's clear that during this period of low sunspots and low winter E-skip and F2, most of the activity on the mid-to-lower bands is digital modes,” Jahnke said. “As we get into the summer E-skip season, we expect to see activity above 15 meters begin its ascent in the totals.”

Jahnke said it's apparent that participants are taking advantage of CW (and FT8 and other digital modes) on HF to overcome some of the weakened propagation on the low- to medium-frequency bands, and of FT8, JT65, and FSK144/MSK144 on 6 meters and above to rack up impressive totals. “Not to be outdone, in comparison to overall band totals, phone contacts on 80, 40, 20, and 17 meters are strong, and 2-meter and 70-centimeter contacts were strong in January as well,” Jahnke added. Several contests in January, including the ARRL RTTY Roundup and ARRL January VHF Contest contributed to these strong phone and digital numbers.

During January, IGC-eligible contacts matched in Logbook of The World (LoTW) topped 22,000 on 40 meters and 23,000 on 20 meters -- the two bands with the greatest activity -- with nearly half the contacts being made on digital modes in both bands. On the new 630-meter band, 31 IGC-eligible contacts turned up in LoTW.

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## Meeting Minutes

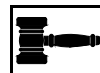
### General Meeting, Feb. 12, 2018



{No minutes submitted by the deadline}

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### Board Meeting, Feb. 19, 2018



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

Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane at 19:40.

Attendance: President Gregg Lane KF6FNA; Treasurer Goetz Brandt K6GKB; Trustee Don Village K6PBQ; Directors Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Wally Britten KA6YMD, Clark Murphy KE6KXO, James Rustermier KI6ZSK. Visitors: Editor Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, Paul Gorny KK6HWN.

Announcements: 1) Janet Motha KF6PUQ has informed the BOD that she will not be able to serve as Secretary for 2018. The Board of Directors will be looking for a member that can fill the position. 2) The SCCARA Radio room at the Red Cross will be open on Saturday, Feb. 24, 2018 starting at 10:00.

Secretary's Report: None Submitted

Treasurer's Report:  
checking = 7,138.84  
savings = 500.07  
cash = 483.82  
TOTAL = \$8,122.73

Trustee's Report: Don was given some QSL cards that were in the

secretary's box, he will be filing them on Saturday when the Club Station is open. There is an ARRL grid square contest for all of 2018.

Editor's Report: Gary has taken possession of the Secretary's Briefcase and is organizing it, and is continuing to work on the SCCARA roster. Gary is encouraging members to submit articles to the SCCARA-GRAM. The deadline for submittal is the last Monday of each month for publishing in the following month SCCARA-GRAM.

Repeater Report: 1) Don AE6PM is working on the controller for the 2 m repeater. 2) Wally KA6YMD will check out the 440 repeater to see if it needs any maintenance. He will also record the serial number on the controller for Gary WB6YRU to include in the property list.

Old Business: 1) SCCARA is looking into Field Day Locations. We are approaching Valley Christian High School as an option.

New Business: 1) SCCARA needs a new Secretary. This will be brought up at the March General Meeting. 2) Radio equipment from Don DeGroot K6TGE (SK) has been donated to SCCARA by his son David. SCCARA will send a letter to thank David and listing all items donated. 3) SCCARA will host the Electronics Flea Market in April, location to be determined.

Meeting closed at 20:37

Gregg Lane KF6FNA, recording

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## Board Meeting, Jan. 15, 2018



American Red Cross N 1st & Plumeria, San Jose  
Meeting called to order at 7:48 p.m.

Gregg Lane KF6FNA; Goetz Brandt K6GKB; James Rustermier KI6ZSJ; Clark Murphy KE6KXO; Don Village K6PBQ; Wally Britten KA6YMO; Lou Steirer WA6QYS; Praveen Akunuru KK6VGB; and Janet Motha KF6PUQ were present with two guests: Paul Gorny KK6HWN and Gary Mitchell WB6YRU.

### Announcements:

Lou: the SVECS quarterly breakfast will be on Sat. January 27<sup>th</sup> at the Santa Clara Sr. Center at 9:00 a.m., Captain Aaron Drumlight would do a presentation on the wild fires.

Treasurer's Report, Goetz: the federal and state tax returns would be filed. The trailer was registered and will check if it is insured, and suggested it be sold. Table for next month meeting whether it should be sold or kept.

Trustees Report, Don: The station will be open on the 27<sup>th</sup> after the SVECS breakfast.

Gary passed out some QSL cards as examples and wanted input about making changes to SCCARA's QSL card. Samples will be made and brought to the next Board meeting. Welcome packets should be distributed to new members.

Secretary's Report: Previous Secretary was reimbursed for expenses incurred.

Gary asked about updates to the repeaters info and codes document. Remove autopatch and autodial, and add Echolink to 2 m repeater.

Gary asked about updates to the Property List. We never did recover some equipment from our repeater at the City Eagle Rock radio site. Those items are listed in the 2017 year-end property list. A motion was made and seconded to abandon those items and remove them from the property list. The motion was approved. Also, a discussion about our two missing repeater controllers. Wally will get the serial number on the 70 cm repeater controller.

Lou confirmed that our regular meeting location at Kaiser will be available for the rest of this year.

Gary mentioned we have old newspaper clippings in our paper archives, which are being digitized and made available on our web site. Newspaper articles are copyrighted. Gary made the case that including these clippings almost certainly qualifies as "fair use" and permission shouldn't be required. Motion to include the old newspaper clippings in archives made by Don and seconded by Wally. Approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Janet Motha, KF6PUQ, Secretary

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## Packet Pieces

### Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====  
Date: 29 Dec 2015 01:55  
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW  
To: HUMOUR@WW  
Subject: Jokes 29/12  
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#### The Arrogance of Authority

The DEA officer stopped at a ranch in Texas, and talked with an old rancher. He told the rancher, "I need to inspect your ranch for illegally grown drugs."

The rancher said,  
"Okay, but don't go in that field over there ...",  
as he pointed out a distant location.

The DEA officer verbally exploded, saying, "Mister, I have the authority of the Federal Government with me!"  
Reaching into his rear pants pocket, he removed his badge and proudly displayed it to the rancher.  
"See this badge?!"  
This badge means I am allowed to go wherever I damn well wish.... on ANY land! No questions asked or answers given! Have I made myself clear ... do you understand?"

The rancher nodded politely, apologized, and went about his chores.

A short time later, the old rancher heard loud screams, looked up and saw the DEA officer running for his life, being chased by the rancher's enormous Santa Gertrudis bull ...

With every step the bull was gaining ground on the officer, and it seemed likely that the officer would be gruesomely gored before he reached safety. The man was clearly terrified.

The rancher threw down his tools, ran to the fence and yelled at the top of his lungs:

"Your badge... show him your BADGE!!"

Mink

----

Sean was going out with a nice girl and finally popped the question. "Will you marry me, darling?" he asked.

Lisa smiled coyly and said, "Yes, if you'll buy me a mink."

Sean thought for a moment and then replied, "Okay, it's a deal, on one Condition."

"What is that?" Lisa asked.

"You'll have to clean the cage," Sean replied.

=====

Date: 27 Dec 2015 02:55  
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW  
To: HUMOUR@WW  
Subject: Jokes 27/12

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Plants

-----

The teacher was telling the class about plants that have the word "dog" in front of them: dog rose, dog wood, dog violet. She asked the class if they could name another flower with the prefix "dog."

Steven raised his hand and said " Sure Miss Jones a 'collie' flower!"

Boss

----

You may think your boss is stupid. But remember: if he was smart, you probably wouldn't have a job.

Salesman

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"This house" said the real estate salesman "has both its good points and bad points. To show you I'm honest I'm going to tell you about both. The disadvantages are that there is a chemical plant one block south and a slaughter house a block north."

"What are the advantages?" inquired the prospective buyer.

"The advantage is that you can always tell which way the wind is blowing."

Snow White and the Seven... ?

-----

Members of the cast of the panto "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" in Kent say that due to considerations of political correctness, all mention of "dwarfs" is out and that the aforementioned are now to be referred to as "gnomes" or "guardians of the Forest". This is in case the production offends people with "restricted growth."

## 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 (available from the club secretary or on our web site).

### Topics:

Antennas, feed-lines, tuners: **NV6W, W6JPP, K6PBQ**

CW (Morse code): **NV6W, K6PBQ**

DX (long distance, propagation): **NV6W**

EchoLink:

Emergency operating, preparedness: **WA6QYS**

HF operating techniques: **NV6W, K6PBQ**

Homebrew projects, construction: **WB6YRU**

Legal, FCC rules: **WB6YRU**

License testing, new amateurs: **W6JPP**

Lightning protection, grounding: **WB6YRU**

Packet Network (BBS, forwarding): **WB6YRU**

SCCARA (club inner workings): **K6PBQ, WB6YRU, WA6QYS**

Station set-up, equipment: **K6PBQ, W6JPP**

TVI, RFI: **WB6YRU**

### Contacts:

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

W6JPP, John Parks, 408-309-8709  
e-mail: [w6jpp@arrl.net](mailto:w6jpp@arrl.net)

K6PBQ, Don Village, 408-263-2789  
e-mail: [donvillage7@yahoo.com](mailto:donvillage7@yahoo.com)

WA6QYS, Lou Steirer, 408-241-7999  
e-mail: [wa6qys@arrl.net](mailto:wa6qys@arrl.net)

WB6YRU, Gary Mitchell, 408-269-2924  
packet: home BBS N0ARY  
e-mail: [wb6yru@ix.netcom.com](mailto:wb6yru@ix.netcom.com)

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## Newsletter Notes

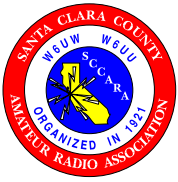
Printed copies of the club roster (as of Dec. 31, 2017) were available at the February meeting. If you missed the meeting but would like a copy, just drop me a note (at [wb6yru@ix.netcom.com](mailto:wb6yru@ix.netcom.com)), we'd be happy to send you one.

Many years ago the board decided to stop publishing them in the newsletter because of privacy concerns. Since then rosters have been limited to paper copies and only distributed to members.

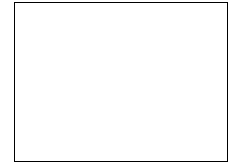
One other thing... A couple of people at the February meeting pointed out some errors in the printed roster. Those have been corrected. The updated version will be available at the next meeting. Anyone with a copy from the February meeting is encouraged to replace it.

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 2018**

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

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**Membership type and dues:**      **Individual, \$20**      **Family, \$25**      **Student, \$10 (under 18)**

Memberships start January 1 and expire December 31.

Family memberships (more than one member per household): please include the above info for each member, use separate forms.

**New members:**

Dues are prorated: dues x (11 - month) x 10% (Example: July would be \$20 x (11-7) x 0.1, which is \$8)

If joining in November or December: normal dues for next year, the rest of this year is included free.

**I want the paper newsletter delivered by U.S. Mail for an additional \$30 per year**

(Prorated, \$2.50 per month. That's \$27.50 if starting in February, \$25 if starting in March, etc.)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total** enclosed

Give this completed form and payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at any meeting or mail to the club address.