

The Beauii



A newsletter published by the
Sarasota Shell Club

Look for us at
www.Sarasotashellclub.com

We meet on the 2nd Thursday, 7:00 pm
(September to April)
at Fire Station #2,
2070 Waldemere St.,
Sarasota, FL

January, 2019 Edition

From the Prez



Hello Fellow Shellers!

The holiday season has now come to a close and I hope everyone had a wonderful time. Our holiday party was THE BEST EVER! If you missed out, I hope you will come next year. We had a great time socializing and the food was AWESOME!

Now we enter our busiest time of the year with our upcoming shell show. Please remember, it takes ALL of us to make our show a success. Take the opportunity at our next meeting to decide how you can help and sign up to volunteer at the show. Volunteers who work 4 or more hours at a time get free lunch. I will be there Thursday thru Sunday all day to help where I can.

On a final note, I had the opportunity to shell Kice Island (south of Marco) on Christmas Eve Day and it was unbelievable. We saw all kinds of wildlife and the shelling itself was fabulous. I wanted to share a photo (right) of one of the octopi we saved that got stranded up on the sand flats during this super low tide. I'll try to bring some examples of the shells we collected there to our January meeting.

Respectfully,
Sally Peppitoni

**Our Speaker
will be
Gary Schmelz**

Field Trips, 2018-2019

1/19/19	Cedar Key
1/22/19	Carefree Learner
2/05/19	Carefree Learner
2/20/19	Carefree Learner
4/20/19	Peanut Island, West Palm Beach

Whats in this Issue:

President's Message	Page 1
Featured Mollusk	Page 2
Meet your Member	Page 3
Holiday Party Photos	Pages 4 & 5
December Meeting Photos	Page 6
Shoebox Results	Page 7
January's Featured Speaker	Page 8
Club News & Activities	Page 9 to 11
Sponsorships for 2019 Awards	Page 12
Club Information	Page 13
Notes from Nancy	Page 14



Your 2018-2019 Membership Renewal Form is on the back page - Renew Now!

Harpa major
Röding, 1798
January's Featured Mollusk



Two views of a typical *Harpa major*.
Shells courtesy of Sue Hobbs

The *Harpa major*, or Major Harp, is an attractive and interesting shell to hold and enjoy. It is found in the tropical Indo-Pacific plus the eastern coasts of the Pacific and Atlantic. It lives in deep water and digs into the sand.



A live specimen of *Harpa major*. Photo: Wikipedia

The family Harpidae is one of seven families of the superfamily, Volutaea. There are eleven species. The shells have a large body whorl with strong ribs that are in a spiral. The protoconchs are variable and used to separate the genus's.

The *Harpa major* is a reddish brown with some pink. The shells of the male are narrower than those of the female.



Distribution of the *Harpa major*.

It is carnivorous and feeds primarily on small crabs and shrimp. It will hold its victim down with its foot; secretes mucous to paralyze and eats via liquefaction (and sucking).

These mollusks have some unusual characteristics:

- * a large, fleshy foot.
- * small radula compared to the rest of the animal.
- * when disturbed, it will amputate the posterior portion of its foot - known as "autotomizing."



A drawing of the shell and live animal.

Drawing: Wikipedia

Meet Your Member—Dennis Sargent

Hi everyone, my name is Dennis Sargent. I first became a member of the Sarasota Shell Club in the early 1970s. I was a new firefighter with the City of Sarasota in 1972 when I received SCUBA training to become a member of the underwater rescue team. As I became more involved with SCUBA, I noticed the wonderful marine life that existed in the Sarasota area at that time. I eventually picked up a few shells and my interest grew.

As I became more involved, I purchased a few shell books and learned as much as I could. A few months later, I drove to the Shell Factory in Fort Myers. As I was sorting through the bins, a white haired man approached me and said, “you seem to be interested in the specimens, let me show you where they are”. The man was dressed in shorts, a Hawaiian shirt and a big gold chain with a sharks’ tooth hanging from it. He took me to the specimen counter and from there I was hooked!

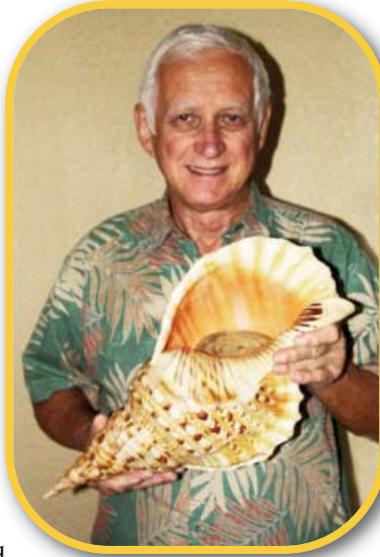
A few weeks later, I saw a listing in the Sarasota Herald Tribune about a Shell Club Meeting. I decided to attend and much to my surprise, the man from the Shell Factory was at the meeting. It was Charlie Hertweck, President of the club! From that point Charlie and his wife Vi, became close friends and mentors. As the years went by several other club members became close friends. Other members of the club also had a great impact on my growing inter-

est. Bob Morrison introduced me to a graduate student at the University of Miami. There I met Ed Petuch and his friend Jerry Harasewych. Craig Kauffman introduced me to many of the specimen dealers and my interest continued to grow.

Since then Dr Petuch and I have written and illustrated four books and named over 60 new species of marine mollusks. I have had the privilege of being a guest researcher at many of the world’s best museums. I had the opportunity to work seriously with several families of marine mollusks including the Olividae, Strombidae, Ranellidae, Bursidae and Cassidae,

My fire service career took me to many places throughout the United States and at times, placed my interest in malacology on hold. During the years I had the opportunity to own several shells that were exceptional, including several world records. These eventually went to museums or wealthy collectors. In the attached photo I am holding the world record *Charonia tritonis*, size: 460 mm, which I owned briefly.

In the year 2000, I retired from the fire service and rejoined the Sarasota Shell Club. Since then I have had some great experiences with shells. I have recently reduced my shell activity; however, I still maintain a small collection and bring back new additions from some of our travels.



Members—want your shell story published? Send your information and photo to the editor at rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com and it will appear in a future issue of *The Beauii*.

January’s Cartoon . . .



Holiday Party Member Photos . . .



Roland and Barbara Besaw with Glenda Kantor.



Donna Timmermann and Rosanne Roble.



Fran Schlusemann and Eileen Hansen



Dona Bigham and Rolla Schuh.



Mary Jo and Ron Bopp.



Mike and JoAnn Mancuso with Beverly Root and Julianne Delaney.



Carol Mae and Sally Peppitoni



Jim and Terry Chastain.

... More Holiday Party Photos



Rich Cirrintano and Donna Cassin.



Gary and Donna Krusenowski.



Mary Hansher, Bev Snyder and Debbi Lewton.



Jacalyn and Theresa Dobberstein.



Linda Greiner and Fran Schlusemann (birthday girls).



Lou Cirritano, Ed Brown and Carol Johnson.



Frankie Grover and Delores Elsasser.



Donna and David Timmermann.

December Meeting Photos



President Sally Peppitoni using a math formula to come up with "Merry Christmas"



Donna "Merry Christmas" Krusenoski



Kathy Whyte presenting the shell of the month



Sally holding the *Lambis* shell of the month



Michael Harlow



Dottie Kauffmann



Debbie Lewton and Pete Steelman



Members judging the Shoebox Exhibits.

Shoebox Exhibits



1st Place - Duane Kauffmann with his "Malacocrusin" display.



2nd Place - Theresa Dobberstein with beach finds.



3rd Place - Nancy Cadieux with her fossil presentation.



Other Shoebox Exhibits include a King Helmet (above); a display of *Haliotis dissona* (above, right) and a collection of the Banded Tulip Shells.



January's Featured Speaker—Gary Schmelz

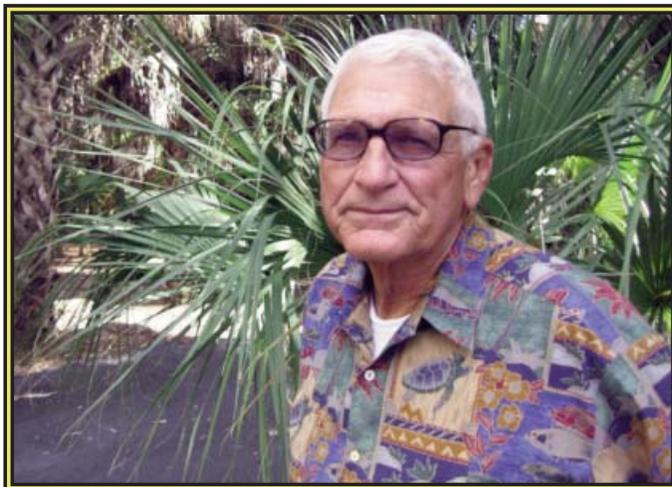
Program title: "A Delicate Balance"

The program provides a brief look at nearshore marine life and how they depend on one another for their existence. In addition it looks at how we impact this environment and what we can do to protect it.

Biography:

Born in Jersey City, NJ, on July 24, 1939, GARY SCHMELZ received his B.S. in zoology from Farleigh Dickinson University (1961) followed by a M.S. in biology (1964) and a Ph.D. in biology with an emphasis in marine science (1970) from the University of Delaware. From 1964 to 1966 he was on active duty in the U.S. Navy aboard the survey ship USS San Pablo. His duties involved the operation of deep water dredging equipment, taking core samples, collecting water samples plus bathythermograph readings, and using sonar equipment to map the ocean bottom. Following graduation in 1970, he and his wife Bernice Davies Schmelz (M.Ed. in secondary education, 1969) moved to Naples, Florida where he initially worked as the chief aquatic ecologist for the Deltona Corporation.

In 1972, Dr. Schmelz became the director of the Big Cypress Nature Center and the Director of Education for the Conservancy of Southwest Florida which merged with the Nature Center in 1976. While working at the Big Cypress Nature Center and Conservancy, he developed environmental education classes for Collier County third, fourth, and seventh grade children (1972 to 1984); developed and implemented natural history tours to the Bahamas, Caribbean and Central America (1977 to 1988); established a national environmental education training program for teachers (1986); developed a wild animal rehabilitation program (1975); oversaw the construction and operation of the Briggs Nature Center in the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (1982); instituted and oversaw the initial phases of the development of the Conservancy's intern and volunteer programs (1976 to 1982); developed an international intern program (1987); and supervised the Conservancy's sea turtle nesting project (1986 to 1988). From 1989 to 1999, Dr. Schmelz assisted with the establishment of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center on Key Biscayne, FL and was an Assoc. Professor of marine biology, oceanography, ecology and biology at Florida SouthWestern State College.



For his accomplishments in the field of environmental education, he received the Elsie M. B. Naumburg Award (1985) as the leading environmental educator in the United States. In 2007, Dr. Schmelz was awarded the Howard Converse Award for his outstanding contributions to Florida Paleontology.

Dr. Schmelz has written a number of natural history articles for local magazines; produced a young adult novel (*The Gift*), a memoir (*Journey to the Edge of Eden*); co-authored a *Guide to Native Wildflowers of Collier County* and a *Guide to Native Wildflowers of Southwest Florida*; and recently completed a book of photographs depicting some of Florida's most beautiful fossil shells (*Fabulous Florida Fossil Shells*). To date, he has described 34 new species of fossil marine mollusks from the Chipola Formation. His most recent scientific writings have appeared in *The Nautilus*, and he also co-authored a University of Florida booklet on *Mollusca of Florida's Shoal River Formation*.

He was a board member and past president and of the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum on Sanibel Island, FL and currently serves as an advisory council member to the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, and the advisory council of the University of Delaware's school of Marine ecology, Geology and Geography. In addition, he is a Field Research Associate with the University of Florida where his main investigative interests are in the area of paleomalocology.

In his retirement Dr. Schmelz enjoys reading, travel, hiking, underwater photography, leading local field trips and giving lectures to Florida clubs and organizations.

A Postcard from the Past . . .



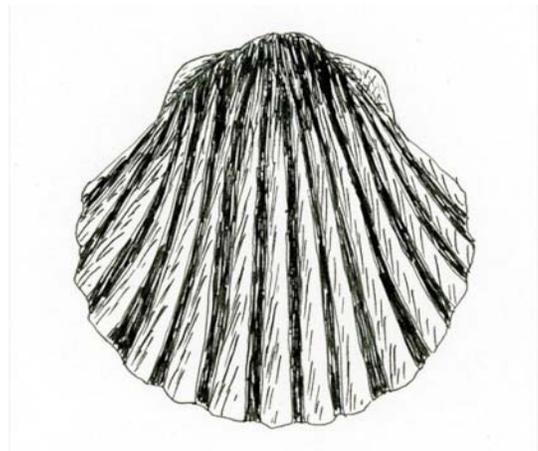
A happy New Year to all Sarasota Shell Club members!

Why Do You Like Sea Shells?

Well, let's find out! Send the editor (rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com) your reasons for collecting sea shells and a summary will be posted in an upcoming issue of *The Beauii*. No matter what our indication is, or how trivial you think it is for participating in pursuing this fascinating hobby, it is noteworthy and worth letting others know. This should be fun.

Editor's Thoughts

I took the job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.



NEWS FLASH—The Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum is planning a \$6 million renovation project which will include 10 to 15 aquariums, each having live mollusks. Check out the exceptional video depicting the proposed renovation at:
<https://www.shellmuseum.org/your-museum-comes-alive>

The **2019 COA Convention** will be held at the South Seas Plantation on the island of Captiva, June 19-23 2019. Field trips will be available June 17-18. The Bourse will be held June 22-23. Reservations open September 1, 2018.

Information, registration, etc. are all available at
<<http://www.conchologistsofamerica.org/conventions/>>

Library Notes

Our Sarasota Shell Club library is located at the Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church in Sarasota. A list of our books is on the website www.sarasotashellclub.com. For more info on some of our books, go to www.mdmshellbooks.com.



You may want a book to help with your scientific or artistic exhibit at our SSC Shell Show or just educate yourself about shells and marine life, as well as helping you identify shells you find.

Call me at 941-993-5161 or email me at luvseashells@gmail.com to arrange an appointment for browsing our library or requesting books you would like me to bring to our SSC meetings or just talk about our exciting library books.

There is a whole world of seashells and marine life out there !

Linda Greiner

Sailor's Valentine Classes

Join Suzanne in laughter, smiles and friendship while creating a treasured keepsake. This 3 day class is sponsored by the Sarasota Shell Club Artisans.

While honoring traditional techniques, we will be creating a pattern similar to the one pictured. All materials including octagon cases made by Ed Brown are included in the class fee of \$600. Class size is limited to 8.

Class is open to beginners and accomplished shell artists alike.

The 3 day class will meet from 10-2pm, Monday thru Wednesday, February 11, 12 and 13 immediately following our annual shell show.

Location - the shell club artisans workshop at the Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church on the corner of Proctor & McIntosh.

Contact Suzanne Dietsch - Suzanne@seashellvalentines.com or phone 309-883-1590.
www.seashellvalentines.com



The Artisans

The Artisans are a group of caring and talented people. We meet usually once a week on Thursday 10 to 1pm, after which we all go out for lunch. We also go on day trips, to buy shells, etc.. All of the items we make are for the Sarasota Shell Club show, as well as other venues. The monies we make (thousands each year), funds our outreach programs, as well as other educational gifts the club chooses.

If you have any questions, please call Nancy Marini 941-758-9790. We meet at the Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church on the corner of Proctor & McIntosh (Sarasota). We are in the one story brick "Keyes" building. If you think you'd like to join us, please give Nancy a call.



Historian's Report

Duane Kauffmann

50 Years Ago:

Sixty-three members and guests attended the January 10, 1969 meeting of the Sarasota Shell Club. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$1039.99.

Louise Danforth was made a life member of the Club in honor of all the contributions she had made as club member and officer over many years.

A shell was passed around among those present. "After inspection of the shell, the President asked for the member's reaction. A motion was made, a second received, and when voted upon, it was unanimously approved. Therefore, ***Murex beauii* will be the official emblem of this Club.**" [Editor's note: Shell is now *Siratus beauii* (Fischer & Bernardi, 1857). Spelling of species name in original text. Bold emphasis not in original minutes.]

The program was provided by Bee Barnes: a film entitled "Shelling on Sanibel." "Many pleased comments were made on the program."

25 Years Ago

The Club archives have no minutes for January, 1994.

Insurance Request

Because of insurance requirements we are asking our members to dispose of their old club phone directories by shredding, etc., so they don't fall into the wrong hands.

Florida United Malacologists (FUM) 2019

February 16, 2019 | Gainesville, FL

The tenth annual meeting of Florida United Malacologists (FUM) will take place on Saturday, February 16, 2019 at Florida Museum of Natural History's Dickinson Hall on the campus of the University of Florida in Gainesville. This one day meeting brings together anyone with an interest in mollusks to discuss a wide variety of topics including but not limited to biology, paleontology, archaeology, ecology, and conservation of the group. This relaxed and informal venue is an excellent opportunity for students, amateurs, naturalists, and professionals to present a topic of interest to them and meet and share ideas with other people fascinated by the second largest phylum of animals. I hope you can join us this February.

John Slapcinsky
Florida Museum of Natural History
University of Florida
352-273-1829
slapcin@flmnh.ufl.edu



Sunshine Report

Long time club member, Linda Ervin, is very ill and we ask you to remember her in your prayers until further notice.

Sponsorships Available for 2019 Shell Show's Major and Special Awards

Each year hundreds of people flock to the annual Sarasota Shell Club's Shell Show to see all the exciting scientific and artistic exhibits. Many hours are spent by the entrants to make sure their entry is the best it can be. To recognize these efforts, the shell club presents Major and Special Awards to the best of the best. These awards have been made available through the generosity of our club members who sponsor these awards.

Again this year we have Major Scientific Awards and Major Artistic Awards that are available for \$50. The cost of sponsoring a major award can be shared, but the full amount of the award must be paid at the time of sponsorship. Special Awards (rosettes) are available for sponsorship for \$25 each. Remember that your donation is tax deductible and your willingness to help allows the Sarasota Shell Club to recognize the hard work that people have put into their exhibits.

A sponsorship sheet will be available at the December and January membership meetings where you can sign up to sponsor an award. Payment is expected at that time. A full explanation of each award is available online under the Annual Shell Show, 2019 Shell Show icon at the top of the page at www.sarasotashellclub.com. If you have any questions about sponsoring an award, you can contact Bruce Paulsen at sarasotashellclub@gmail.com or call him at 941-375-8158.

The Major Scientific Awards are:

- Mote Gold Trophy: available
- DuPont Trophy: sponsored by DuPont
- Conchologists of America Trophy: sponsored by COA
- Sarasota Shell Club Members Trophy: available
- Best Self-Collected Exhibit Trophy: available
- Best Small Scientific Exhibit Trophy: available
- The Charles and Violet Hertweck Fossil Trophy: available
- The Robert and Jo Ann Morrison Young Scientist Awards: sponsored by Linda and Dan Greiner
- Peggy Williams Memorial Award: sponsored by Lynn Gaulin

The Major Artistic Awards are:

- The Fran Schlusemann Best of Shell Flower Art: available
- Best of Art with Shell Motif: available
- The June Bailey Best of Member's Art: available
- The Donna and Tom Cassin Award: sponsored by Donna Cassin
- The Nancy and Armand Marini Award: sponsored by Nancy Marini
- The Hank and Fran Schlusemann Award: sponsored by Fran Schlusemann

The Special Awards (rosettes) are:

- Shell of the Show: available
- Shell of the Show—Self-Collected: available
- Fossil Shell of the Show: available
- Most Beautiful Exhibit: available
- Judges Special Merit Awards: available
- Best of Commercial/Professional Art: available
- People's Choice Awards:
 - Scientific—available
 - Artistic—available

Officers & Board Members

President	Sally Peppitoni
Vice-President	Nancy Marini
Treasurer	Karen Huether
Recording Secretary	Donna Cassin
Corresponding Secretary	Duane Kauffmann

Calendar

Jan. 10	SSC Membership Meeting
Feb. 8-10	SSC's Shell Show
Feb. 14	SSC Membership Meeting
Feb. 16	FUM (Gainesville)
June 17-23	COA Convention (Captiva)

Board Members: Donna Krusenoski (3), Rich Cirranto (3), Donna Timmermann (2), Jenny Folden (2), JoAnne Mancuso (1), and Pete Steelman (1).

Committee Chairmen

Artisans	Nancy Marini
<i>The Beauii</i>	Ron Bopp
Historian	Duane Kauffmann
Field Trips	Sally Peppitoni
Librarian	Linda Greiner
Membership	Donna Krusenoski
Shell Show	Board
Sunshine	Karen Ciffin
Webmaster	Bruce Paulsen

Contact the Editor - email Ron Bopp at rbopp1@tampabay.rr.com or call at 918-527-0589 if you have something to include in *The Beauii*.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of September through April at 7:00 pm at Waldemere Fire Station, 2070 Waldemere St. in Sarasota. Park in the small lot on the right or in the nursing home lot across the street.

Dues are \$21.00 for new single members and \$33.00 for family members (at the same address. **Renewals** are \$15.00 for single and \$20.00 for family.

If you want *The Beauii* printed and mailed it is an extra \$15.00 to your dues.

**The 2018-2019
Membership Application
is Attached**

**You may renew your membership
now - fill out and sign!**

Remember Last Year?

Our 2018 Sarasota Shell Show was a great success and will be again this year! Help the club out by volunteering to be part of this show—do it for four hours and you will get a free lunch!



How? sign up to help at the upcoming membership meeting on January 10 or call Nancy Marini at 941-758-9790

Notes from Nancy

NOTE: because the January 10th is our last meeting before the show please be prepared to pay for the Awards Dinner and to volunteer to work at the show. The show is February 8 to 10, 2019. Any volunteer who works four or more hours a day gets a free lunch compliments of SSC. Last year we had a great group of people volunteer.



The awards' menu consists of a buffet including Chicken Marsala, roasted potatoes, fresh "veggies" or Baked Salmon with a creamy Dill sauce, rice pilaf, fresh "veggies" and Caesar salad. Of course, rye bread and a variety of Desserts along with water and iced tea will be available. Please feel free to bring your own wine or beer. The Award's dinner is on February 9th at 5:30 p.m. at the Homewood Suites which is on 3470 Fruitville Road in Sarasota. It is approximately one block from the shell show. This is very informal since we are coming right from the show. Seating is limited so please don't hesitate. If you can't make the meeting you can mail me a check for \$25.00 per person; note chicken or fish & send to Nancy Marini-5003 28th Ct. E., Bradenton, FL 34203.

The artisans wish everyone a happy & healthy New Year.

Sarasota Shell Club 2018 - 2019 Renewal/New Application Membership

Note: Dues include newsletters (*The Beauii*) via email, September through April. If no email address is available, add \$15 to your yearly dues if you want to receive the newsletters by mail.

Initial Dues: include cost of membership name tag:

\$21.50 single and \$33 family (living at the same address)

If no email address, add \$15 to your yearly dues

Renewal Dues: \$15 single and \$20 family (living at the same address).

If no email address add \$15 to your yearly dues.

To join, send checks only (no cash) made out to SSC to

Donna Krusenoski, Membership Chairman

3250 Ringwood Mdw

Sarasota, FL 34235

Please print legibly to help us correctly spell your name:

Date: _____

Name(s): _____

Local Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Cell: _____

Email address(s): _____

Other address & phone: _____

Emergency contact & phone: _____

Birthday day & month: _____

We offer field trips to our membership and would like you to attend. Times and places will be announced at meetings or in our newsletter.

Are you interested in field trips? _____

Do you know of any good field trip location(s)? _____

If so, they are: _____

We require you to sign this Liability Release if you are interested in participating in our field trips. Every member must sign below:

Liability Release

I agree that I am individually responsible for my safety and my personal property. I will not hold the Sarasota Shell Club, its officers, field trip leader(s), or property owner liable for any damage or injury to me or my property that should occur.

Signature required for each member joining:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

The SSC publishes a roster with names, address and emails for our member use only. Please check one:

_____ it is **OK** to publish my information in the roster

_____ it is **Not OK** to publish my information in the roster

You will be sent monthly newsletters starting in September through April informing you of the date and time of the next meeting held the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Waldemere Fire Station off US 41 (behind Wendy's near Sarasota Memorial Hospital). Name badges can be picked up approximately 4 weeks after they are ordered.

To be filled in by the Membership Committee

Renewal _____ New Member _____

Amount paid & date _____ / _____