



January 2017

ARCO *vet*

A Community Service Organization Dedicated to Amateur Radio Since 1970

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E-mail: W6SBA@arrl.net



Website: <http://www.w6sba.org>

Hello W6SBA,

We have a lot to do this year! As President, I want to try and grow the club to attract the younger generation. And I think the best way to do that is to revamp the club web site and focus more on digital communications. Paul's son, Brian, has already started working on a new web design using WordPress. This will give us a modern look and make it easy to post pictures of our events throughout the year, post comments about various topics and perhaps most importantly - relay information learned about various ham topics. This is a HUGE effort and I want to thank Brian and Paul for volunteering. We will find a nice way to reward their effort!

Speaking of the web site, I want to start organizing information so we can start using the web site as a knowledge resource. We've already learned quite a bit during our recent foray into outer space (by launching balloons). Seems like the next logical step would be to capture that knowledge and post it on the web. Other examples might be setting up an APRS iGate, checking out the W1AW station, or even setting up an Echolink station so you can talk to the club repeater on your laptop! We have lots of expertise in this club and I'd like to share it with our fellow hams around the world. If you have an idea for an interesting topic, please let me or any council member know. Lots of hams have already posted informative YouTube videos on "how to" various projects in Amateur Radio. But they are not always easy to find after you close the browser. If you come across a good link, please share it with us so we can post that link and organize the information about that topic on our web site. The more knowledge and information we post, the more interest we'll generate!

Digital communications is an area I really want to focus on. APRS (which I like to call "location services") is a valuable asset to have. There are a lot of organizations out there who can use our help supporting various events like triathlons, Thanksgiving Turkey Trot, B2V, medical and personnel deployments during disasters, and let's not forget about balloon launches! All of these have needs for tracking people and objects. If we can advertise our knowledge and proficiency in this regard, it can only improve our outreach! APRS will be our first presentation for 2017 and I will give an overview on APRS as well as demonstrate the iGATE technology (the ability to transfer information heard on the radio to the internet).

I also want to try and make the weekly nets more enjoyable. One idea was to start a "trivia night". Essentially, the moderator would broadcast random questions about amateur radio as well as general trivia, and then keep track of which stations get the answer right. Maybe even a reward for the high score. Another week, we might try a "Shop Night" discussion where those who are working on projects, or just have general questions can ask their fellow hams for advice in solving various problems. These are just ideas at this point, and still need to be developed into reality - but I think we're on the right track. If you have ideas on these topics or other ideas that can help improve the club, we want to hear from you! Please email us!

Alex

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2017

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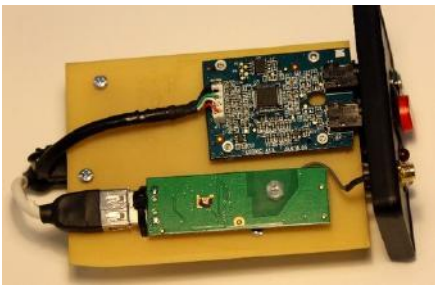
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APRS I-gate with Raspberry PI



Please join us Thursday 19 January, 2017 at 7:30 PM in our new spacious location in room 1 of the Torrance Memorial Medical Center for a fascinating presentation and show and tell session.

Our new president, Alex Marko KD6LPA will describe and demonstrate the use of a Raspberry Pi microcontroller as an APRS gate.

Alex holds an extra class amateur radio license and has been a member of SBARC for many years. He has a particular interest in software and digital mode communications.

This meeting will serve as an introduction to what will be a fun year devoted to hands on radio, exploring new techniques and new technologies available to the radio amateur.



What's up on
aprs.fi



CORNER

WITH ALAN, KG6ZPL

1) I have \$3.19 in coins but I cannot change a dollar, a half dollar, a quarter, a dime, or even a nickel. What coins do I have? Here, by "change, I mean give two or more coins having in total the same value as the coin being changed.

2) Your friend flips two coins behind your back and tells you that at least one of them came up heads. What is the probability that both coins came up heads?

3) How do you tell an elephant from a banana?

4) What would you do if an elephant sat in front of you at a movie?

Answers to December's Quiz

1) What is the difference between a cat and a comma?

A cat has claws at the tip of its paws; a comma has a pause at the end of a clause.

2) Why are elephants grey?

So that you can tell them from the bluebirds.

3) Can you arrange the first five digits, i.e., 1 2 3 4 5, so that the first two digits multiplied by the third equals the last two. For example, and this is an incorrect answer: $(12 \times 3) = 45$.

$(13 \times 4) = 52$

4) What is grey, has four legs, big ears, and a trunk?

A mouse going on vacation.

Please send answers and comments to Alan at thermic72@sbcglobal.net

Possible Dangers due to Inhalation of Solder Fumes

By Alan Parks, KG6ZPL

Possibly because of our upcoming club building project, several people have asked me about the possibility of lead poisoning due to the inhalation of soldering fumes. As most of you are aware, the solder we normally use in electronic construction is a lead / tin mix and is about 60% lead. So, people wonder if they are breathing lead, a well-known and dangerous poison, while they are soldering. The short answer is no: there is virtually no danger of lead poisoning from soldering. Numerous studies have shown that the lead poisoning potential from soldering is virtually nil. This is due to several things: (1) soldering is done at too low a temperature to generate sufficient amount of airborne lead to constitute a risk; (2) The lead in solder is elemental lead and the kind that easily gets into human systems are compounds such as lead oxide or lead acetate; (3) Even the leftover bits of lead deposited by soldering in "industrial" environments could lead to less than 2% of the danger level of lead poisoning. This is not to say that washing up is not a good idea. I might also mention that secondary transfer of lead from solderers to others was deemed to be nil. Regarding the type of lead that leads to lead poisoning there are a fair number of people carrying around significant chunks of lead in their bodies with no long term effects (ignoring of course the significant trauma of being shot in the first place). When I mean significant, if the same amount of lead oxide was there it would be far in excess of a lethal dose in the sense of poisoning.

Having said that, there is a potentially serious side effect of soldering and it is due to the fumes from the heated rosin flux which is in the smoke you see when soldering. Rosin is a processed coniferous tree sap. It is inserted into the center of the solder we use and it cleans oxides from the metals being soldered to in-

insure good solder joints. This smoke is not lead. There are a variety of nasty things in this which get worse with temperature. Medically, rosin fumes have been found to be a potent asthmagen; this means it can cause asthma. In fact, the British version of OSHA found it to be a leading cause of industrially induced asthma. But bear in mind that these people are breathing in the fumes for forty hours a week, forty-eight weeks a year. For the amount of soldering that most amateurs perform, there is little danger except for the very sensitive. However, it is probably not a good idea to solder with young children in the same room. Curiously enough, since the Europeans outlawed lead/tin solder for most uses and since lead free solder melts at a higher temperature, the problem has only gotten worse for them. Another instance of the Law of Unforeseen Consequences. They quit using lead/tin solder for environmental reasons of course, not because of any lead poisoning danger to solderers. Minimally, one should solder in a well ventilated area, particularly if there is any question of being sensitive to the fumes. There is no known danger due to any residue from flux left behind when the soldering is complete. It is only the fumes that irritate, nevertheless, try not to eat it.



GigaParts

www.gigaparts.com



Huntsville, Alabama, January 6, 2017 — After Amateur Electronic Supply went out of business in July, GigaParts began hiring the AES staff in Las Vegas and working on moving the operation to a new location less than 5 minutes from the famous Las Vegas Strip and just 3 miles from the former AES building. Although the retail showroom won't be ready for visitors for another few months, starting today, the Las Vegas store becomes the primary distribution center for GigaParts shipments to the western half of the US. That means fast, affordable shipping to the huge population of hams in California and other western states, without sales tax!

Former AES customers will see some familiar faces at GigaParts Las Vegas, including AES's former shipping manager, Terry Spaulding, and store manager, Julio Suarez. "I'm excited to be back and I'm looking forward to helping all of my old friends again," said Julio. "AES was iconic in ham radio and it was sad to see it die off, but we have an opportunity with GigaParts to do things better than we ever could before," he continued.

Today, GigaParts Las Vegas is stocked with ham radio gear and is ready to fill your order! To welcome AES customers, GigaParts is offering a \$25 gift certificate to every former AES customer.

See www.gigaparts.com/AES for details.

FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith Says Amateur Enforcement Will Be Aggressive

FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith told a standing-room-only audience at the ARRL Pacific Division Convention (Pacificon) in October that, despite FCC cutbacks, Amateur Radio enforcement will not be compromised. Smith spoke for nearly an hour and a half on a variety of FCC issues related to Amateur Radio,

and the entire presentation is available on YouTube, thanks to Bob Miller, WB6KWT, and his son Robert, KA7JKP, who recorded the forum. Smith said that with the FCC set to shut down 11 field offices across the



FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith at Pacificon. [Courtesy of HamRadioNow]

country in January, the Enforcement Bureau has reorganized into three US regions, and she does not anticipate any significant issues for the Amateur Service as a result.

"The amateur community will go forward," she said, noting that amateurs have "an incredible ability to self-police." In light of the field office closings, she has been working with ARRL to revamp the Official Observer (OO) program.

"We are going to redo the entire program," she told the Pacificon forum. Given that the field office cutbacks have left the FCC short staffed, the OO program will step into the gap, with OOs serving as the first line of defense in Amateur Radio enforcement, she explained. Working more closely with the OOs, Smith said, will get information on problems to the field staff more quickly, so they can follow up.

Smith praised the OOs for contributing their time and effort to monitor the bands and to alert licensees both to problematic and positive behavior on the air.

She also said the FCC is more aggressively policing the Amateur Radio bands. ARRL Letter, 12/1/2016

Amateur radio fans drop the hammer on HRD's license key 'blacklist'

Remotely killing one customer's copy was not an isolated incident, say readers

21 Dec 2016 at 15:02, [Shaun Nichols](#)

On Monday, *The Register* reported on [the story of Jim Giercyk](#), an amateur radio enthusiast who had his copy of the popular Ham Radio Deluxe (HRD) software revoked after posting [a negative review](#).

Since our story was published, a number of *Reg* readers, including Giercyk himself and HRD's makers, have followed up with us regarding claims that this was not an isolated incident and others may have had their license keys blacklisted for being publicly critical of the company. And just to be clear: by blackballing keys, installed copies of the software stop working.

Giercyk, a professional musician in South Carolina, US, says that after his dealings with HRD Software (which has since reinstated his software key) and the [statement](#) made by the developer's co-owner Dr Michael Carper, he takes issue with claims made by the company. Giercyk, aka [N2SUB](#), told us on Tuesday:

The issue is not the refusal of service, the issue is that HRD disabled my software, and then offered to enable it in exchange for the removal of an online review of their product. It's extortion, not refusal of service.

Giercyk also said that since [he went public](#) about his blacklisting last week, he has received messages from other users who have stories of their software keys being revoked by HRD without their knowledge for speaking up about having a bad support experience. He added:

I hate bullies, and that's what I was dealing with at HRD, so I decided to stand my ground. I took a lot of lumps from people in the various forums at the beginning, but I also received encouraging emails almost immediately which gave me the courage to continue.

I want to thank everyone around the world who supported me inside and outside the forums.

El Reg has also heard from other hams who wanted to share their unpleasant experiences with HRD and a customer service problem they say goes well beyond the single rogue "contracted support employee" blamed by HRD for revoking Giercyk's license.

One reader, Karel Cornelis, claims that his copy of HRD was blocked because he was thought to be a member of a Yahoo! group critical of HRD, and the license was only restored by co-owner Rick Ruhl after Cornelis proved he was not affiliated with the group.

A number of other readers pointed out [a collection of bad reviews](#) posted on hobbyist site eHam by customers who had their license keys blacklisted. HRD told us some of those users could have written their assessments after requesting a refund and deactivating their software, thus their licenses will appear revoked. Meanwhile, [Reddit threads](#) and [follow-up discussions](#) to Giercyk's catalyst forum post reveal similar stories of keys being revoked after critical comments about Ham Radio Deluxe have appeared online. Other sources allege some amateur radio forums have in the past deleted posts critical of HRD.

Reader Adam Marin says he couldn't even get out of the trial stage without running afoul of grouchy staffers. He told us:

I downloaded their software to try with my radio as I am a newly licensed ham. The software wasn't connecting to my radio, and I had asked a question about it on their Facebook page. I found out that I needed to make my own cable in order for the radio to actually connect. I said something to the effect that I am glad that there is a trial because I would hate to spend all that money and find out it doesn't work because the description of the support of my radio was not clear. They booted me from their Facebook page and even went so far as to block me so I can't even find their Facebook page.

Yet another story shared with *The Reg* was that of a Scottish radio operator with the handle GM4JR, who says his unpleasant support experience included [accusations of hacking](#) and threats of legal action:

HRD is a good product, a little costly but if supported correctly, would be good value for money. However, the arrogant and abusive attitude of what I call 'level 2' support, the front line guys are fine, is where the problem lies.

They desperately need to resolve this – taking money for support which, when needed, isn't forthcoming is a poor show – to then abuse the customer in their hour of need is disgraceful, but to have the stupidity to do it all in black and white email threads beggars belief.

HRD Software's Dr Carper told us that while his company's application does have a blacklist of license keys, the blocking mechanism is sometimes used to disable copies of the software once the buyer has asked for a refund. Thus, we're told, it is difficult for HRD Software to know exactly how many keys have been cancelled for legit reasons or out of retaliation – it simply doesn't know. Dr Carper added:

Everyone will assume that all these cases are retaliation. That's simply not true.

Carper also rejected the suggestion that HRD is blocking customers based on the individual's callsign, maintaining that blocks are only based on registration keys. That claim has been challenged by Giercyk.

One thing is sure: the episode should be a lesson to any software maker that locks out users for being honest about its products online. It's such a terrible strategy, guaranteed to backfire.®



1. **Attendance drawing:** No drawing was held during the Holiday party. The price for the January 19th meeting will be \$ 35.00. This will pay your dues this year and some change left. Please join us Thursday Jan 18th. Remember, you must be a member in good standing and be present to win this.

2. **Dues:** Yes it is that time of year again. Your club is from Jan 1 to Dec 31 of each year. Our regular dues for membership is 20 dollars. For 2 it is 30 dollars and for family (3 or more) it is 30 dollars. Please make your check payable to the SBARC and mail to the PO Box 536, Torrance, CA 90508-0536. Thank you so much for your continued support and participation in your clubs activities. Remember, without you we would not have a club.

3. **Happy New Year to you all:** Yes it my privilege to extend this all important wish to all of you for 2017. The club continues to grow and we can all hope that this will continue as well. Your newly elected staff for this year is planning some great things. However, what's more important is that we will hopefully continue our good health allowing us to enjoy our camaraderie as HAMS because that is what it is all about. Yes this is an Amateur Radio Club but it has this beautiful social aspect to it as well. I have gotten so many of you to know over the years for which I am very grateful. You are all special in my mind. Happy New Year.

4. **Holiday party:** While I was out of town I've been told that all went well. Perhaps not as many of you as we usually have, never the less enjoyed by all those present. As my family continues to grow in CO as well as here in CA I am sure you would tell me to enjoy family before the club anytime. Some of the details are still not clear to me but we're working on that. I do know you showed our effort to thank the hospital for their generosity in providing us a with an excellent meeting Room on a monthly basis including 6 more times for our bi monthly VE sessions. The poinsettias are as always well received at the various nurses stations in the hospital. We thank you all so much for this. It is very important to us all. The food was great I am sure. Ham prepared by Betty-N6VZF, Turkey ordered and delivered by Alex-KD6LPA, drinks by Alan-KG6ZPL and all

you dishes to make this a truly enjoyable event as well. The room had been set up as I had requested from the staff and made things a lot easier for all. So once more thank you for continued support and participation, it is truly appreciated. Congratulations to the newly elected officers for 2017. Thank you for stepping up to the plate to allow is this year as well as many more to come to grow and provide this valuable venue for the Amateur Radio community. The Certificates of Appreciation to Jerry-KJ6JJ for supporting the JOTA event with Echo link is well deserved. Thank you Jerry. Glenda-KF6QFE for all her hard work to brings us the worthy monthly Arc Over in all its splendor. Thank you Glenda. Ray-WA6OWM for providing us the great numbers for our 2016 Field Day effort. Thank you Ray your truly ham skills are well noted and as always been a real asset. So many others have played so many different roles for us to make 2016 an remarkable year for the South Bay ARC. We thank you all. Joe-WB6MYD

5. **Meeting location:** Yes please read and mark your calendar. The general club meetings for 2017 will be held in Room 1 of the Health Conference Center (HCC). This is the bigger portion of the big room but is nearest to the stage. This is so that we may enjoy the audio visual set up as well. You say well how do we get there? As you enter the HCC turn right and follow the hall way on right side. I'll try to have some signs made up. So please remember the meetings will be in the HCC Room 1 at the usual time of 7:00pm as usual every 3rd Thursday of each month. We really appreciate this room schedule for us and need to keep that in mind at all time.

6. **SBARC Services:** Please renew your ARRL membership through the club. You pay the same amount money but the club is supported with 2 dollar commission. Any Elmering you could or would want please let us know and we will hook you up with one of our own members being an expert in that area. Name badges are available through Joe. Cost is still 10 dollars. It really makes you stand out. Joe-WB6MYD

Joe

Thursday Night Net



Please join us on W6SBA 224.38 minus offset and the PLat 198.2 hz You can share your experiences or just say hello!

CALENDAR

Council Meeting - 1st Thursday of the month
Call Joe - WB6MYD (310) 328-0817

Club Meeting - 3rd Thursday of the month
January 19, 2017- 7:30 p.m.
Torrance Memorial Med Center
Health Conference Center, Room 1

Club Nets - **W6SBA WEEKLY NET**
Every Thursday @7:30pm
(except the night of club meetings)
PVUSD EMERGENCY NET
1st Tuesday of the month
09:30 Hours on the W6SBA repeater

TRW Swap Meet Saturday,
January 28, 2017 , 7-11 a.m.

VE Session - Contact: Joe WB6MYD
Phone: (310) 328-0817
jmlanphen@gmail.com or w6sba@arrl.net
(All VE sessions are scheduled for Room 4 in the Health
Conference Center for 2017)

Social Event - Contact: Joe WB6MYD
Phone: (310) 328-0817
jmlanphen@gmail.com or w6sba@arrl.net

CLUB SERVICES

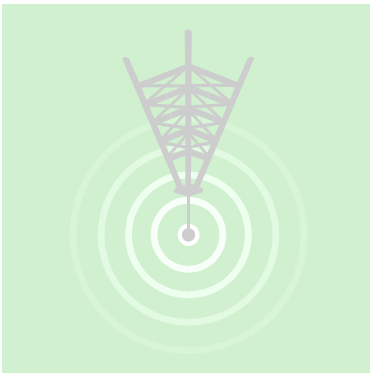
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Health & Welfare	Joe - WB6MYD
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South Bay Amateur Radio Club Repeater
224.38 MHz · PL - 192.8 Hz Offset -1.6 MHz
(See Calendar for Weekly Net Times)

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

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