



ARCOVER

South Bay Amateur Radio Club

A Community Service Organization
Dedicated to Amateur Radio Since 1970



E-mail: W6SBA@arrl.net

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

President - Richard - KG6JKJ

March 2006

South Bay ARC Meeting

Thursday, March 16, 2006, at 7:30 p.m.
Torrance Memorial Medical Center
Health Conference Center Room 2

Bovitz - 6MI

*“Technical aspects of modern home recording studios
and possible audio applications for ham radio”*

The talk will include a tour of N6MI's extensive home music studio. Bovitz has written and recorded more than 111 songs (which are all available on <http://bovitz.biz>.) Bovitz is also an active contester and transmitter hunter since 1969.

Check out <http://n6mi.com>.

See you at the meeting.

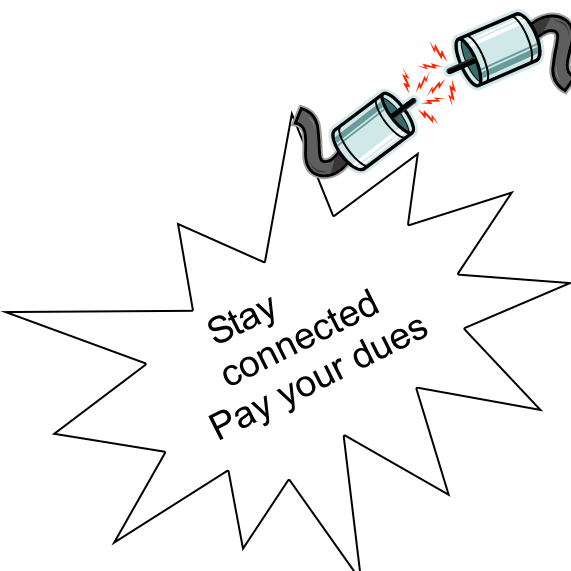
Ken-K6HRN

South Bay Amateur Radio Club Website

We wish to thank Dick - W6ATT for the wonderful job he did starting our club website. He always posted the new ARCOVER on time and kept the other information up-to-date. Dick has shared his knowledge and now has passed the website over to Alex - D6LPA. If you haven't checked out the website recently, you will have a surprise. Alex has been adding links to the websites of other local clubs and sites of interest.

Check out the website www.w6sba.org and then let Alex know how you like it. We are fortunate to have two members willing to do the work necessary to develop a fine website.

Joe-WB6MYD



"SUITSAT-1"

Battery Voltage maybe on Downward Slide SuitSat 1 now a confirmed "Silent Key"

Heading into its third week of operation, SuitSat-1 <http://www.suitsat.org/> continued to put out a faint signal on 145.990 MHz. While hearing the spacesuit-satellite's telemetry and voice messages can be difficult even for the best-equipped stations, recent as-yet-unconfirmed reports suggest that SuitSat-1's battery voltage could be entering a death spiral. ARRL member Richard Crow—N2SPI, has been tracking the satellite's battery voltage, nominally 28 v. While it's been dropping incrementally, Crow noticed a "noticeable acceleration" at week's end. While conceding that he's "going out on a limb" because SuitSat-1's signal was noisy on its last pass over his QTH, Crow believes he heard the voice telemetry announce 18.3 v, a precipitous drop from earlier orbits.

"If this is so, the battery voltage may have dropped another 6.9 volts in only 8 hours," he commented. "if so, the battery voltage is dropping like a rock." ARRL member AJ Farmer-AJ3U, has posted the reports on his website <http://www.aj3u.com/blog> and invites others. Crow says he won't add the still-questionable reading to his table until the battery voltage is verified or corroborated.

Not taking any chances, however, SuitSat-1's sponsor—the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program—issued an urgent call for appropriately equipped Earth stations to make every effort to

The following members paid their dues for 2006 at the February meeting.

Alan-K6MU	Dennis-WA6NIA
Dale-KG6RPO	Ron-KG6UUP
John-AE6LK	Donna Wilson
Roy-K6ARB	Bob-WA6KZF
Lloyd-N6GDH	Meredith-K6QEC

(Continued on page 5)

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY JOE-WB6MYD
e-mail address - w6sba@arrl.net · 310-328-0817



- ◆ The club has good and informed speakers. Last month the information that Dennis-WA6NIA imparted was detailed and clear. The presentation on the proposed changes as to how the amateur bands are to be regulated, (*divisions based on bandwidth.*) Confusion seems to be the order of the day ever since the ARRL proposed these changes to the FCC for consideration. Dennis cleared up many questions regarding this issue. Dennis separated the issues into categories and gave his opinion of both sides and reasons for the proposed changes. It was a very interesting meeting.
- ◆ Dues—You all know your club can only operate as good as its membership. We look forward to your continued financial support, as well as your continued participation in the various activities and meetings. So, if you haven't renewed your membership, now is the time to make that check out for \$15.00 and mail it to SBARC, P.O. Box 536, Torrance, CA 90508-0536. For more details see the February ARCOVER page 2.
- ◆ Club Services—We would like you to renew your ARRL membership through our ARRL Service. We receive a small commission when our members renew through us. Mail your renewal request along with your check made payable to SBARC and we do the work for you. The amount is for the term you specify as requested by the ARRL including any donation you wish to make, family membership, and more.
- ◆ License renewal—If you need to renew your license and you are an ARRL member, the proper 605 form will get you this renewal at no cost to you. The ARRL will do this for you including getting you the FRN number from the FCC. If you are not an ARRL member, we can still help you. In this case it will cost you \$14.00 which is the fee the ARRL is collecting for them to renew your license. Of course, if you are computer savvy, you can do this yourself. It is a little tricky, but has been done by many and will save you any fee.
- ◆ Autopatch—The SBARC has a 220 repeater, as you all know. However, did you know you can also get the additional privilege of 3 auto dial slots assigned to you for the autopatch? Yes, that is right, as a member in good standing, you may use the autopatch and receive 3 assigned auto dial slots after paying \$40.00 for one year operation. Please see Joe-WB6MYD or Scott-N6LEM for more details.
- ◆ Club projects—If you want to do community projects as a communicator, please watch any news being posted regarding parades, walk-a-thons, races of all kinds, and many other community-based events.

SOUTH BAY ARC OFFICERS 2005

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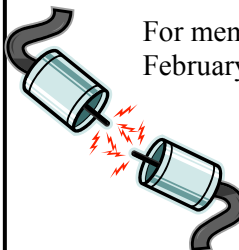


L.A. Marathon 2006 **Sunday, March 19, 2006**

If you have never seen this event up-close, let me tell you over 20,000 people trying to make it down the street is a sight to behold. This is exactly what happens come rain or shine- 20,000 runners take to the street in LA on Sunday, March 19th and try to make it to the finish line 26 miles from the start. If you wish to join us, let me know.

Joe-WB6MYD.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



For membership information please check out the February ARCOVER on the website.

[Http://www.w6sba.org](http://www.w6sba.org)

*Stay connected pay
 your dues now!*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings, SBARC members!

This new year is shaping up to be another busy and fun one. A few of us recently were part of the security detail for the Amgen Tour of California bike race in Redondo Beach. Some 100,000 residents and visitors watched the race as it wound its way through Redondo Beach and into the Hollywood Riviera neighborhood of Torrance for the turnaround. The race was very exciting to watch, and the spectators had a blast. Due to a crash on the first lap, only four riders were about 5 minutes ahead of the main pack for most of the race. By the middle of the final (10th) lap, the main pack caught back up. The riders are amazing athletes to have accomplished that. Thanks to Ken-K6HRN for organizing a great contingent of operators from DCS, SBARC and other hams from around the area.

Dennis-WA6NIA, thank you for a very informative talk about the proposed "*Regulation by Bandwidth*" that the ARRL advocating. He thoroughly covered the pros and cons of the pending FCC item and helped to clarify a somewhat difficult subject.

Club member, Alex-KD6LPA, has been updating the website with a new menu and graphics. Please give him a *thank you* and any new suggestions you may have. He has also added a page of some handy links.

The ARRL Field Day exercise is coming fast. Will you be helping us this year??? Mark your calendars for June 27th and 28th. It's one of two major social events that the club has each year and it gives everyone an opportunity to get on the air, camp out in an urban setting, try out different equipment, and be a part of a national emergency exercise.

That's it for this month. 73 and I'll see you at the next meeting on March 16th.

Rich-KG6JKJ



Membership Drawing

The winner of the February Membership Drawing was Paul - KK6BY, but he wasn't at the meeting. So the kitty will go up to \$40.00 at the March meeting

Remember the attendance drawing is for members only, and you must be present to win. All members in good standing are automatically entered.

WILL YOU BE THERE?



W6TRW SWAP MEET

Next Swap Meet
February 25, 2006

Saturday was a beautiful day at the Swap Meet. We had a nice turnout of club members and other visitors. There were many empty vendor spaces but a nice crowd of people looking for amateur equipment. The sales help to support the club activities, and this gives us this gives us an opportunity to inform the community about the SBARC activities and meetings.

Brunch followed at the local Denny's. This is a nice time to get better acquainted.

For more information on the Swap Meet call:

John-AC6FB
310-675-0732 or jcrochaw@pacbell.net



SPECIAL EMERGENCY NET

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District holds its emergency net on the SBARC Repeater the first Tuesday of the month at 0930 (9:30 a.m.) hours.

We ask that all repeater users allow them a clear frequency during these times. Also we encourage you to listen in on the drill. Thank you



TORRANCE ELECTRONICS

1545 West Carson
Torrance, CA 90501
(310) 328-2501

ARRL - BRIEFS

GREAT BRITAIN TO INSTITUTE LIFETIME AMATEUR RADIO LICENSES

Telecommunications regulator Ofcom has unveiled plans to reform Amateur Radio licensing in Great Britain. The main change is that Amateur Radio licenses will be issued for life, although licensees will have to confirm their license details every five years. The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) says it welcomes the Amateur Radio licensing reforms.

"The RSGB is reasonably comfortable with Ofcom's recent announcement," RSGB General Manager Peter Kirby, G0TWW, told ARRL. "We never had an argument with electronic delivery. We had a big argument with regards to a 'lifetime' license with no checks and balances. Our concerns have been satisfied inasmuch as it is a lifetime license that has to be effectively renewed every five years or it lapses."

Paper licenses are going away too, for all intents and purposes, and Ofcom instead will provide an on-line service to issue electronic licenses. Hard-copy licenses will remain available for those lacking Internet access, but there will be an administrative charge. Starting October 1, Ofcom will take over from the Royal Mail the role of issuing, renewing and amending Amateur Radio licenses.

The RSGB's Kirby notes that while Ofcom announced it was deregulating the Amateur Radio license, the RSGB is quick to point out that the changes to the licensing system "do not add up to deregulation" of ham radio. "Ofcom continues to shoot themselves in the foot with the liberal use of the word 'deregulate'," Kirby said. "Every time it appears they get deluged with letters from angry hams and Members of Parliament, and even our Patron, the Duke of Edinburgh, has taken them to task in recent months." The RSGB last year went on record as being "strongly opposed" to any steps by Ofcom to deregulate Amateur Radio in Great Britain, fearing that it could lead to the elimination of amateur licensing altogether. "There is no doubt that the RSGB's robust stand last year influenced Ofcom's change of mind in a number of areas," Kirby said. "However, these are early days yet, and I have serious doubts that they will be able to provide the electronic option in the time scale they have laid down." Ofcom said its new approach to Amateur Radio licensing will "reduce unnecessary bureaucracy." Additional details are on the Ofcom Web site <<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/aradio/statement/>>. ARRL Vol 25 #8 2-24-06

Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (California) News

HDSCS closed out its 25th year with the North Pole Network at Children's Hospital of Orange County, capping its most active year ever with 32 events with hospitals. There were eight emergency responses, eight standby operations, seven drills and nine public service/demo events with hospitals during 2005. The most active year previously was 1994 with 31 events.

A "Year End/Year Beginning Finale Meeting" at Kindred Hospital-Westminster recognized the "Disaster Dozen," the year's top 12 communicators. To be active in HDSCS, members must earn a minimum of five points in a year. Those that made the Disaster Dozen earned from 65 to more than 100 points. They participated in drills, responded to emergencies, helped out in standbys, attended meetings with hospital representatives, and were regulars on the weekly nets. They are: Paul Broden, K6MHD; Allen Bullock, KD6LCL; Bruce Chappell, KE6TSM; Tom Gaccione, WB2LRH; Dennis Kidder, WA6NIA; Jim McLaughlin, AB6UF; Joe Moell, K0OV; Dave Mofford, W7KTS; Cheryl Simpson, KD6MWZ; Ken Simpson, W6KOS; Clay Stearns, KE6TZR; and Fred Wagner, KQ6Q. A new AEC for HDSCS is Jim McLaughlin, AB6UF, a 15-year veteran of the group.

HDSCS was just contacted by Kindred Hospital-Santa Ana requesting support for that facility. Thirty-four hospitals now have HDSCS support for any communications disruption or failure. Please see <<http://www.hdscs.org>> -- April Moell, M.A., WA6OPS, Emergency Coordinator, Hospital Disaster Support Communications System, Orange County, California.

The ARES E-Letter
Rick Palm, K1CE, Editor



Antenna work

(Continued from page 1)

copy SuitSat-1's voice telemetry reports. ARISS US Hardware Manager Lou McFadin-W5DID, who was directly involved in the construction of the SuitSat-1 package, says he and others on his team have been following the voltage reports with great interest.

"Your efforts to gather the telemetry data are very much appreciated and will contribute to further success should we get the opportunity to build a second SuitSat." McFadin said today. "The power system is designed to squeeze every drop of power out of the batteries that is possible." Post telemetry reports or recording to [<suitsat@concast.net>](mailto:suitsat@concast.net).

Deployed from the International Space Station on February 3, SuitSat-1 already has outlasted its initially predicted one-week active life. McFadin explained that SuitSat-1's battery current will rise as its battery voltage drops. "That is the power system's attempt to keep the transmitter voltage at 12 v," he noted. "As the battery voltage nears 12 v, the regulator will no longer be able to maintain 12 v output. At a battery voltage below 9 v all transmissions will cease."

He says that while SuitSat-1's computer will continue to operate down to 2 v, the transmitter will shut down and SuitSat-1 will appear dead. "I expect this drop-off to occur very rapidly," McFadin added, expressing appreciation for the dedication of those who have helped monitor SuitSat-1.

Extremely low transmitter output power has been one explanation for SuitSat-1's faint signal. AMSAT-NA calculations last weekend suggested that SuitSat-1's transmitter is likely putting out between 1 and 10 mW instead of the 500 mW it was supposed to produce.

Its puny signal aside, the novel SuitSat-1 Amateur Radio transmit-only spacesuit turned

satellite has been heard around the globe since its launch by the International Space Station crew. ARRL ARISS Program Manager, Rosalie White-K1STO, said the past week has brought reports from teachers who've integrated SuitSat1 monitoring into their classroom lessons.

"Thank you to the SuitSat-1 team for the opportunity to have students involved in such an exciting space project," teacher Neil Carleton-VE3NCE, at R. Tait McKenzie Public School in Almonte, Ontario, said. "It's been a week of adventure, and I'm happy to report on the involvement of my class as part of our grade 6 science studies of space."

SuitSat-1's transmission order is: DTMF tone, CW ID, SSTV image, 60 seconds of silence, voice identification, mission time, temperature and battery voltage. The voice messages, telemetry and SSTV image are being sent on a nine-minute repeating cycle. ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer-KA3HDO, said the SuitSat-1 team plans to provide special recognition to the person who copies the last SuitSat-1 telemetry, and in particular the mission time and battery voltage.

AMSAT-NA has designated SuitSat-1 as AMSAT-OSCAR 54 (AO-54). By week's end SuitSat1 had completed more than 200 orbits of Earth. Since its deployment SuitSat-1 has shed a piece of debris. Speculation is that it could be a glove or another piece of the spacesuit.

SuitSat-1 is now a confirmed "Silent Key." So says its sponsor, the Amateur Radio station on the International Space Station (ARISS.) In operation for more than two weeks, SuitSat-1--designated AO-54--easily outlasted initial predictions that it would transmit for about one week. ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, says the mission captured

imaginings around the world, despite a much-lower-than-expected signal strength.

Bob King, VE6BLD, in Alberta posted the last confirmed reception of SuitSat-1's voice audio, Saturday, February 18, at 0332 UTC. Richard Crow, N2SPI, in New York received the last confirmed telemetry, which indicated the battery voltage dropping precipitously to a low of 18.3 V before the novel satellite ceased to transmit. Hearing SuitSat-1's puny signal strength generally required gain antennas, but Bauer says he heard SuitSat with a 3-element Arrow antenna and a handheld radio. Bauer's daughter Michelle recorded the English-language voice identification. Another challenge to signal reception, he said, was the very deep fading due to the suit's rotation in orbit. "One great positive that came from these issues is that it challenged the ham radio community worldwide to improve their station receive capabilities so that they could pull every bit of signal from SuitSat," Bauer remarked. Bauer says reports that SuitSat-1 was non-operational and that the battery was frozen shortly after deployment are false. "This never occurred," he stressed. "As the telemetry has shown, temperatures within the suit were a somewhat comfortable 12-16 degrees C during the entire mission." So, he adds, is the tale of SuitSat-1's early demise and resurrection. "It was alive and operated flawlessly, except the signal strength issue, from the time the crew flipped the switches until the battery power was used

More information on the SuitSat-1 project, including QSL information, is available on the AMSAT website [<http://www.amsat.org/ansat-new/index.php>](http://www.amsat.org/ansat-new/index.php) and on the SuitSat website [<http://www.suitsat.org>](http://www.suitsat.org).
ARRL letter # 25 Vol 07,
ARRL letter #25 Vol 08

CALENDAR

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

Club Meeting - 3rd Thursday of the month
March 16, 2006 7:30 p.m.
Torrance Memorial Medical Center
Health Conference Center Room 2

Palos Verdes School District
EMERGENCY NET
1st Tuesday of the month
09:30 Hours on the W6SBA repeater

QSL Card Sorting - Call Ray—WA6OWM
(310) 370-1913

Special VE Session - April 8, 2006

TRW Swap Meet - Saturday, March 25, 2006
7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Baker to Vegas April 1 and 2, 2006

CLUB SERVICES

HF Awards Manager	Mark - KA6ZTO
VHF Awards Manager	Cliff - K6LH
Swap Meet Chair	John - AC6FB
VE Test Liaison	Joe - WB6MYD
VE Test Sessions	Joe - WB6MYD
Web Master	Alex - KD6LPA
Editor	Mary - KE6BBK
Proofreader	Ruth Kain

South Bay Amateur Radio Club Net
224.38 MHz ·PL - 192.8 Hz Offset 1.6 MHz
7:00 p.m. Thursday Evenings

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

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A COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION

Address Correction Requested

TO: