

From: UQVAX:CCWILBER "Wilber Williams, Prentice Centre" 8-JUL-1991 15:35:00.04  
To: A.Coulter, G.Rees, G.michaelson  
CC:  
Subj: FWD: ClariNet News Information

From: IN%"Steven.Bittinger@cc.utas.edu.au" "Steven Bittinger" 8-JUL-1991  
13:13:28.51  
To: wilber@uqvax.cc.uq.oz.au  
CC:  
Subj: ClariNet News Information

-StevenB-

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Tasmania 7001, AUSTRALIA instead of (002)

You can get a feed of ClariNet from the University of Sydney. The AAP, which I assume is an Australian wire, will give you more news of a local interest. Our news is oriented more towards North America, as you might expect. (But Newsbytes does cover a fair bit of Australian Computer News.)

The full blurb follows. We have special educational prices, listed in \$US in the brochure. They would be lower in Australia. They are based on the size of your school -- how big is it?

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C o m m u n i c a t i o n s C o r p .

124 King St. N., Waterloo, Ontario, N2J 2X8 519/884-7473

**What is ClariNet?**

ClariNet is a new electronic publishing network service that provides professional news and information, including live UPI wireservice news, in the USENET file format.

ClariNet lets you read an "electronic newspaper" right on your own computer. You can also get timely computer industry news, technology related wirestories, syndicated columns and features, financial information, stock quotes and more.

ClariNet gives you scores of professionally produced newsgroups for about the same price as the analogous paper publications -- but without advertising. Instead of dialing up to an online service with a slow modem to read online news, you get it delivered to your own machine, to read and search at your own convenience, with your own favourite tools, on your own high speed terminal -- and there's no meter running while you read.

ClariNet news is provided using the USENET message interchange format, and available via UUCP and other delivery protocols. These formats are supported by a variety of packages for Unix and other systems. If you're already on USENET, you're ready to receive ClariNet with no extra effort. If you're not on USENET, we can help you get newsreading software, usually for free.

**How does it work?**

At ClariNet, we licence publications of all sorts for electronic distribution. For example, we collect news directly off the UPI wire, classify it and convert it into USENET format. In turn, generated articles are fed out on a regular basis to the UUNET hub machine, Anterior's Bay Area USENET hub and other distribution points. You pick them up in USENET format and pay a subscription fee based on the number of readers at your site.

(UUNET is a non-profit firm that exists to provide communications services to the Unix/USENET community. They have the highest-capacity

system of this type, which is why we buy their services. Anterior runs a similar for-profit service in the SF Bay area.)

You read your news using USENET newsreading tools. Small volume publications can also be sent via electronic mail. To ClariNews subscribers, we provide free use of the NewsClip programming language. This lets you filter your newsreading as finely as you desire.

With special permission, you can even feed ClariNet publications to other sites -- in fact, we'll pay you to do this. Feed enough sites and your subscriptions will be free.

What are the publications?

ClariNews -- our "electronic newspaper," gathered live from the wire services of United Press International (UPI). ClariNews articles are distributed in one hundred newsgroups based on their subject matter, and are keyworded for additional topics and the geographical location of the story. ClariNews has everything from headlines to industry news to box scores to network TV schedules.

ClariNews is divided into three main products:

ClariNews-General -- our general news "paper" with news, sports and features. All major news, sports, weather and UPI feature articles, plus limited business and science/technology coverage. Coverage of US and international news, Washington and more. Around 400 stories per day, but categorized and headlined to help you read only what you want to read. Get your news and sports scores long before they show up in your daily newspaper.

Also available is ClariNews-Canada, with regular newsbriefs on Canadian stories -- usually hard to find in the USA. For expatriate Canadians this is a must.

TechWire -- special groups for stories on science and technology and the industries around them. Computers, Electronics, Telecom, Space, Aerospace, Defence, Biotechnology, Research, Education, AIDS and more. Around 30-40 stories/day. Coming soon: A daily report of the stock prices of computer industry stocks.

ClariNews-Biz -- Business and financial stories. Economic indicators, corporate news, regular stock market reports, legal issues, government info, commodities and much more. Around 150 stories/day

Newsbytes -- a twice-weekly computer industry newsmagazine, on your computer well before InfoWorld or PC Week can be on your desk. Gathered from 11 bureaus around the world. Newsbytes covers the IBM, Apple, Unix, Telecom and general computing worlds, along with coverage of trends, legal issues, industry news and reviews of new products.

Syndicated Columns -- ClariNet offers the finest in syndicated columns and features. Currently we offer:

Dave Barry	- America's Best Humour Columnist
Mike Royko	- Top rated opinion columnist
Miss Manners	- Light hearted advice on etiquette
Kinsey Report	- Q&A and information on sex
Richard Lederer	- "Looking at Language."

Dozens of other features come with the UPI report. We want to bring more -- tell us what you like!

Syndicated features are available via E-mail or Newsgroup.

The full list of newsgroups is posted monthly to news.groups within the list of "Alternate Newsgroup Hierarchies." You can also find it at the end of this document.

What does it cost?

ClariNet publications can be purchased either with single subscriptions (for 1 or 2 people) or with a "site" subscription that covers your computer, LAN or facility. Each product has a "base price" that is the cost for 1 or 2 readers.

For site subscriptions, we calculate a subscriber count based on the networking population of your site. Send us your best estimate of the number of people who read any kind of electronic

news on your computer, including local discussions, and we can provide a quote. The more subscribers you have, the less you pay per subscriber -- as much as 88% less.

Here are the base prices for the products, along with the percentages we use in calculating subscriber counts. If you don't currently use any form of electronic news, tell us the general user population of your systems, and we will work from that.

Product	Base Price	Site Licence Percentage	
Full ClariNews	\$25/month	20%	(Special Discount Ramp)
News/Sports/Features	\$10/month	20%	
Canada	\$5/month	20%	
TechWire	\$10/month	25%	
Business News	\$15/month	15%	
N/S/F + TechWire	\$18/month	25%	
Newsbytes	\$25/6 months	20%	
Typical Synd Column	\$16.95/year	20%	(Available by E-mail)
All 5 Synd Columns	\$39/year	25%	
Packages			
ALL Products	\$30/month	25%	(Special Discount Ramp)
All but TechWire & Business News	\$18/month	20%	

As an example, here are the "site subscription" prices on these publications for a system with 100 netreaders. All prices are in US dollars per month:

Product	Price/Month	Price/Netreader/Month
ClariNews-General	\$83	\$0.83
TechWire	\$93	\$0.93
NewsBytes	\$34.50	\$0.35
TechWire+NewsBytes	\$111.60	\$1.12
Typical Synd. Column	\$14.12	\$0.14
All 5 Synd Columns	\$39.20	\$0.39
ClariNews-ALL	\$145	\$1.45
Everything!	\$174	\$1.74

Prices are subject to change without notice to non-subscribers. Write to [info@clarinet.com](mailto:info@clarinet.com) for an exact quote. Prices are in U.S. Dollars. Discounts available on UPI info for non-US sites.

#### EDUCATIONAL PRICES:

ClariNet educational prices provide a site licence for the entire campus. You can distribute it as you like within the campus (except to the newspapers or radio/TV station) -- even archive it in a full text search database for your library or use it within your school of journalism. The price is based on the full time enrollment of the institution:

Under 5,000	\$150/month
5,000 to 20,000	\$300/month
20,000 and up	\$500/month

(Borderline schools are judged based on how heavily networked they are.)

#### SAMPLE PRICES:

Here are some sample prices for the package of all current products at different "networker" counts.

Networkers	Price/month
25	\$75
50	\$114
100	\$174 (as above)
150	\$219
200	\$264
500	\$534
1,000	\$894

Can I see what it looks like?

We'll be glad to give you a free two-week trial of any product, with no obligation. If you already connect to UUNET or another authorized feed site, we can set a trial up for you almost immediately, with no effort on your part.

If you're not satisfied with the products at the end of the trial, send back the invoice (even by e-mail) and you will be charged nothing. "Keep those first issues as our gift to you." :-)

Sample articles are posted regularly to the USENET group "biz.clarinet.sample." Contact us for more.

What about feeding other sites?

USENET works by having one site in an area feed other sites. ClariNet can work that way too. If you apply for permission, and you have the capacity to do it reliably, we will let you feed other sites. In fact, we'll pay you to do this by reducing your subscription fees by 10% of the fees we charge the sites you feed directly. You can either register with us to feed sites, or you can go out and find possible subscribers amongst the sites you already know. If you do that, we'll discount your price even further.

Feed 7-10 similar sized sites in this manner and your subscription will be free.

How do I subscribe?

If you need more information, mail to [info@clarinet.com](mailto:info@clarinet.com). If you want an electronic order form and the full sheet of terms and conditions, mail to [order@clarinet.com](mailto:order@clarinet.com). You can also phone 800-USE-NETS or 519-884-7473. E-mail is easiest, but you may wish to use the phone to talk in person or give confidential information like UUCP connect info or credit card numbers.

Internet users should be aware that certain commercial messages may not be appropriate for transmission over the internet.

You can pay by check or credit card, or we can invoice site subscribers. There is a \$1 discount per invoice if you allow electronic mail invoicing and pay promptly. We take Visa, MasterCard and Amex.

You can also write to us at:

ClariNet Communications Corp.  
124 King St. N.  
Waterloo, ON  
N2J 2X8

How do I get a feed?

Two easy places are UUNET and Anterior (Fernwood). Write to [postmaster@uunet.uu.net](mailto:postmaster@uunet.uu.net) for details on how to become a customer of theirs. They provide cheap communications, but do charge a \$35/month administrative fee on top of their telecom charges. After that, they can feed you anywhere in the USA for as little as \$5/hour. Fernwood has a \$30/month administration fee and \$1.90/hr rates for Palo Alto area customers. Write to [postmaster@fernwood.mpk.ca.us](mailto:postmaster@fernwood.mpk.ca.us).

You can also get a feed from one of our existing customers in your area. Our net is growing. Contact us to see if we have a feed site in an area that you can call.

At ClariNet itself, we are restricting ourselves to feeding large customers and customers within Canada.

You can also get a live feed over the Internet, if you are an authorized internet user. Currently there is no NSFnet policy against this. They have the ClariNet proposal under review, and we will let you know what they decide for the long term.

If there is no feed point suitable for you, we will keep you on file and inform you when one shows up.

Mail feeds are possible for very small publications like syndicated columns. On the other hand, the individual sending requirements

can make this sort of arrangement expensive. In addition, you should be sure you have the permission of the sites that will pass the mail on to you.

Do I really need more stuff to read?

No. But we do think you can use your time better when you read professionally written and classified information -- information worth paying for. With NewsClip you can arrange so that each article you see is important to you and worth reading. Compare that to the time you spend on USENET or online services -- it might actually save you time and money.

In fact, ClariNet could be the best reason to run USENET software on your machine -- or something that makes it even more worthwhile to all levels of your company.

What are the terms and conditions?

ClariNet products are offered under special terms. If you wish to subscribe, we'll send you the full sheet of terms and conditions. In general, the terms state that:

You must not interfere with the operation of the ClariNet network (no forged control messages etc.)

You must respect copyright, and not allow unauthorized access.

You must pay your subscription fees on time.

Some products may not be archived forever.

(This does not apply to any current products)

The rules are subject to change with 30 days notice.

Customers may not re-sell or re-publish ClariNet products.

(Some limited use on fee paying BBSs is allowed.)

Articles must be kept intact.

ClariNet is not responsible for information provided by outside information providers. Most products are offered on an as-is basis. (UPI is as-is)

Customers are responsible for the cost of communication from a ClariNet feedpoint to their computer.

What are the advantages of ClariNet?

Many online services offer you electronic publications, including live newswires. The difference with ClariNet is that we deliver it to your computer. You don't have to dial up and read it with a 2400 bps modem, with a meter running. You get to read your news on your own machine, on your own time, and on your own high speed terminal.

The subscription fee is quite low. General ClariNews at \$10 a month is a bargain compared to many online services, where that \$10 would buy less than an hour of newsreading per month.

Best of all, the price is fixed, and can be fixed for several months in advance -- no hidden costs -- it's easy to budget.

How can I handle 500 new articles of news each day?

You can search the news on your own machine with your own tools. ClariNews is quite large, and you would not be expected to read all of it, just as you don't read all of a daily paper.

Because ClariNews is headlined by professional editors, all it takes is a simple "=" (in RN) to make a quick scan of the headlines. Then pick and choose the stories you like.

Or use a NewsClip filter program. ClariNews is highly keyworded. You can arrange to see only articles that describe topics, people places or companies that you are interested. Want to see only the computer stories that mention Sun Microsystems? -- no problem.

There are hundreds of different keywords that the editors place on each article. Topics from AIDS to child abuse to televangelism to inflation to gun control can be tracked.

Or, if it's just too much news, simply select our "TOP" news categories and get only the leading stories of the day, plus whatever special groups you have interest in. Our top news categories cover the type of news you would find in the first few pages of the news, sports, international and business sections of a typical newspaper.

How fast can I get the news?

We get the news right as it comes off the wire, and deliver it to UUNET within two hours. If you call UUNET regularly, or have an internet connection, you can get the news as it happens. Most evening papers close out just after noon. Many morning papers close out at midnight. ClariNews stories will beat the papers for you every time.

NewsBytes closes after PC Week and InfoWorld and comes out before they are printed. That's the advantage of electronic news.

How will you stop information thieves?

We'll reward people who report piracy by giving them free subscriptions. Many people steal software and information, we're sad to say, but people would have to be crazy to steal from a news service. If they are caught and it is reported in the news, they would be likely to lose a lot more than the pirate feed.

Can I buy NewsClip without ClariNet?

Yes! NewsClip is now available as Evalu-Ware. It was posted to comp.sources.misc, and can be 'ftp'd from uUNET's ~ftp directory in the file ClariNet/nc.tar.Z

What if my site can't join but users want to subscribe?

If your sysadmin is willing to put the "clari" news articles in a special "group" that can only be read by people we authorize, we will be glad to bill individual users or groups of users. The discounts apply to each billing unit. (So if everybody wants to be billed individually, each pair pays the base price, but you can combine for a discount.)

On small sites, even this security measure is not required.

Check with your library to see if they have a standard policy on ordering publications.

Finally, if due to budget bureaucracy you find that you can buy software but not electronic news, we can arrange to sell you NewsClip and give you ClariNet free.... (sigh).

What if I don't have a Unix system?

There are software packages available that handle USENET format news for many different operating systems. There are even a couple of free/shareware packages for the IBM-PC. You can arrange to ship your news to your IBM-PC at home or on the road, if desired.

What more information can I get?

Write to info@clarinet.com for more information. Here are some of the files of information that we have. Many of these files duplicate what's said in this file, however.

feed	- How to become a site that feeds other sites
newsclip	- Details on the NewsClip language
order	- How to place an order
prices	- Prices and user counts for ClariNet products (Note that we need the size of your site for a quote)
techwire	- Description of TechWire
terms	- Terms, conditions and network rules
clarinews	- Description of ClariNews
newsbytes	- Description of NEWSBYTES computer news
feature	- Further info on syndicated columns

For full samples, see the group 'biz.clarinet.sample' which regularly samples different groups from within ClariNet, or request a trial subscription of any groups you are interested in. If you can't get biz.clarinet.sample, or would like a set of samples from some group mailed to you, let us know.

Here is the list of current ClariNet groups:

clari	ClariNet Electronic Publication Newsgroups
clari.news	ClariNet UPI general news wiregroups
clari.news.hot	Temporary groups for hot news stories
clari.biz	ClariNet UPI business news wiregroups
clari.sports	ClariNet UPI sports wiregroups
clari.tw	ClariNet UPI technology related news wiregroups

clari.nb	ClariNet Newsbytes Information service Newsgroups
clari.net	ClariNet non-news newsgroups
clari.feature	Feature columns and products
clari.feature.dave_barry	Columns of humourist Dave Barry (Moderated)
clari.feature.mike_royko	Chicago Opinion Columnist Mike Royko (Moderated)
clari.feature.miss_manners (Moderated)	Judith Martin's Humorous Etiquette Advice
clari.feature.lederer	Richard Lederer's "Looking at Language" (Moderated)
clari.feature.kinsey	Sex Q&A and Advice from Kinsey Institute (Moderated)
clari.tw.aerospace	Aerospace industry and companies (Moderated)
clari.tw.computers (Moderated)	Computer industry, applications and developments
clari.tw.defense	Defense industry issues (Moderated)
clari.tw.education	Stories involving Universities & colleges (Moderated)
clari.tw.electronics	Electronics makers and sellers (Moderated)
clari.tw.environment (Moderated)	Environmental news, hazardous waste, forests
clari.tw.health	Disease, medicine, health care, sick celebs (Moderated)
clari.tw.health.aids	AIDS stories, research, political issues (Moderated)
clari.tw.misc	General technical industry stories (Moderated)
clari.tw.nuclear	Nuclear power & waste (Moderated)
clari.tw.science	General science stories (Moderated)
clari.tw.space	NASA, Astronomy & spaceflight (Moderated)
clari.tw.stocks	Regular reports on computer & technology stock prices
clari.tw.telecom	Phones, Satellites, Media & general Telecom (Moderated)
clari.biz.commodity	Commodity news and price reports (Moderated)
clari.biz.courts	Lawsuits and business related legal matters (Moderated)
clari.biz.economy	Economic news and indicators (Moderated)
clari.biz.economy.world	Economy stories for non-US countries
clari.biz.features	Business feature stories (Moderated)
clari.biz.finance	Finance, currency, Corporate finance (Moderated)
clari.biz.finance.earnings	Earnings & dividend reports (Moderated)
clari.biz.finance.personal	Personal investing & finance (Moderated)
clari.biz.finance.services	Banks and financial industries (Moderated)
clari.biz.invest	News for investors (Moderated)
clari.biz.labor	Strikes, unions and labor relations (Moderated)
clari.biz.market	General stock market news (Moderated)
clari.biz.market.amex	American Stock Exchange reports & news (Moderated)
clari.biz.market.dow	Dow Jones NYSE reports (Moderated)
clari.biz.market.ny	NYSE reports (Moderated)
clari.biz.market.otc	NASDAQ reports (Moderated)
clari.biz.market.report	General market reports, S&P, etc. (Moderated)
clari.biz.mergers	Mergers and acquisitions (Moderated)
clari.biz.misc	Other business news (Moderated)
clari.biz.products	Important new products & services
clari.biz.top	Top business news (Moderated)
clari.nb.apple	Newsbytes Apple/Macintosh news (Moderated)
clari.nb.business	Newsbytes business & industry news (Moderated)
clari.nb.general	Newsbytes general computer news (Moderated)
clari.nb.govt	Newsbytes legal and government computer news (Moderated)
clari.nb.ibm	Newsbytes IBM PC World coverage (Moderated)
clari.nb.review	Newsbytes new product reviews (Moderated)
clari.nb.telecom	Newsbytes telecom & online industry news (Moderated)
clari.nb.trends	Newsbytes new developments & trends (Moderated)
clari.nb.unix	Newsbytes Unix news (Moderated)
clari.net.admin (Moderated)	Announcements for news admins at ClariNet sites
clari.net.announce	Announcements for all ClariNet readers (Moderated)
clari.net.products	New ClariNet products (Moderated)
clari.net.talk	Discussion of ClariNet
clari.news.almanac (Moderated)	Daily almanac - quotes, 'this date in history' etc.
clari.news.arts	Stage, drama & other fine arts (Moderated)
clari.news.aviation	Aviation industry and mishaps (Moderated)
clari.news.books	Books & publishing (Moderated)
clari.news.briefs	Regular news summaries (Moderated)
clari.news.bulletin	Major breaking stories of the week (Moderated)
clari.news.canada	News related to Canada (Moderated)
clari.news.children	Stories related to children and parenting (Moderated)
clari.news.consumer	Consumer news, car reviews etc. (Moderated)
clari.news.demonstration	Demonstrations around the world (Moderated)
clari.news.disaster (Moderated)	Major problems, accidents & natural disasters
clari.news.economy	General economic news (Moderated)
clari.news.election (Moderated)	News regarding both US and international elections
clari.news.entertain	Entertainment industry news & features (Moderated)
clari.news.europe	News related to Europe (Moderated)
clari.news.features	Unclassified feature stories (Moderated)
clari.news.fighting	Clashes around the world (Moderated)
clari.news.flash	Ultra-important once-a-year news flashes (Moderated)
clari.news.goodnews	Stories of success and survival (Moderated)

clari.news.gov General Government related stories (Moderated)  
 clari.news.gov.agency Government agencies, FBI etc. (Moderated)  
 clari.news.gov.budget Budgets at all levels (Moderated)  
 clari.news.gov.corrupt Government corruption, kickbacks etc. (Moderated)  
 clari.news.gov.international International government-related stories  
 (Moderated)  
 clari.news.gov.officials Government officials & their problems  
 (Moderated)  
 clari.news.gov.state State government stories of national importance.  
 (Moderated)  
 clari.news.gov.taxes Tax laws, trials etc. (Moderated)  
 clari.news.gov.usa US Federal government news. (High volume) (Moderated)  
 clari.news.group Special interest groups not covered in their own group  
 (Moderated)  
 clari.news.group.blacks News of interest to black people (Moderated)  
 clari.news.group.gays Homosexuality & Gay Rights.  
 clari.news.group.jews Jews & Jewish interests. (From c.n.religion)  
 clari.news.group.women Women's issues and abortion (Moderated)  
 clari.news.hot.east\_europe News from Eastern Europe (moderated)  
 clari.news.hot.panama Panama and General Noriega (moderated)  
 clari.news.interest Human interest stories (Moderated)  
 clari.news.interest.animals Animals in the news (Moderated)  
 clari.news.interest.history Human interest stories & history in the making  
 (Moderated)  
 clari.news.interest.people Famous people in the news (Moderated)  
 clari.news.interest.people.column Daily "People" column -- tidbits on  
 celebs  
 clari.news.interest.quirks Unusual or funny news stories (Moderated)  
 clari.news.issues Stories on major issues not covered in their own  
 group.  
 (Moderated)  
 clari.news.issues.civil\_rights Freedom, Racism, Civil Rights Issues  
 clari.news.issues.conflict Conflict between groups around the world  
 (Moderated)  
 clari.news.issues.family Family, Child abuse, etc.  
 clari.news.labor Unions, strikes (Moderated)  
 clari.news.labor.strike Strikes (Moderated)  
 clari.news.law General group for law related issues (Moderated)  
 clari.news.law.civil Civil trials & litigation (Moderated)  
 clari.news.law.crime Major crimes (Moderated)  
 clari.news.law.crime.sex Sex crimes and trials (Moderated)  
 clari.news.law.crime.trial Trials for criminal actions (Moderated)  
 clari.news.law.crime.violent Violent crime & criminals (Moderated)  
 clari.news.law.drugs Drug related crimes & drug stories (Moderated)  
 clari.news.law.investigation Investigation of crimes (Moderated)  
 clari.news.law.police Police & law enforcement (Moderated)  
 clari.news.law.prison Prisons, prisoners & escapes (Moderated)  
 clari.news.law.profession Lawyers, Judges etc. (Moderated)  
 clari.news.law.supreme U.S. Supreme court rulings & news (Moderated)  
 clari.news.lifestyle Fashion, leisure etc. (Moderated)  
 clari.news.military Military equipment, people & issues (Moderated)  
 clari.news.movies Reviews, news and stories on movie stars. (Moderated)  
 clari.news.music Reviews and issues concerning music & musicians.  
 (Moderated)  
 clari.news.politics Politicians & politics. (Moderated)  
 clari.news.politics.people Politicians & Political Personalities  
 clari.news.religion Religion, religious leaders, televangelists (Moderated)  
 clari.news.sex Sexual issues, sex-related political stories (Moderated)  
 clari.news.terrorism Terrorist actions & related news around the world  
 (Moderated)  
 clari.news.top Top US news stories (Moderated)  
 clari.news.top.world Top international news stories (Moderated)  
 clari.news.trends Surveys and trends. (Moderated)  
 clari.news.trouble Less major accidents, problems & mishaps (Moderated)  
 clari.news.tv TV schedules, news, reviews & stars. (Moderated)  
 clari.news.urgent Major breaking stories of the day (Moderated)  
 clari.news.weather Weather and temperature reports (Moderated)  
 clari.sports.baseball Baseball scores, stories, stats (Moderated)  
 clari.sports.basketball Basketball coverage (Moderated)  
 clari.sports.features Sports feature stories (Moderated)  
 clari.sports.football Pro football coverage (Moderated)  
 clari.sports.hockey NHL coverage (Moderated)  
 clari.sports.misc Other sports, plus general sports news (Moderated)  
 clari.sports.motor Racing, Motor Sports  
 clari.sports.tennis Tennis news & scores  
 clari.sports.top Top sports news (Moderated)  
 biz.clarinet Announcements about ClariNet  
 biz.clarinet.sample Samples of ClariNet newsgroups for the outside world