



April 2014

ARCOver

A Community Service Organization Dedicated to Amateur Radio Since 1970

In this issue:

- ◆ President's Message
- ◆ 2014 Club Officers
- ◆ Guest Speaker
- ◆ Quiz Column
- ◆ Question of the Month
- ◆ FCC To Reinstate Morse Code Test
- ◆ My Weekend Project
- ◆ Amateur Radio Credited
- ◆ Pedestrian Mobile
- ◆ Introducing the Yaesu FTM-400DR Radio
- ◆ Ham Radio in Space
- ◆ Secretary's Notes



**Great Time To
Ham It Up!**

E-mail: W6SBA@arrl.net



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

Hello W6SBA,

First off, some important Field Day updates. Earlier this year, we had discussed operating Field Day at the East parking garage at Torrance Memorial Hospital. Several members approached me and expressed their concern regarding shelter - as the covered portion of the garage can be quite a wind tunnel. The council investigated the issue, considered several alternate locations within the East garage - but all had similar problems. As a result, we were forced to conclude that the best strategy was to return to our usual operating spot - the West Parking garage at Torrance Memorial Hospital.

Even though we relocated, the council approved the purchase of 2 EZ-UP shelters with 4 wall siding to shield us from the cold wind. James and I went to CostCo today and picked up these up. They should make it more comfortable operating at night. The cost of the EZ-UP's was \$200 each + tax.

In other news, Rob Lefton KB6KMX has graciously offered to cook his famous, mouth-watering tri-tips for Field Day dinner. I'm so looking forward to that!!! In addition, Ed Hinz - KN6JN has also volunteered to cook breakfast for us Sunday morning. You'll feel like your in a 5 star restaurant!!! So, please take the time and contact Joe and let him know how many meals you want. It's \$10 a meal (or all 3 meals, Saturday Lunch, Saturday Dinner, and Sunday Breakfast) for \$25).

In late April / early May, we are planning for a practice antenna setup. Bill Van Datta - KQ6Z has been working diligently on modifying the poles we use to mount the A3 Yagi antennas. He has just completed a modification that will make the antenna raising and lowering considerably easier. This is why we want to do a practice run now - so we can test it out, and if necessary make additional corrections before Field Day. Thank you Bill for all your efforts!!!

That's all for now, until next time this Alex saying 73.

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2014

President

Alex Marko - KD6LPA
kd6lpa@socal.rr.com - 310-530-6614

Vice-President

James Murakami - KI6UPL
katsu442@yahoo.com - 310-480-7794

Secretary/Treasurer

Joe Lanphen - WB6MYD
jlanphen@ca.rr.com or w6sba@arrl.net
310-328-0817

Activities Council Member

Bruce Jackson - KK6BJ
bjackson@ucla.edu - 310-372-1156

Events Council Member

Tom Carter - KI6RC
ki6rc@jaol.com - 310-326-2731

Information Council Member

Steve Wojtak - KJ6VWN
swihtaj@juno.com - 310-755-1688

Past President

Alan Parks - KG6ZPL
thermic72@sbcglobal.net - 310-558-8718

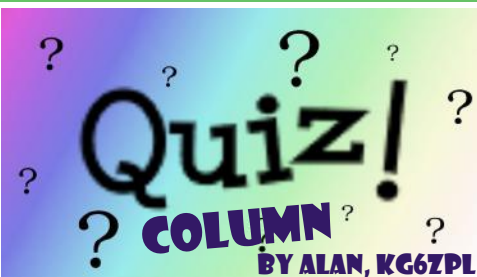


APRIL
guest speaker

Working Amateur Radio Satellites
Tom Carter
KI6RC

April 17th at 7:30 p.m.

Come hear Tom talk about what and where they are and how the heck to work them.



Quiz!
COLUMN
BY ALAN, KG6ZPL

This is a new column. In it I will offer questions generally related to radio but occasionally are

just “brain teasers”. If the column proves to be popular, a prize will be awarded to the reader with the highest cumulative score. I can say that if only two or three answers are submitted each month, no prize will be awarded. Send answers to me at thermic72@sbcglobal.net. I will also accept hard copy answers at the monthly meeting following the publication of the quiz. Answers must be received before the next quiz is published. No exceptions! So, on to this month’s questions.

1. What is the resistance if two resistors, one of 100 ohms and one at 200 ohms are in parallel? In series?
2. What is the half-power bandwidth of a parallel resonant circuit that has a resonant frequency of 1.8 MHz and a Q of 95?
3. What type of modulation is used in the most common method for sending Morse code? No explanation required with your answer on this one. Double points for Ray, WA6OWM, if he answers this correctly!

ARC QUESTION OF THE MONTH



A club member asks: **What is *The ARRL Handbook* and should I own one?**

The ARRL Handbook is a yearly publication of the ARRL. The first one was published in 1926. It contains major sections devoted to Fundamental Theory, Practical Design and Principles, Antenna Systems and Propagation, Equipment Construction and Maintenance, and Station Assembly and Management. Included in that are 32 chapters and an index. It also comes with the complete book on a CD. It is considered **The** reference book for radio amateurs. It is written at a level that most amateurs will be able to understand. It doesn’t require college math and physics to understand (although that wouldn’t hurt). While it pretty much covers everything in radio, it doesn’t do it in the depth that a college textbook would not does it cover some topics to the same depth as do other ARRL publications devoted to an individual topic such as the *ARRL Antenna Book* which is almost as large as the Handbook. The handbook is about one-thousand pages long and weighs several pounds. It is not “light” reading.

Should you buy one? I bought my first one in 1956 when I was thirteen. It had a bright red cover and, although very well worn, is still on my bookshelf. It explains vacuum tubes very well! Since then I have bought a new one every five or six years. From one year to the next, the book generally does not change a lot but, over the course of a few years, it does contain a fair amount of new material. You can’t go wrong getting the Handbook if you want a complete overview of all of radio from fundamental concepts to advanced techniques. However, if you are new to Ham radio or have some trouble with basic concepts there are several other books that I would recommend that you read first. Although I dislike its title, *Ham Radio for Dummies*, is an easy to follow basic introduction. The ARRL publishes three excellent introductory texts, *Understanding Basic Electronics*, *Basic Radio*, and *Basic Antennas*. Even for knowledgeable readers, these are useful books. I often refer to them. The *ARRL Operating Manual* is an excellent guide to operating virtually all modes of amateur radio. In addition, the various licensing manuals offer much useful information. Having said this, even beginners can’t go wrong in obtaining a copy of the Handbook. It is indeed the guide to all of amateur radio.

Please send your questions to Alan at thermic72@sbcglobal.net

FCC TO REINSTATE MORSE CODE TEST

"It was a big mistake eliminating the Morse Code test," admits FCC official

Washington, D.C. - April 1, 2014

Today, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC) approved Report and Order 14-987af which reinstates the Morse Code test for General Class and Amateur Extra Class licensees. "It was a big mistake eliminating the Morse Code test," admits Dotty Dasher, the FCC's director of examinations. "We now realize that being able to send and receive Morse Code is an essential skill for radio amateurs. As they say, it really does get through when other modes can't."

Not only will new applicants have to take the test, but General Class licensees who have never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 5-wpm code test. Similarly, Amateur Extra class licensees that never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 13-wpm test. Those amateurs that fail to pass the test will face revocation of their operating privileges. Materials for administering the examinations will be distributed to Volunteer Examiner Coordinators by the end of April, so that they can begin the testing on May 1, 2014.

"This isn't going to be one of those silly multiple-choice type tests," noted Dasher. "We're going to be sending five-character random code groups, just like we did in the old days. And, applicants will have to prove that they can send, too, using a poorly adjusted straight key."

Technician Class licensees will not be required to take a Morse Code test, nor will a test be required for new applicants. "We discussed it," said Dasher, "but decided that since most Techs can't even figure out how to program their HTs, requiring them to learn Morse Code seemed like cruel and unusual punishment."

When asked what other actions we might see from the FCC, Dasher hinted that in the future applicants taking the written exam may be required to draw circuit diagrams, such as Colpitts oscillators and diode ring mixers, once again. "We're beginning to think that if an applicant passes an amateur radio license exam it should mean that he or she actually knows something," she said.

For further information, contact James X. Shorts, Assistant Liaison to the Deputy Chief of Public Relations for the FCC at (202) 555-1212 or jim.shorts@fcc.gov. For more news and information about the FCC, please visit www.fcc.gov.



My husband, Scott—N6LEM, sent me the above article on April 1st.... The joke was definitely on me. Needless to say, he got me good! Next year, he better watch out!

Glenda, KF6QFE

MY WEEKEND PROJECT

I don't usually get time for the ham stuff. I have one of the



Uniden HR2600 10 meter radios. It's been sitting on my bench for 5 years. I usually just monitor. There was some contest on this weekend and the band was open and real busy. Thought I would try to make a contact. From the meter, It looked like it was working OK but I could not make any contacts. After some careful review, I determined the mike audio was real low. The original mike was a dynamic element. I didn't have any of those that would fit. So I decided to modify it for a electret condenser element. I picked one up at Torrance Electronics for two dollars. They need a voltage so I had to modify the radio. I placed a 2.4K resistor from the 8V source to the back of the mike connector. Cut the audio path on the mike connector PCB and installed a 1uf capacitor. Soldered the mike element to a small piece of PCB and added a 5K trimmer; Put the radio back together and tested the radio first in the FM mode. Sounded good with the voltage to the element set to about 4.5v. Put the mike back together and easily made a couple of contacts to Texas. Looks like those small cheap electret mike elements work pretty well. We'll see how much background noise it picks up. Also, my 10 meter dipole is strung diagonally across the inside of my garage!

Scott, N6LEM

Public Service: Amateur Radio Credited in Rescue of Wayward Hikers

ARRL Letter March 27, 2014

Submitted by Joe , WB6MYD

Authorities in Kern County, California, say Amateur Radio was responsible for the rescue of five adult hikers, who became lost in San Emigdio Canyon. The group had left Pine Mountain Club on the morning of Saturday, March 22, hiking to a vehicle parked near Highway 166 when they went astray.

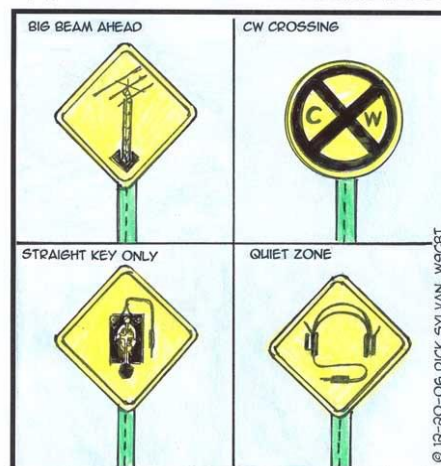
"They had hand-held radios with them and called an Amateur Radio operator in Pine Mountain Club to report [they were] lost," a Kern County Sheriff's Department summary said. "Air-1 quickly located the lost hikers in a dry creek bed, approximately 12 miles south of Highway 166, and a ground unit transported them to their vehicle." The sheriff's office said the hikers, who had plenty of food and water, "were extremely exhausted, but did not require medical aid."

In the hiking party were Cliff Brunk, K8BUW, and his wife Judith, KG6BXM. According Don Quick, KW6PMC, who knows the couple, Cliff Brunk -- who was carrying a hand-held transceiver -- fell and struck his head. While not seriously injured, he was in pain. At that point, the group decided to return home, but then realized they were lost and outside of cell phone range. Using his radio, Brunk was able to reach Bill Hopper, AB6CF, via the Pine Mountain repeater, Quick said. The injured ham reported the hiking party's predicament but couldn't provide details regarding their location. Another member of the party was able to pass along the group's location, however, and Hopper called 911.

The Kern County Sheriff's Department dispatched a helicopter, which was able to locate the hiking party, but the nearest landing site was too far away for the rescue party to communicate with the hikers. A sheriff's deputy drove into the canyon near the spot where the hikers were stranded, and they walked to his patrol car. The weary hikers got

back to their homes late that evening. --
Thanks to Donald Quick, KW6PMC, and the Kern County Sheriff's Department.

HAM QUIPS BY DICK SYLVAN W4CBT



HAM SIGNAGE

Pedestrian Mobile

It is spring and I have seen a couple of hams performing pedestrian radio while they are walking and bicycling up and down the Strand and expected to be seen in a few more when he returned to some of the hiking trails around Idyllwild.

This is a link to a free PDF book about 170 pages of smooth well written material that can be downloaded and stored.

I will be checking my hiking shoes and reporting back.

http://w3bqc.homestead.com/WA3WSJ_s_PM_Handbook.pdf

Submitted by
Bruce, KK6BJ



Ham Radio in Space: Qatar's Es'hailSat 2 Satellite to Carry Amateur Radio Transponder

Qatar's Es'hailSat 2 satellite will provide the first Amateur Radio geostationary communication capability linking Brazil and India. The satellite, expected to launch by the end of 2016, will carry two "Phase 4" Amateur Radio transponders and will be positioned at 26° E. It will also carry Ku and Ka band capabilities for television, government, and commercial content distribution.



DL is providing full support to the pro-SAT-DL President Jelzow, DB2OS, satellite's footprint for Europe, Africa, s of Brazil and Asia North America.

y [it will be in] the sition as Es'HailSat -1," Guelzow said. "Perhaps

we will find another one willing to sponsor a position more in the West." AMSAT-DL plans to publish additional details on the satellite's technical characteristics in the next month.

The Qatar Amateur Radio Society and Qatar Satellite Company are cooperating on the ham radio project .ARRL Letter March 28, 2014 submitted by Joe, WB6MYD

Introducing the Yaesu FTM-400DR Radio



It's a new 2m/440 rig sporting a huge 3.5 color display! It's Yaesu's first mobile rig that enables Voice and Data communication simultaneously. The digital voice signal is transmitted in half the bandwidth, while the remainder is used for receiving GPS coordinates as well as error correction data to provide the best sound quality. If you've dabbled with digital voice, you know that the sound can sometimes get distorted to the point where you feel you're listening to a droid from Star Wars. According to Yaesu, the error correction safeguards against droid distortion problem leading to fewer interruptions.

The unit has lots of attractive options, including built-in GPS, APRS, built in band scope, altitude screen and navigation to other received stations. It also has a wide-range receive, allowing you to hear police and fire frequencies not found in other comparable radios. The unit also allows you to send and receive pictures while in digital mode. The resolution is 320x240 pixels – similar to Slow Scan TV (SSTV).

Yaesu presently has a \$40 rebate on this radio, dropping the price down to \$599.95.

For more information, check out this link:

<http://www.yaesu.com/indexVS.cfm?cmd=DisplayProducts&ProdCatID=249&encProdID=227201D29C822AEFF8482F3367495319&DivisionID=65&isArchived=0>



From The Secretary

JOE-WB6MYD
e-mail - jlaphen@ca.rr.com
310-328-0817

1. **Attendance Drawing:** Jerry-KJ6JJ was our lucky winner for the March attendance drawing. Jerry was present and of course received the 35 dollar kitty congratulations Jerry.
2. **Member update on renewed membership:**
Yes we have another update for members in good standing since our February listing:
Mark, KA6ZTO—551773; Glenda, KF6QFE - 551774; Scott, N6LEM—551775; Yoshio, KE6ACH—551776; Martin, KJ6TSK—551777; Brian, KI6ERR —551778; Chuck, KN6H—551779; Nancy, NJ6S—551780; Bill, N6ES —551781; Howard, KF6NOR — 551782; Steve, KJ6VWN — 551783. Thank you so much for renewing your membership and your continued support and participation
3. **Thank you Gary-WD9DUI:** Gary donated a new 30 cup coffee maker which is really nice.
4. **New member:** Jim Maxwell-W6JBN has joined the South Bay ARC and we wish to thank him for joining us. Jim is a new Ham and is interested in all the aspects of amateur radio. The activities he's interested in are also all the ones we list on our membership application. What this means of course is that he needs our help to in getting some gear and setting up a station. So please welcome Jim and provide him with as much as he can handle. Maybe you can be his Elmer. Please look for him at our next meeting and assist him.
5. **Field Day location:** It has been decided to go back to the West side parking structure as in the past. We just don't seem able to overcome the shielding requirements for the open top floor on the East side.

March Question of the month

Last month's question of the month was a bit of failure. The question was "Would you respond to a survey". It seems, this is my personal opinion, even that is too much to be answered. Lets back up a moment, the intention is to get our membership involved. Why do I want to get the membership involved is that we sure would like to get everyone involved with having club activities be for all. The usual turn out at the meetings is about 30 members which is about 37%. O yes we always hear that 10% participation is normal. The 10% doing all the work are tired to and getting old. I have no intention to continue with numbers and percentages because it does not proof or corrects anything. This is a club and I feel all our activities are for all of us to benefit, to enjoy and above all are for the benefit of us all. This is why you became a member I would think so you could enjoy your camaraderie with like people all interested in enjoying what we as Ham's do best. This involvement by all should be our goal and so we yearly look at the one main big activity of the year again. Yes Field Day is our annual activity with which we should excel since it is our obligation and our duty as a ham to be prepared.

So let me turn this around and see what you think of this. **"How would you want us to handle this situation?"** While this is reverse psychology perhaps tell us how we should handle this. No don't be afraid to get stuck with it lets help each other. This is what I am personally interested in. We are not asking for you to do anything you can't do you should know that. However, by the same token to have so few do everything for those members participating is kind of sad to don't you think?
Let us all join in an combined effort to make our activities the very best ever this year. We can do this folks we have the very best, the cream of the crop if you will. What is the old saying "idle hands are the devils work" while the more hand the merry we all feel. Again this is my personal opinion and you can tell to get off this box. Thank you Joe, WB6MYD

Thursday Night Net
@ 7:30 p.m.

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 Wednesday of the month
Call Joe - WB6MYD (310) 328-0817

Club Meeting - 3rd Thursday of the month
April 17, 2014 - 7:30 p.m.
Torrance Memorial Med Center
West Tower, Room A

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,
April 26, 2014, 7-11 a.m.

VE Session - Contact: Joe WB6MYD
Phone: (310) 328-0817
jlanphen@ca.rr.com or w6sba@arrl.net

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

Answers to Mr. Wave's face on page 5: Eyes = Amplitude modulation;
Mouth = Frequency modulation

CLUB SERVICES

Awards Manager (HF/VHF)	Cliff - K6LH
Health & Welfare	Joe - WB6MYD
Swap Meet Chair	Joe - WB6MYD
VE Test Liaison	Joe - WB6MYD
VE Test Sessions	Joe - WB6MYD
Webmaster	Alex - KD6LPA
Editor	Glenda - KF6QFE Glenda.simpson@hotmail.com
Proofreader	Alex - KD6LPA

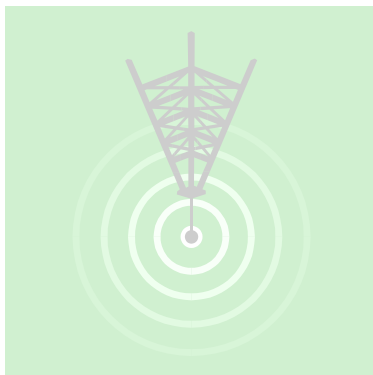
South Bay Amateur Radio Club Repeater

224.38 MHz · PL - 192.8 Hz Offset -1.6 MHz
(See Calendar for Weekly Net Times)

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

South Bay Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 536
Torrance, CA 90508
W6SBA@arrl.net
Website: <http://www.w6sba.org>

TO:



Address Correction Requested

A COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION

W6SBA

South Bay Amateur Radio Club
Post Office Box 536
Torrance, CA 90508-0536

