



SCCARA-GRAM



Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Volume 49, Number 12

December 2024



President's Prose

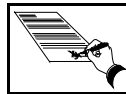
Our December meeting will be our annual holiday dinner meeting. It's our regular meeting night (Monday, December 9, 2024) but at 7:00 PM instead of 7:30PM.

It will be at Denny's, 333 S. Abbott Ave. in Milpitas. It's near Hwy. 237 and Hwy.880. From San Jose go North on 880. Exit Calaveras East and turn right (South) on S. Abbott Ave. and follow it around to Denny's. We will be in the back room.

This is a family dinner so bring the family with you. You'll each order from the menu, every family gets a separate check.

We are having a gift exchange. The way it works is bring a Wrapped Gift suitable for a man or woman costing about \$10.

Happy Holidays !!!
Gregg KF6FNA, kf6fna@comcast.net



Club Elections for 2025

SCCARA elections for 2025 were held at the Nov. 11, 2024 General Meeting. Candidates were:

- President - Gregg Lane KF6FNA
- VP - (open)
- Secretary - Doug Owens N6DPO
- Treasurer - Ned Tufekcic AC6YY
- Directors (2 year term)
 - Gary Mitchell WB6YRU
 - Janet Motha KF6PUQ
 - John Parks W6JPP

These directors still have 1 year left on their 2 year term:
Lou Steirer WA6QYS
Wally Britten KA6YMD

No offices contested.
Doug N6DPO moved to accept by acclamation.
Wally KA6YMD - second
Motion carried

New Officers will be installed at the Dec. 9, 2024 Holiday Dinner Meeting

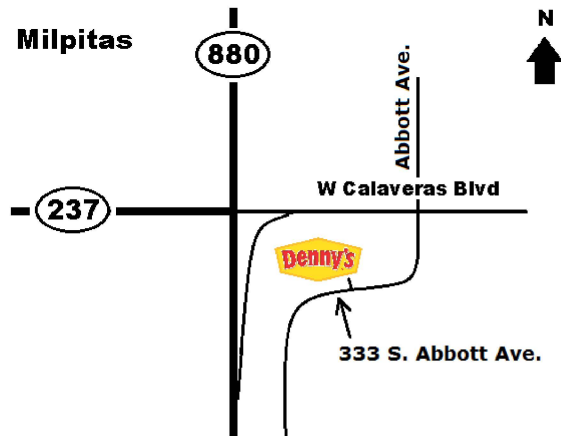
Gregg KF6FNA

Calendar

- 12/9 SCCARA General Meeting--dinner meeting
- 12/16 SCCARA Board Meeting - on our repeater
- 12/28 Club Station open, 10 AM - 5 PM

General Meeting

- Day: Monday, December 9
- Time: 7:00 PM
- Place: Denny's
- Featuring: Holiday Dinner Meeting



ARRL News

From *The ARRL Letter*, November 11, 2024

2024 ARRL Field Day Results Published

Results are published, and the numbers are in. They paint a picture of a very active 2024 ARRL Field Day. Nearly 1.3 million contacts were reported during the 24-hour event. That is up from 2023's 1.25 million contacts. That's likely indicative of the continued rise of Solar Cycle 25 leading up to the event, but more

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(officers are also directors)

President	Gregg Lane KF6FNA	408-393-5607
	e-mail: kf6fna@comcast.net	
Vice President	John Parks, W6JPP	
	e-mail: w6jpp@arrl.net	
Secretary	Truman Lindsey N6TRU	408-896-1878
	e-mail: n6truhamradio@gmail.com	
Treasurer	Ned Tufekcic AC6YY	408-690-7250
	e-mail: t94nt@hotmail.com	
Station Trustee	Don Village, K6PBQ	408-263-2789
	e-mail:	
Director	Lou Steirer, WA6QYS	408-241-7999
	e-mail: wa6qys@aol.com	
Director	Wally Britten, KA6YMD	408-891-1105
	e-mail: ka6ymd@arrl.net	
Director	Doug Owens N6DPO	408-568-9870
	e-mail: dougowens100@icloud.com	
Director	Janet Motha, KF6PUQ	408 252-3939
	e-mail: jmotha21@gmail.com	
Director	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU	408-269-2924
	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	

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	e-mail: wb6yru@ix.netcom.com	
Webmaster	Doug Owens N6DPO	408-568-9870
	e-mail: doug@n6dpo.com	

SCCARA REPEATERS

SCCARA owns and operates two repeaters under the call W6UU:

2 m: 146.985 - PL 114.8
70 cm: 442.425 + PL 107.2

Phone auto-dial and auto-patch is available. The 2 m 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 2 m repeater: Mondays at 7:30 PM, (not the second Monday--that's our meeting night); net control: Don Village, K6PBQ. On 10 m, 28.385 MHz USB, Thursdays at 8:00 PM; net control: *{to be announced}*. 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.

AMATEUR LICENSE TESTING

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

people also participated this year.

Entries were received from all 85 ARRL and Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) sections, as well as from 27 different countries from outside the US and Canada. It is encouraging to see a rise in participation year to year," said ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE. "ARRL Field Day is amateur radio's premier event, and the hams turned out for it."

Field Day is whatever you make it. For some participants, it's a contest; for others, it's a social gathering and club activity. Other groups use Field Day to showcase what amateur radio is all about to the public. Some groups use Field Day as an opportunity to introduce youths to amateur radio.

Class A, B, and C scores are included in the 2024 QST results article. The scores for Class D, E and F stations and club aggregate scores are listed in the 2024 line scores on the web, as well in the digital edition of QST.

Results are available now on the ARRL Field Day website at <https://field-day.arrl.org/fdresults.php> and in the December issue of QST.

AMSAT OSCAR 7, 50 years

Throughout the month of November, AMSAT will celebrate the 50th anniversary of amateur satellite AMSAT OSCAR 7 (AO-7), a SmallSat launched on November 15, 1974. AO-7 is still working and has been nicknamed the "sleeping beauty" of satellites because it came back to life after years of "sleeping." Designed by radio amateurs, the final assembly occurred in a basement laboratory not far from the Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland. AO-7 lived a very healthy lifetime of 6.5 years but in late 1980, AO-7's NiCad battery began to show serious signs of increased series resistance. This was a sure sign to AMSAT command stations that the end was in sight for AO-7. The cells had been originally matched for capacity by NASA and they all failed within a matter of weeks of one another. AO-7 stayed asleep for 21 years, but then one day in June 2002, the satellite woke up again. This was only possible if something caused an open circuit in the battery. On June 21, 2002, a very active user of AO-7, Pat Gowain, G3IOR, from the UK, made a telephone call to Perry Klein, W3PK, the first AMSAT president and designer of the VHF/HF transponder. Gowain was wondering if a new low-Earth-orbit (LEO) spacecraft had been launched. He was hearing Morse Code telemetry again on AO-7's old beacon frequency. He played Perry a tape recording and it turned out to be AO-7 telemetry! AMSAT will honor this historic achievement with a series of short articles highlighting the life of AO-7. You can visit a special page on the AMSAT website where you will find a collection of AO-7 articles and links at <https://www.amsat.org/amsat-ao-7-a-fifty-year-anniversary/>.

From *The ARRL Letter*, November 14, 2024

VLF Alternator Transmitter is 100 Years Old

On December 1, 1924, the very low frequency (VLF) transmitter with call sign "SAQ" at Grimeton Radio Station in Sweden, was put into commercial operation. Transmissions were sent across the Atlantic Ocean to the receiving station at Riverhead and the replying transmitter station at Rocky Point, both on Long Island, New York. On December 1, 2024, 100 years later, SAQ will be on the air to commemorate the event. The unique Alexanderson alternator from 1924, with the call sign SAQ, is scheduled for one transmission on VLF 17.2 kHz, CW, which will begin at 11:00 CET (10:00 UTC). The transmission event can be seen live on the

[Grimenton YouTube channel.](#)

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-83S-I9JKD1iuhSxx3XQ3g?sub_confirmation=1

Two Questions Removed From Amateur Test

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has removed one Extra Class pool question and one General Class pool question from use. Both Extra pool question E2A13 and General pool question G8C01 have been deleted from use on examinations as the two questions each have more than one correct answer. The deleted questions must be removed from examinations as soon as possible.

<https://www.ncvec.org/>

<https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/question-pool-committee>

Updated question pool files, including the errata and new information, have been posted on the NCVEC Extra Class question pool web page at

<https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2024-2028-extra-class-question-pool-release>. The current Element 4 Extra question pool became effective on July 1, 2024, and it is valid through June 30, 2028.

Updated General Class question pool files, also including the errata and new information, have been posted on the NCVEC General Class question pool web page at

www.ncvec.org/index.php/2023-2027-general-question-pool-release. The current Element 3 General question pool became effective on July 1, 2023, and it is valid through June 30, 2027.

The ARRL VEC advises the community to regularly check the NCVEC website at www.ncvec.org for updates to the question pools, which may include errata and withdrawn questions.

From *The ARRL Letter*, November 21, 2024

Hawaii is preparing for the 83rd commemoration of the December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor

The [83rd anniversary of Pearl Harbor](#) theme of “Forging Ahead” emphasizes not only the historical significance but also the vital role of the younger generation in preserving and honoring this legacy. <https://www.pearlharborevents.com/>

This year’s event will take place December 07, 2024, 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM HST at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial, 1 Arizona Memorial Place, Honolulu, HI. The event will also be live streamed. ARRL requested, and has received, a waiver from the Federal Communication Commission’s Part 97 rules to communicate with military stations as part of Pearl Harbor Day commemorations December 7 - 8. ARRL made the request on behalf of the Battleship Iowa Amateur Radio Association, to allow amateur-military cross-band capabilities to communicate with the Battleship Iowa using the ship’s original callsign NEPM. The USS Iowa is moored at the Port of Los Angeles. Also, the [Amateur Radio Club of the National Electronics Museum \(ARCNEM\)](#) will hold a Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration December 1 - 11 from 1300Z - 2200Z. Special event station W2W will operate on 14.241, 14.041, 7.241, and 7.041 MHz. A certificate & QSL will be available. Primary operation will be December 1 - 7 with additional operation possible during December 8 - 11 as operator availability permits. Operation on 80 meters, 3.541 and 3.841 MHz, and digital modes is possible during event. <https://www.k3nem.org/>

From *The ARRL Letter*, November 25, 2024

25th Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day December 7, 2024

SKYWARN Recognition Day is December 7, 2024. The annual event is celebrating its 25th anniversary. SRD was established in 1999 by the National Weather Service and ARRL to commemorate the contributions of SKYWARN volunteers. Using amateur radio and other means of communication, SKYWARN spotters provide real time ground truth to NWS offices. The ham-volunteers can also provide vital communications between NWS and local emergency management officials when other means go down.

In a video posted to the SRD web page, National Weather Service Director Ken Graham, WX4KEG, said the information ham radio operators and other SKYWARN volunteers provide is critical. “I, along with the entire National Weather Service, want to acknowledge and thank you for your invaluable service to the communities we serve.”

There will be a SRD special event from 0000 - 2359 UTC on the day. The objective is for all amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many Amateur Radio SKYWARN Spotters and National Weather Service Stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2-meter and 70-centimeter bands.

ARRL will be on the air during the event from the ARRL Radio Laboratory station, WHQ, using the call sign WX1AW. ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager Sierra Harrop, W5DX, said SRD is a great opportunity to welcome non-ham SKYWARN volunteers to explore amateur radio. “Storm spotting was my original draw into ham radio. I watched a large tornado tear up my community on May 3, 1999, and was listening via my mom’s 2-meter mobile radio to spotter reports being relayed to the NWS Norman, Oklahoma, office. I knew I wanted to be a part of that and within months I was licensed. Amateur radio was my path into that community service and has been the hobby of a lifetime ever since.” she said.

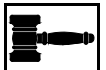
ARRL has a web page to help those interested with getting licensed. Find details at <https://www.arrl.org/getting-licensed>.

Spotters are encouraged to register for SRD at, <https://www.weather.gov/crh/skywarnrecognition>. There will be participation certificates available after the event.

ARRL Letter relayed courtesy Doug N6DPO

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, Nov. 11, 2024



Room 3, American Red Cross, N 1st & Plumeria, San Jose, CA

Meeting called to order by President Gregg Lane KF6FNA at 7:39 PM

Customary self introductions.

Announcements

President Gregg KF6FNA:

We have elections today, but several key people are absent. Station Trustee Don K6PBQ doesn't drive anymore and didn't get a ride. Secretary Truman N6TRU is studying for finals. Treasurer Ned's AC6YY wife had a heart attack, he's with her in the hospital. VP John W6JPP was having chest pains. We wish them all well.

There's an on-line digital library for Amateur Radio and Communications, DLARC, that has details and records from many radio related sources and organizations, archive.org/details/dlarc.

Gary WB6YRU: SCCARA is included. They have all our newsletters and records from our on-line archives. There was an article about it a couple of years ago in the SCCARA-GRAM.

Gregg KF6FNA:

Our antenna trailer has a new temporary home, John W6JPP is working on a more permanent location.

Our next board meeting will be Monday Nov. 18 on our repeater. The club station will be open on Saturday Nov. 23.

Our December 9 general meeting will be a holiday dinner. It will be at the Denny's in Milpitas, more details to follow. AARP members get a 15% discount at Denny's. We'll have installation of officers then.

George N6NKT: The Red Cross has a few handheld radios for SCCARA to loan out, Icom IC-T7H. These might help SCCARA attract new amateurs. Details on the loan to be worked out.

Gregg KF6FNA: Our Cushcraft antenna is ready to be installed at the club station. It's a beam that covers 10, 15, 20 meters and 40 dipole.

Elections:

The nominations are:

President - Gregg KF6FNA

V.P. - (open)

Secretary - Doug N6DPO

Treasurer - Ned AC6YY

Directors (3 seats) - Gary WB6YRU, Janet KF6PUQ, and John W6JPP. (Directors Lou WA6QYS and Wally KA6YMD have one more year to go)

Doug N6DPO: Motion to accept the slate.

Wally KA6YMD: Second

Slate accepted by acclamation

Doug N6DPO: I'll help fill in for the VP duties until we get someone to fill that position.

Gregg KF6FNA: The Station Trustee has no set term. Don K6PBQ is willing to stay on for another year, but he's winding down and we need to start looking for a new Station Trustee.

Wally KA6YMD: Our 440 repeater could use a little maintenance. The cooling fan needs cleaning. Last time I checked the output was weak and scratchy.

Discussion about our repeaters.

Discussion about mounting antennas at the Red Cross (for club station).

George N6NKT: Jim Peterson K6EI of the West Valley club might be a speaker on Parks On The Air (POTA).

Gary WB6YRU: We need more club content in the SCCARA-GRAM. I like to have more detailed minutes to help members who don't come to meetings feel more involved. What few comments I receive are from those who rarely come to meetings or are out of the area. There's new equipment on the market, new technology--including software radios. It would be nice to get some reviews on those in our newsletter.

Discussion about various activities at the club station that could be in the newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM

Gary Mitchell WB6YRU recording for the Secretary

Board Meeting, Nov 18, 2024



Held over the air on the W6UU 2 Meter Repeater

Meeting was called to by Gregg Lane, KF6FNA, President at 7:40 p.m. PST

Roll call was taken.

Officers: President Gregg Lane KF6FNA, Vice President John Parks W6JPP, Treasurer Ned Tufekcic AC66YY were present. Secretary Truman Lindsey N6TRU had an excused absence.

Directors: Lou Steirer WA6QYS, Wally Britten KA6YMD, Gary Mitchell WB6YRU, Doug Owens N6DPO, Janet Motha KF6PUQ, and Station Trustee Don Village K6PBQ were present.

Visitors: Guests were invited to check-in but no visitors came forward.

Gregg KF6FNA made the following announcements:

- The club's annual Holiday Dinner will be held 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Monday, December 9 at Denny's restaurant in Milpitas. Installation of new club officers will occur during the dinner. Thanks go to John Parks W6JPP and Ned Tufekcic AC6YY for confirming the reservation with Denny's. Everyone is invited attend and there will be more details and a map in the SCCARA-GRAM.

- The club station will be open Saturday, November 30 from about 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to make contact on the W6UU 2 Meter Repeater to confirm before heading to the Red Cross.

Gregg KF6FNA invited other announcements but none were made.

Officers Reports:

President: Gregg KF6FNA:

The club's antenna trailer has been moved from the Willow Glen American Legion Post to a temporary secure location. Gregg, Lou, John, and Doug worked together to get this done. New tires were installed during the move.

Vice President: John W6JPP:

John W6JPP is working on several potential speakers for next year including Elecraft. He indicated Zoom would be required for some of these.

Gregg KF6FNA mentioned that Doug N6DPO wants to be involved in organizing in 2025 and asked anyone with suggestions to please pass them on to Doug whose contact information is in the SCCARA-GRAM.

Secretary: Gregg KF6FNA for Truman N6TRU:

No minutes for the October 14 General Meeting were submitted for the SCCARA-GRAM.

The minutes of the October 21 Board of Directors meeting were published. Request for any corrections was made. None noted. Minutes deemed approved by acclamation.

Treasurer: Ned AC6YY:

Current checking account balance is \$12,160.

Ned will send details for the next SCCARA-GRAM.

Trustee's Report: Don K6PBQ:

Club station will be open on November 30.

Nothing additional to report.

Editor's Report: Gary WB6YRU:

Need a write-up on the Holiday Dinner for next SCCARA-GRAM. Deadline for the December edition is next Monday [November 25].

BBS Update: Gary WB6YRU:

The system appears to be rebooting itself. The system comes back up but the BBS functionality does not restart on its own requiring a manual restart. This has occurred a couple of times in recent months. If you encounter a problem, this is what is going on. Currently investigating.

Repeater Report: Wally KA6YMD (Goetz Brandt K6GKB not present): Nothing new to report

Webmaster's Report: Doug N6DPO

Website functioning well. Please let me know of any errors you see or things you would like to see added.

Old Business: Gregg KF6FNA

- We will have a work party to remove our current beam antenna a install a Cushcraft A3 with a 40 meter kit. This 4 band 3 element beam will give us better gain performance. Gregg will be reaching out to get the work party scheduled.
- Gregg followed up with Doug N6DPO on getting the ARRL's Logbook of the World on the club's laptop located at the club station. Doug reported no new activity since our last meeting and that he would look at the club's laptop next time he was at the club station and take it from there.
- Gregg asked Doug for a debrief on learnings associated with the trailer move. Doug communicated: "We needed to get an official copy of the DMV Permanent Certificate of Trailer Registration which he obtained from an authorized DMV partner. It turns out that the DMV considers a 'Permanent Certificate' to need to be updated every 5 years."
- The club did not have liability insurance for the trailer. Doug was able to get it added to his personal insurance as a temporary measure but indicated we would need to properly insure the trailer under the club's name. The club's general liability insurance coverage appears to have lapsed. Doug suggested a new item of business to address this.

New Business: Gregg KF6FNA

Gregg KF6FNA appointed Doug N6DPO, Ned AC6YY, and John W6JPP to look into our options and report back to the board.

Gregg asked for any other new business.

John W6JPP reported he is working on the possibility of locating the trailer at a facility owned by his new American Legion Post

No other new business was brought forward.

Gregg Lane gaveled the meeting closed at 8:05 PST

Minutes recorded by Doug Owens N6DPO

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: **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 for the above topics:

K6GKB, Goetz Brandt, 408-259-7287
e-mail: goetz@ix.netcom.com

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

W6JPP, John Parks
e-mail: w6jpp@arll.net

K6PBQ, Don Village, 408-263-2789

WA6QYS, Lou Steirer, 408-241-7999
e-mail: wa6qys@arll.net

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

Newsletter Notes

If Santa leaves something of a radio nature under your tree this year, tell us about it here in the SCCARA-GRAM! It would be nice to have some equipment reviews, or anything else for that matter. Software defined radios are getting cheaper and more common, most of all they're a relatively new technology. So those would be especially worth a comment or two.

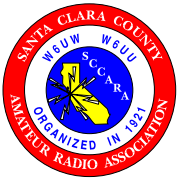


73, Gary WB6YRU, editor

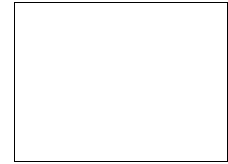


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SCCARA
 Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association
 PO Box 106
 SAN JOSE CA 95103-0106



FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SCCARA Membership for 2025

If renewing and none of your info has changed, please only fill in 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: _____

For delivery of the SCCARA-GRAM (pdf) and club announcements

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

All 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.