

# SCCARA-GRAM



## Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association



Volume 48, Number 4

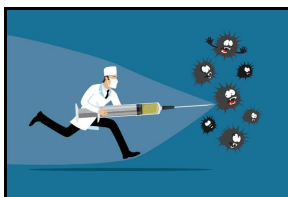
April 2023

## Meetings & Gatherings

Our in-person meetings have resumed. The board meetings are still being held on our 2 m repeater. The [electronic flea market](#) is starting up again. The new location is West Valley College, 14000 Fruitvale Ave. at Allendale Ave., Saratoga. The first one is Sunday April 16, from 6 am to noon.

<https://www.electronicfleamarket.com/>

The average number of new covid cases daily in Santa Clara County is now 105 (182 last month). The Santa Clara County Health Dept. has rescinded the last *mandatory* restrictions, but masks are still recommended indoors and around others. Vaccination with the latest omicron bivalent booster is strongly recommended. In Santa Clara County 33.6% have received the bivalent booster (33.0% last month).



## Club Station

Our club station at the Red Cross will be open on Saturday April 29th for our members to come down and operate. Time is 10am to 5pm. This year we would like to finish working the states we need for our worked all states award.



73, Don Village K6PBQ

## Transmitter Hunt

There's a group of amateurs in the Bay Area who do [transmitter hunts](#) every month. Most of the time these hunts can be challenging; however, their next T hunt will be for beginners. If you're relatively new to transmitter hunting and don't mind driving to Fremont, you might want to give this one a try. <http://rdf-sf.org/>



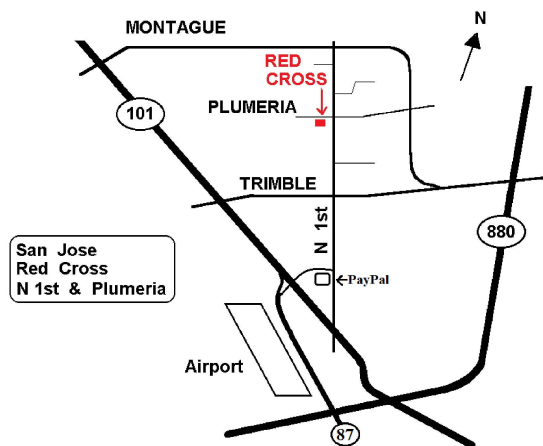
Their hunts are usually done by car over miles, but this

## Calendar

- 4/10 SCCARA General Meeting
- 4/16 Electronics Flea Market, now at WVC
- 4/17 SCCARA Board Meeting: On our 2 m repeater after the net at 7:30 PM)

## General Meeting

Day: Monday, April 10  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Place: San Jose Red Cross, meeting room 3  
Featuring: {to be announced}



one will be a short range walking hunt. Experienced hunters will be available to assist. Of course you'll need a 2 m radio. If you have a hand-held directional antenna of some kind or a radio that indicates signal strength, bring them.

The start point will be at the Main Library in Fremont, Paseo Padre Parkway & Stevenson Blvd, (South East corner). It will be on Saturday, April 8. The start time will be 5:00 PM. Talk-in on the WA6PWW repeater, 147.015+ PL 103.5 Hz.

For directions or more info please see the group's web site <http://www.rdf-sf.org/> or call Rich KN6FW at 925-462-1467.

# ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, March 9, 2023

## Amateur Radio Digital Communications Awards \$420,000 to the FreeDV Project

Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) has awarded a \$420,000 grant, one of the first for 2023, to develop and document FreeDV, an open-source amateur radio technology. The grant will be used to help advance the state of the art in HF digital voice and promote its use.

FreeDV is a graphical user interface application for Windows, Linux, and macOS that allows any SSB radio to be used for low-bit-rate digital voice. Speech is compressed down to 1600 bits/second, then modulated onto a 1.25 kHz wide 16 QPSK signal, which is sent to the microphone input of an SSB radio. The technology was initially developed by David Rowe, VK5DGR. Now, an international team of radio amateurs are working together on the project.

Among the many opportunities for FreeDV, the ARDC grant will also allow:

- Experienced digital signal processing developers to work with the volunteer staff to improve speech quality and low signal-to-noise ratio operation, making FreeDV performance superior to SSB over poor HF channels.
- Commercial HF radio companies to embed FreeDV into at least two commercial radios, greatly reducing set up effort and latency.
- Widespread adoption of a truly open-source, next-generation digital voice system for HF radio.
- A mature, open-source low-bit-rate codec that's useful for a variety of amateur radio and commercial applications.
- A suite of high-performance, HF data modems for open-source data applications, usable by any radio amateur.

To learn more about the technical specifications of FreeDV, go to <https://www.freedv.org>.

ARDC is a California-based foundation with roots in amateur radio and the technology of internet communication.

From *The ARRL Letter*, March 23, 2023

## Amateur Radio Included in FEMA Guide for National Emergency Preparedness

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released a final version (March 2023) of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Functional Guidance. The guidance, which provides a framework for communications resources within incident management, officially includes support from amateur radio operators. The expanded Communications Unit (COMU) structure now includes the Auxiliary Communicator (AUXC) role, which covers personnel from services that provide communications support to emergency management, public safety, and other government agencies. This includes amateur radio.

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)

club email: [w6uw@arrl.net](mailto:w6uw@arrl.net) or [w6uw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:w6uw@sbcglobal.net)

### 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	John Parks, W6JPP	
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:w6jpp@arrl.net">w6jpp@arrl.net</a>	
Secretary	Lloyd DeVaughns KD6FJI	408-225-6769
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:kd6fji@arrl.net">kd6fji@arrl.net</a>	
Treasurer	Ned Tufekcic AC6YY	408-690-7250
	<a href="mailto:t94nt@hotmail.com">t94nt@hotmail.com</a>	
Station Trustee	Don Village, K6PBQ	408-263-2789
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:donvillage7@yahoo.com">donvillage7@yahoo.com</a>	
Director	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	408-891-1105
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Director	Truman Lindsey N6TRU	408-896-1878
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:n6truhamradio@gmail.com">n6truhamradio@gmail.com</a>	
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	e-mail: <a href="mailto:bshu288519@aol.com">bshu288519@aol.com</a>	
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Director	Doug Owens N6DPO	408-568-9870
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:doug@n6dpo.com">doug@n6dpo.com</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	408-891-1105
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:ka6ymd@arrl.net">ka6ymd@arrl.net</a>	
NØARY 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	408-891-1105
	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.

### NØARY PACKET BBS

SCCARA hosts the packet BBS NØARY (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

NIMS guides government, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to work together to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and other emergencies. "This is a major step in the recognition of the need and usefulness of amateur radio and other communications services in our national preparedness," said Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, Director of Emergency Management for ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®. "It also gives official guidance to pave the way for future training and education of volunteers in [ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Service® \(ARES®\)](http://www.arrl.org/ares)," Johnston added.  
<http://www.arrl.org/ares>



The NIMS ICT guide (PDF) is available at [https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema\\_ict\\_functional-guidance.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_ict_functional-guidance.pdf).

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## Meeting Minutes

### General Meeting, March 13, 2023



San Jose Red Cross, 2710 N. First St.  
Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:33 PM

Customary self introductions.

#### Announcements

President Gregg KF6FNA:  
Newsletter deadline is the last Monday of the month.  
We had to replace the tarps on our antenna trailer, looks like a homeless person was using it as a tent.  
Our 10 m net is Thursdays 8:00 PM 28.385 USB. Monday night net on our 2 m repeater 7:30 PM.  
Gwen KF6OTD, Lou's wife, had a fall and broke her leg, she's on the mend.

Station Trustee Don K6PBQ: The club station will be open Sat March 25. CQ world wide WPX contest is this weekend.

Field Day is June 24, 25, 2023. Because of Covid pandemic people have been doing it from home in recent years. This year we will probably have it at the Red Cross, the details are still being worked out. One of our antennas has a broken balun, needs to be fixed. We need a Field Day Chairman. Discussion followed about Field Day

The electronic flea market is starting up again. They're switching to Sundays, the location is West Valley College. The time is 6 AM to 12 noon. SCCARA is scheduled for May 14. PAARA has the first one, April 16 (instead of the second weekend because of Easter). The details are still being worked out.

Vice President John W6JPP: We can have zoom meetings, but the minimum fee is \$15 to \$25 per session (up to an hour or maybe 1.5 hours). Someone from Parks on the Air, could be a possible speaker.

George N6NKT (Red Cross): Zoom is available in this room, there is enough bandwidth. Also the Red Cross has some basic youtube videos designed for new people to set up an amateur station.

Discussion about the club station, possible upgrades.

Ned AC6YY and John W6JPP, DX Convention in Visalia, April

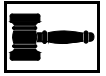
21-23. If anyone is interested in joining them contact John.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM

Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, recording for the Secretary

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## Board Meeting, March 20, 2023



Held verbally on our 2 m repeater W6UU/R

Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:35 PM

Attendance: President Gregg Lane KF6FNA, Station Trustee Don Village K6PBQ, Director Wally Britten KA6YMD, Director Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Director Doug Owens N6DPO, Director Truman Lindsey N6TRU, V.P. John Parks W6JPP.

Unexcused Absence: Secretary Lloyd DeVaughns KD6FJI.

Excused absence: Treasurer Ned Tufekcic AC6YY, Director Ben Shuford, KK6CCU

Visitors: Editor Gary Mitchell WB6YRU

#### Announcements:

Gregg KF6FNA: Club station will be open this Saturday. SCCARA-GRAM deadline is Monday March 27. Field Day is June 24 and 25. The flea market is starting up again, the first is April 8.

President's Report, Gregg KF6FNA: Nothing new to report.

Vice President's Report, John W6JPP: I'm going back into the hospital, so I'll be on and off the radio, but I'm OK.

#### Secretary's Report

Gregg KF6FNA: March General meeting minutes were published in the SCCARA-GRAM, any corrections? (none heard). Approved by acclamation.

The March board meeting minutes were published in the SCCARA-GRAM. any corrections? (none heard). Approved by acclamation

Trustee's Report, Don K6PBQ: This coming Sat. the 25th will be open 10 AM to 5 PM. We will participate in the world wide CW contest.

Lou WA6QYS: We are on DST now, will that affect anything.

Don K6PBQ: It's not a problem for me, we'll operate a little later because of the contest.

#### Standing Committees

Editor's report: Gary WB6YRU: We had a couple of articles from members, thanks to Ned AC6YY and Truman N6TRU. The March edition marked my 30th year as editor.

BBS Sysop's report: Gary WB6YRU: The new BBS computer hasn't been installed at the site yet due to the bad weather we've had recently. It will probably happen later this month.

Repeater chairman's report, Wally KA6YMD: Everything is working with both repeaters.

Webmaster's report, Wally KA6YMD: I need to update the web site regarding the flea market, that's about it.

#### Old Business:

Gregg KF6FNA: work on the Red Cross - we have Gary, Truman, Don, Doug, Wally, George lined up to work on the antennas on the

roof, hopefully that will get done before Field Day. Anyone else?  
John W6JPP: I'll help too.  
Gregg KF6FNA: John needs to get some volunteers to help getting the antenna trailer fixed up.  
John W6JPP: No updates on that.  
Gregg KF6FNA: Regarding us getting a zoom account, Ned was working on that, no update yet.  
Doug N6DPO: I have a zoom account, we could use it for club meetings.  
Gregg KF6FNA: Great, I'll have Ned AC6YY set something up with you.

New Business:

Gregg KF6FNA: Field Day will be June 24, 25. George N6NKT (Red Cross) is working on having us use the Red Cross for Field Day, still waiting to hear back on that. It will be our first one since the pandemic shutdown.

Don K6PBQ: I believe if someone works from home they can still have their contacts count for the club, just as was done during the pandemic.

Gregg KF6FNA: We need a Field Day chairman to coordinate our event. Any volunteers? (none heard)

Don K6PBQ: I'll be on the committee.

Gregg KF6FNA: Electronic flea market is starting again, now at West Valley College. The first will be April 16, Sunday, hosted by PAARA. It's on Sundays now. SCCARA hosts Sunday May 14, which is Mother's Day. John W6JPP has a truck for the trailer. We'll need to get everything coordinated. Any volunteers for the committee?

Volunteering: John W6JPP, I've got a 5 KW generator, we'll need one; Gary WB6YRU, Truman N6TUR, Doug N6DPO, Gregg KF6FNA.

Gary WB6YRU: I usually man the club sales booth, how much stuff do we have left to sell? We need to settle all these things soon, May will be here before you know it.

Gregg KF6FNA: I'm working on that.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM

Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, recording for the Secretary

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## Packet Pieces

### Downloaded from the BBS packet network:

=====  
Date: 12 Mar 2020 23:35  
From: GM3YEW@GB7YEW  
To: HUMOUR@WW  
Subject: jokes 13/3  
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#### Magic

A magician worked on a cruise ship. The audience was different each week so the magician did the same tricks over and over again. There was only one problem: The captain's parrot saw the shows each week and began to understand how the magician did every trick.

Once he understood, he started shouting in the middle of the show, "Look, it's not the same hat!" or "Look, he's hiding the flowers under the table!" or "Hey, why are all the cards the ace of spades?"

The magician was furious but couldn't do anything. It was,

after all, the Captain's parrot. Then one stormy night on the Pacific, the ship unfortunately sank, drowning almost all who were on board. The magician luckily found himself on a piece of wood floating in the middle of the sea, as fate would have it... with the parrot.

They stared at each other with hatred, but did not utter a word. This went on for an hour... then 2 hours... and then 3. Finally the parrot could not hold back any longer and said...

"OK, I give up. Where's the ship?"

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#### Interesting Human Body Facts

- The largest cell in the human body is the female egg and the smallest is the male sperm.

- A full bladder is roughly the size of a soft ball

- It takes the food seven seconds to get from your mouth to your stomach.

- One human hair can support 3 kg (6 lb).

- Human thighbones are stronger than concrete.

- The attachment of human muscles to skin is what causes dimples.

- The average man's penis is three times the length of his thumb.

- A woman's heart beats faster than a man's.

- If the average male never shaved, his beard would be 13 feet long when he died.

- Men with hairless chests are more likely to get cirrhosis of the liver than men with hair.

- There are about one trillion bacteria on each of your feet.

- Side by side, 2000 cells from the human body could span about one square inch.

- Women blink twice as often as men.

- The average person's skin weighs twice as much as the brain.

- When you are looking at someone you love, your pupils dilate. They do the same when you are looking at someone you hate!

- It takes twice as long to lose new muscle if you stop working out than it did to gain it.

- Your ears secrete more earwax when you are afraid than when you aren't.

- Your body uses 300 muscles to balance itself when you are standing still.

- If saliva cannot dissolve something, you cannot taste it.

- The average woman is five inches shorter than the average man.

# Need Help?

Now... You checked the length of your thumb didn't you?

-----  
5 surgeons are in a bar...

The first, a Manchester surgeon, says: 'I like to see accountants on my operating table, because when you open them up, everything inside is numbered.'

The second, a Liverpool surgeon, responds: 'Yeah, but you should try electricians! Everything inside them is colour coded.'

The third, a Newcastle surgeon, says: 'No, I really think librarians are the best; everything inside them is in alphabetical order.'

The fourth, a Birmingham surgeon, chimes in: 'You know, I like construction workers, those guys always understand when you have a few parts left over.'

The fifth, a London surgeon, shuts them all up when he said: 'You're all wrong. Politicians are the easiest to operate on. There's no guts, no heart, no balls, no brains, no spine, and the head and rear are interchangeable.'

=====  
Date: 9 Jul 2010 14:05  
From: W1GMF@W1GMF  
To: HUMOR@USA  
Subject: Doctor! Doctor!  
-----

A mother takes her son to a psychiatrist and says, "Doctor, I'd like you to evaluate my 13 year-old son."

The doctor said, "He's suffering from a transient psychosis with an intermittent rage disorder, punctuated by episodic radical mood swings, but his prognosis is good for full recovery."

"How can you say all that without even meeting him?"

"Didn't you say he was 13?"

=====  
Date: 10 Apr 2011 07:41  
From: W1GMF@W1GMF  
To: HUMOR@USA  
Subject: Cherokee 180  
-----

One day, the pilot of a Cherokee 180 was told by the tower to hold short of the active runway while a DC-8 landed. The DC-8 landed, rolled out, turned around, and taxied back past the Cherokee.

Some quick-witted comedian in the DC-8 crew got on the radio and said, "What a cute little plane. Did you make it all by yourself?"

The Cherokee pilot, not about to let the insult go by, came back with a real zinger: "Yes, I made it out of DC-8 parts. Another landing like yours and I'll have enough parts for a second one."

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: **K6GKB**  
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:

K6GKB, Goetz Brandt, 408-259-7287  
e-mail: [goetz@ix.netcom.com](mailto:goetz@ix.netcom.com)

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

W6JPP, John Parks  
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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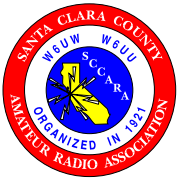
# Newsletter Notes

Nothing was submitted about the electronic flea market. That's bit strange since it's starting up again. They're switching to Sundays. April 16 will be the first one (the second Sunday is Mother's Day). And it's at West Valley College in Saratoga.

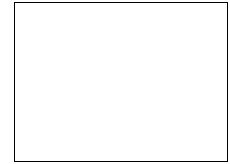
That by itself is noteworthy, but even more noteworthy is that **SCCARA is scheduled to host it May 14**. So mark your calendars, we'll need a lot of member participation. Hopefully we'll get the details about that in the next edition.



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 2023**

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+4: \_\_\_\_\_

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% For example: July would be \$20 x (11-7) x 0.1 = \$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 \$15 per year**

(Prorated, \$1.25 per month. That's \$13.75 if starting in February, \$12.50 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.