

THE PLATTSMOUTH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Communicator

October 2023

ARRL Changes Membership Cost, Benefits

At their July Board of Director's meeting the ARRL **voted to increase the annual membership from \$49 to \$59 effective January 1, 2024.** They also decided to **decouple the printed magazine from the membership.** Receiving a print copy of QST will cost an additional \$25 per year.

The great increase in the cost of printing and distributing printed magazines is what prompted the decision. Receiving a print copy of QST has been part of membership for many years. In the last few years a member could choose a printed *On The Air* Magazine subscription instead of QST. Since 2020 members have had digital access to these magazines as well as QEX and NCJ magazines.

After the January 2024 issue, members will not receive a printed subscription without the additional \$25 annually. Life members may opt-in to continue receiving the printed copy. The opt-in period ends June 30, 2024. Presumably this means that if life members take no action, then their print subscription will end. New life memberships have been paused until they can decide on a cost structure.

Digital copies of all four magazines are available to members on the ARRL website or on your iOS, Android, or Kindle. The app on the iPad has been working fairly well the last several years after a bit of a rocky start. The digital copies may be downloaded from the website as a PDF and saved or printed.

Presumably the changes were necessary. No organization can continue to run in the red forever and apparently this is the second year that they have been doing so. I do think that they could be publicizing this better. My renewal is in October, so I received a membership renewal form several weeks ago. This form did show the current rate is good until December 31 and did clearly show that printed copies would end at that time without the additional subscription. There was no indication of what the rates would be after that.

I did find (after a bit of hunting) the minutes of the July Board of Directors meeting on the website and learned a bit more. The October issue of QST has a report on the meeting as well.

I did call the ARRL to confirm that I understood the changes. A very nice lady confirmed my understanding and even told me that since my renewal was in October, my first year of print copy cost would be prorated for the renewal date if I chose to subscribe.

I mentioned to her that I hadn't seen anything about the change in the news feed. She said that there had been news item and information. Maybe, but if so I completely missed them. I checked the news items on the website and looked back through the member emails and found nothing. The news article on the board meeting in the October issue is the only thing I have found. Even the Guide to Member Benefits page in the October issue (page 14) still shows the printed magazines as a member benefit. Given the lead time on print publications this may not be surprising.

I am disappointed that they did not put this in their regular news feed to give everyone a heads-up. If my renewal wasn't due this next month, it's unlikely that I would be aware of this. Scanning the table of contents of the October issue doesn't give a hint as to the content of the Director's Meeting Article.

If you are a member, and I encourage everyone to be a member of ARRL, check your renewal date and consider renewing before the end of the year. It is currently \$49 for one year, \$140 for 3 years. There is a link on the web page for renewals. I don't know how far ahead you can renew. I just renewed for 3 years and it now tells me that I do not have a renewal due. You may have to call. Oh, yes, I used the promo code "GIL3" and they mailed me a nice limited-edition coffee mug.

Roger Behrns, KB0OGO

2023 PAID MEMBERSHIPPAID MEMBERSHIPS are in **BOLD**

AGØL Steve Loyd [E]
 AIØN Chuck Engberg* [E]
 K3CRF..... Dave Smith [E]
 KBØFSI..... Pat McCollum [T]
 KBØLF Fred Eriksen [E]
 KBØOGO..... Roger Behrns* [E]
 KCØHYD John Titsworth [G]
 KCØHYE Shirley Titsworth [T]
 KEØXQ Bill McCollum [E]
 KGØKR..... Beth Engberg* [E]
 KIØPY Kevin Faris [E]
 NØLZH..... John Harrington [T]
 N8VCL..... Scott Schreiber [E]
 WØDBW Derek Winterstien [G]
 WØJRN Jim Nelson [E]

*Charter Members #New Ham

Note: Thanks to all who have paid their dues and those who have given additional donations. All donations are greatly appreciated. Please let me know of any corrections.



**Meetings are 8am the last Saturday
of most months at Mom's Café in
Plattsmouth.**

**Tuesday night get-togethers at
Plattsmouth
Burger King at 6 PM or so.**

**PLATTSMOUTH AMATEUR
RADIO CLUB**
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P.A.R.C. Officers**President**

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KCØHYD John Titsworth

Secretary

WØDBW Derek Winterstien

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KIØPY Kevin Faris

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Repeaters:

443.45⁺ is located in downtown Omaha
 443.225⁺ is located in Murray.
 147.48 Simplex is also in Murray.

Web Site
www.kb0smx.com

Maintained by Derek (WØDBW)

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**MINUTES of
the
MEETING**

The monthly meeting was held August 26, 2023 at Mom's Café. The meeting was called to order by Treasurer Kevin Faris at 8:40 am.

Those in attendance were Kevin (KIØPY), Ray (N5SEZ), Gary (WØCFC), Chuck (AIØN), Jim (WØJRN), and Derek (WØDBW).

The Minutes of the July meeting were approved on a motion by Jim and second by Gary.

The Treasurer's report shows no change which leaves a balance of \$562.55 in the General Fund and \$315 in the Repeater Fund for a total of \$877.55. The Report was approved on a motion by Chuck and second by Derek.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:44 am on a motion by Gary and second by Jim.

**PLATTSMOUTH ARC MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM**

Name		Call Sign		Class
Address		City	State	Zip
E-Mail		Phone #		
Spouse Name		Call Sign		Class
Membership Type	• Additional donations are gratefully accepted. • New Hams are free during the year they receive their first license. • Please give this form and dues to the club treasurer or any club officer.		Donation for: ☐ Repeater fund ☐ Insurance ☐ Other _____ ☐ General	Amount: ☐ I prefer my donation to be anonymous.
☐ Primary (\$15) ☐ Spouse (\$5) ☐ Student (\$5) ☐ New Ham				
Any additional e-mail or cell phone #s?				

Meeting Calendar

8am, Sat September 30.
8am, Sat October 28, 2023
8am, Sat November 25
(No meeting in December)
at Mom's Café.